



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE ORDER #228

**Relating to the Implementation of the Recommendations of the
Co-Chairs of the Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse**

WHEREAS, I have previously created a Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse and designated Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and State Representative John Nygren as co-chairs; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has met several times since its creation, heard testimony from a number of experts, and diligently studied the many facets of the opioid epidemic facing our state; and

WHEREAS, the Co-Chairs have prepared a report recommending a number of actions to be undertaken by state agencies,

NOW THEREFORE, I, SCOTT WALKER, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of this State, and specifically by section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes, do hereby order the following:

1. The Wisconsin Department of Administration and the Well Wisconsin Programming Committee shall work with state agencies to promote opioid abuse awareness among state employees, especially during Prescription Opioid and Heroin Epidemic Awareness Week and on statewide Prescription Drug Take-Back Days.
2. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families shall report to the Task Force on its efforts to integrate mental health and substance abuse awareness into its programs. In particular, the Department shall consult U.S. Department of Health & Human Services memorandum TANF-ACF-PI-2009-12 and the National Conference of State Legislatures' publication "Treatment of Alcohol and Other Substance Use Disorders" to determine whether federal Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) funds may be used to combat the opioid epidemic affecting many impoverished families, including those on W-2.
3. The Wisconsin Department of Corrections shall:
 - (a) Develop a web-based training module on opioid abuse for DOC staff who work with inmates who may have potential, current, or past addiction issues;
 - (b) Work with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to better assess the number of fatal and non-fatal overdoses among offenders by comparing offender data with vital records data;
 - (c) Develop better methods to evaluate and screen incoming inmates for opioid and drug abuse in order to tailor programming to the health and social needs of inmates upon entry into custody;
 - (d) Continue with its pilot program administering Vivitrol to volunteer participants paroled in eight northeast Wisconsin counties and share data on the pilot project's results with the Task Force; and
 - (e) Report to the Task Force on the feasibility of developing a recovery housing unit within an institution where inmates would voluntarily commit to living clean after release, participating in an addiction program, and supporting their fellow inmates in their common battle for healing.

4. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services shall:
 - (a) Improve Wisconsin's community substance abuse service standards to require all state-certified AODA clinics to have Naloxone on-site to administer in the event of an overdose. The Department should revise DHS Rule 75 to grant the state's opioid treatment authority greater discretion to require certified clinics to embrace evidence-based practices in treatment. The Department may further revise DHS Rule 75 to simplify and streamline regulation of other health care and service providers to ease access to services; and
 - (b) Work with professional associations, medical groups, hospitals and health systems, medical schools, and others to increase the number of physicians familiar with Medically Assisted Treatment, which is a proven therapy approach that combines medicine with counseling and support services.
5. The Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services shall:
 - (a) Evaluate, develop, and implement rules and procedures to ensure that the standards, investigatory practices, and discipline for all professions that prescribe, dispense, administer, and use opioids are as similar as possible to ensure consistency;
 - (b) Work with Wisconsin's professional associations to promote best practices for counseling and support services to assist regulated professionals fighting addiction issues;
 - (c) Work with the Controlled Substances Board (CSB) to promote information sharing among federal, state, and local agencies. Moreover, the CSB should hold an annual hearing with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to receive information on drug trends so the CSB can consider updating its schedules;
 - (d) Dedicate all necessary resources to ensuring the efficacy of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program; and
 - (e) Work with the Substance Abuse Counselor Certification Committee to revise the clinical hours requirements for counselors to ensure adequate training is balanced with appropriate workforce access.
6. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development shall review the Workers Compensation Research Institute's most recent report on interstate variation on opioid use and consult with the Workers Compensation Advisory Council to incorporate best practices into Wisconsin's workers compensation statutes.
7. The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs shall:
 - (a) Ensure that its Division of Veterans Homes provides care in line with best practices for opioid prescription and pain management. In particular, home residents with opioid prescriptions should have individualized plans of care that may include adjunct non-pharmaceutical treatment options. Department medical and pharmaceutical staff should ensure that opioid prescribing is in line with best practices recommended by the Medical Examining Board; and
 - (b) Promote public awareness among the veteran community of opioid-related resources, for instance by ensuring that Department and county veterans services staff, homeless veterans service providers, and Department grantees and allies have information on opioid abuse.
8. The Wisconsin Commissioner of Insurance shall conduct a survey of opioid addiction treatment coverage for the major insurers in Wisconsin. Once the results of this survey come back, the Commissioner shall share them with the Task Force. The Commissioner shall use the survey results to develop a consumer's guide to insurance coverage for opioid and substance abuse services, modeled on other OCI publications that empower consumers with important information.
9. The Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority shall report to the Task Force on the potential for expanding permanent supportive housing through Low Income Housing Tax Credits or other tools to provide homeless or inadequately housed individuals with substance abuse disorders the support they need to achieve and retain housing stability.

10. The Governor's Task Force on Opioid Abuse shall continue its important work under the leadership of its Co-Chairs, to whom I extend my appreciation for their hard work preparing these recommendations.



By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done in the City of Green Bay this fifth day of January, in the year two thousand seventeen.


SCOTT WALKER
Governor