



EXECUTIVE ORDER

2020-02

**EXECUTIVE ORDER STRENGTHENING THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO
ENDING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC**

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois must continue to act to reduce opioid overdose deaths, end the opioid epidemic, and recognize that substance use disorder is a chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, recovery belongs in our communities, recovery is possible, and we are all part of the solution to end the opioid epidemic; and

WHEREAS, to save lives, the State of Illinois needs to ensure that efforts are made to reach out to and engage individuals in all stages of recovery, including those who are at risk for both fatal and non-fatal overdoses, and thereby demonstrate that recovery belongs in Illinois; and

WHEREAS, 2018 data from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) shows a 21.6% reduction from the 2020 projected number of fatal opioid overdoses but also shows that non-fatal overdoses have increased, suggesting that this public health crisis has not subsided and that the State needs new efforts to address the changing nature of the crisis and to build on our progress in stopping overdoses and saving lives; and

WHEREAS, as IDPH's Opioid Data Dashboard reveals growing social and racial disparities in the crisis and shows that certain communities in Illinois have been disproportionately impacted, the State finds and declares that programs and policies must be put into place to address these disparities and to promote equitable prevention and treatment access for these individuals and communities; and

WHEREAS, certain communities have disproportionately suffered the harms of enforcement of drug laws and their residents face greater difficulties accessing opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment and recovery support services; and

WHEREAS, individuals who have been arrested or incarcerated due to drug laws suffer long-lasting negative consequences, including greater risk of fatal and non-fatal overdoses and impacts to employment, housing, health, and recovery; and

WHEREAS, evidenced-based policies and programs need to be prioritized in order to increase access to treatment and to reduce risk of overdose for this high-risk population; and

WHEREAS, people who inject drugs are at a high risk for HIV, HCV, and Hepatitis A, and harm reduction strategies that promote safer use of opioids and other substances can save lives by reducing both the risks of these infectious diseases and fatal overdoses; and

WHEREAS, heavily-advertised services offering OUD treatment that do not provide evidence-based treatment, including residential programs that fail to provide access to medication assisted treatment (MAT), may increase the risk of a fatal overdose, policies are needed that ensure treatment and intervention programs, including residential programs and recovery homes, provide access to MAT and other evidence-based treatment; and

WHEREAS, executive actions completed by the Task Force established under Executive Order 2017-05 created several online resources across State agencies, there is no website that serves as a single repository for this information; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive single State website that houses this information and that is routinely updated is needed to ensure that the public has accurate, real-time access to online OUD prevention, treatment, recovery, and response resources; and

WHEREAS, additional features need to be added to the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances to provide equitable access and utilization among youth and communities disproportionately impacted by the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the State recognizes the important contributions of the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council (Council), which has been actively engaged in efforts that address the opioid crisis, including providing input on the Statewide Opioid Action Plan (SOAP) and developing implementation report goals and metrics;

THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of Illinois, by virtue of the executive authority vested in me by Article V of the Constitution of the State of Illinois, do hereby order as follows:

I. CREATION

There is hereby established the Governor’s Opioid Overdose Prevention and Recovery Steering Committee (Steering Committee).

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Steering Committee is to guide the work of the Council, serving as the liaison between its stakeholders and the Governor’s Office and overseeing the ongoing implementation of the SOAP. The Steering Committee shall:

1. Formulate a detailed implementation plan, including specific activities and metrics, for the execution of the strategies set forth in the SOAP;
2. Conduct a process evaluation of the implementation of the SOAP; and
3. Use the results of the process evaluation to inform the development and implementation of a new, three-year SOAP.

III. DUTIES

The Steering Committee shall work in conjunction with State agencies and other stakeholders through the Council to establish the following policies and programs:

1. Establish local recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC) councils in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis in order to reach out to and engage individuals in all stages of recovery;
2. Evaluate and release a report on existing harm reduction programs and policies that encourage safer use of opioids and other substances and recommend new harm reduction strategies that should be included in a new SOAP;
3. Collaborate with law enforcement agencies and compile recommendations for curtailing illegal drug trafficking activities that are increasing fatal and non-fatal overdose risks;
4. Coordinate with the appropriate State agencies and work with the Council’s newly-created Opioid Social Equity Committee to address the social and racial disparities of the crisis. At the Council’s direction, the Opioid Social Equity Committee will develop a social equity statement that will guide its work and that of the Council, and make policy recommendations regarding how to begin to address how the opioid crisis has affected different communities in different ways;
5. Compile recommendations for policies to ensure that residential programs provide access to MAT and other evidence-based treatment. These should include recommendations on whether the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery should revoke the licenses of residential programs that do not provide access to MAT and other evidence-based treatment;
6. Create a comprehensive single, State website that includes links to all State agencies’ online OUD prevention, treatment, and recovery resources;
7. Add research-based information to the Helpline and the comprehensive single website to increase the use of evidence-based levels of care for OUD;

8. Add age-appropriate platforms, appeals, and public communication tools to the Helpline to expand access to youth and young adults seeking OUD treatment and communities disproportionately impacted by the crisis; and
9. Launch a public awareness campaign through social media and other channels that (a) increases the use of the Helpline by individuals seeking treatment or information about treatment and (b) increases the visibility of the Helpline across Illinois.

IV. COMPOSITION AND FUNCTION

1. The Steering Committee shall be formed from the membership of the Council and shall consist of the following:
 - a. The Lieutenant Governor or their designee;
 - b. The Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services or their designee;
 - c. The Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health or their designee;
 - d. The Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services or their designee;
 - e. The Director of the Illinois State Police or their designee;
 - f. One of the Council Committee Chairs, to serve as the Council representative, elected by the Council; and
 - g. A person with lived experience of OUD, to be appointed by the Governor and compensated appropriately for their time devoted to the work of the Steering Committee by the Illinois Department of Human Services, as determined by the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services in keeping with all applicable State hiring and contracting laws and rules.
2. The Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health shall serve as Co-Chairs of the Steering Committee.
3. The Steering Committee shall meet on at least a quarterly basis.
4. The Illinois Department of Human Services shall provide administrative support to the Steering Committee as needed, including assistance in compliance with State ethics laws, the Open Meetings Act, and the Freedom of Information Act.
5. Other State agencies and stakeholders may be asked to participate at the invitation of the Steering Committee.
6. The Steering Committee shall report to the Governor's Office and shall be a liaison between the Governor's Office and the Council.
7. The Steering Committee may adopt whatever policies and procedures necessary to carry out its duties and functions.

V. TRANSPARENCY

In addition to whatever policies or procedures it may adopt, the Steering Committee shall be subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140) and the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120). This section shall not be construed as to preclude other statutes from applying to the Steering Committee, the Council, and their activities.

VI. SAVINGS CLAUSE

This Executive Order does not contravene, and shall not be construed to contravene, any federal law, state statute, or collective bargaining agreement.

VII. PRIOR EXECUTIVE ORDERS

This Executive Order supersedes any contrary provision of any other prior Executive Order. This Executive Order supersedes Executive Order 2017-05 in its entirety. The Task Force created by Executive Order 2017-05 is dissolved upon this Executive Order becoming effective.

VIII. TERM

The Steering Committee shall be dissolved on September 30, 2023, subject to renewal by a succeeding Executive Order.

VIII. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any part of this Executive Order is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect. The provisions of this Executive Order are severable.

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon its filing with the Secretary of State.

JB Pritzker, Governor

Issued by Governor: January 27, 2020

Filed with the Secretary of State: January 27, 2020