

The DPH Bulletin

From the Delaware Division of Public Health

October 2018



On Sept. 10, 2018 at the New Castle County Public Safety Building, Delaware Governor John Carney signed three bills to fight the addiction epidemic and save lives. One bill creates the nation's first overdose system of care. Photo by Jill Fredel.

Governor John Carney signs legislation creating the nation's first Overdose System of Care

At a Sept. 10 bill signing, Governor John Carney signed three bills to save lives threatened by the addiction epidemic. All are priorities of the state's Behavioral Health Consortium. Senators Stephanie Hansen, Bryan Townsend and Representatives David Bentz and Helene Keeley sponsored the bills.

The new laws will:

- Create the nation's first Overdose System of Care to improve care, and treatment of patients who overdose. According to Department of Health and Social Services officials, the Overdose System of Care will help to better transition individuals after an overdose from an ER setting to more comprehensive treatment.
- Link patient care data related to overdoses collected by DPH's Office of Emergency Medical Services or the state epidemiologist with data in the Prescription Monitoring Program.
- Encourage prescribers and patients to consider using proven non-opioid methods of treating back pain.



Don't forget your flu shot!

DPH advises Delawareans age 6 months and older to get their flu shots by the end of October. Find the DPH flu clinic schedule and flu information at flu.delaware.gov or call 1-800-282-8672.

Community Partner Support Unit brings social services to the community

Delawareans who qualify for state benefits sometimes need help connecting to assistance programs. The Division of Social Services' (DSS) Community Partner Support Unit (CPSU) serves as a bridge between the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services and service organizations.

CPSU works with nearly 300 community partners to help individuals apply for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits, general cash assistance, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), child support, and Medicaid. CPSU also connects Delawareans to resources for housing, energy assistance, behavioral health, and employment and training.

The CPSU partners with more than a dozen employers to provide case management, subsidized wages, and transportation services to businesses that agree to hire DSS clients.

"The CPSU helps increase access to services by going where our clients are and helping people find and keep jobs that can lead them to self-sufficiency," said DSS Director Ray Fitzgerald.

You'll find the CPSU at libraries, community centers, health fairs, and events. Their offices are in Claymont, Wilmington, Dover, and Milford.

For more information, visit

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dss/cpsu.html>, call 302-792-0900, view this [video](#), or email community_partnership_support_unit@state.de.us.



Monique Edwards, left, and Dana Cook, center, both of the Division of Social Services' Community Partner Support Unit, shared resources at an event the CPSU organized in August. It was held at the Porter State Service Center in Wilmington.

Photo by Brian Aiken/CPSU.



DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health