

Beyond Overdose: Why Community Paramedicine is Essential within Quick Response Teams



Beyond Overdose

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Community Paramedic



Beyond Overdose

A Community In Crisis



***City population: 50,000**
***County population: 100,000**
***Cabell County EMS runs 36,000 calls annually (county-based EMS agency). One service covers the entire county, inclusive of the City of Huntington.**

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- **2015**

- “Suspected Overdose” Calls – **480**

- Narcan Usage – **298**

- **2016**

- “Suspected Overdose” Calls – **1217**

- Narcan Usage – **768**

- **2017**

- “Suspected Overdose” Calls – **1831**

- Narcan Usage - **1153**

- **2018**

- “Suspected Overdose” Calls – **1089**

- Narcan Usage – **686**

- **2019**

- “Suspected Overdose” Calls – **878**

- Narcan Usage – **502**

- **2020**

- “Suspected Overdose” Calls – **999**

- Narcan Usage - **554**

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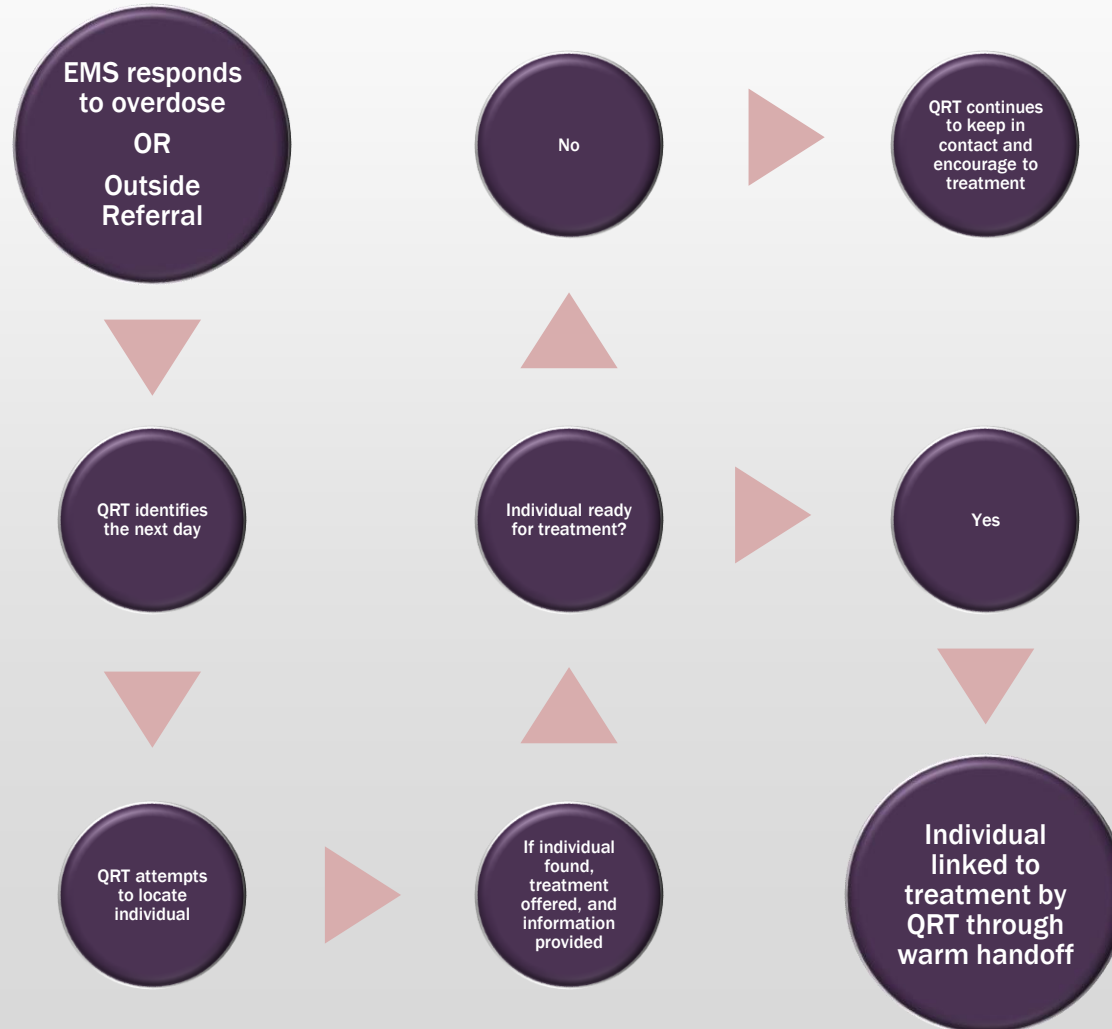
Team Composition:

- Community Paramedic
- Law Enforcement
- Behavioral Health
- Faith Leader



First Responder Diversion Program

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QRT Eligible – 2000+

Contacts - 1058

Entered Treatment - 302

Approximately 30% of those individuals that have engaged with QRT enter some type of formalized treatment.

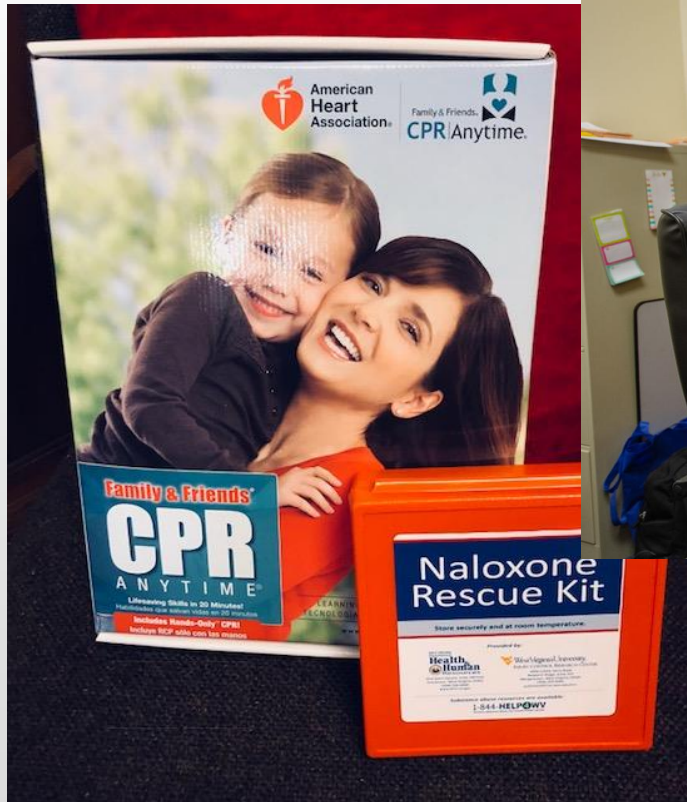
Overall decrease in “suspected overdose” ambulance calls from 2017 (Dec) through 2020 at 45%

QRT/EMS DATA

Beyond Overdose

- Quickly realized that individuals experiencing Substance Use Disorder do not live in a vacuum
- Many other needs were identified (social and medical)
- There was a significant lack of healthcare access to these individuals
- During COVID-19 the QRT partnered with other agencies and begin doing “Wellness Clinics”. Provided COVID testing, flu vaccines, naloxone training, and HIV testing
- Recognized a need to provide care to this underserved population

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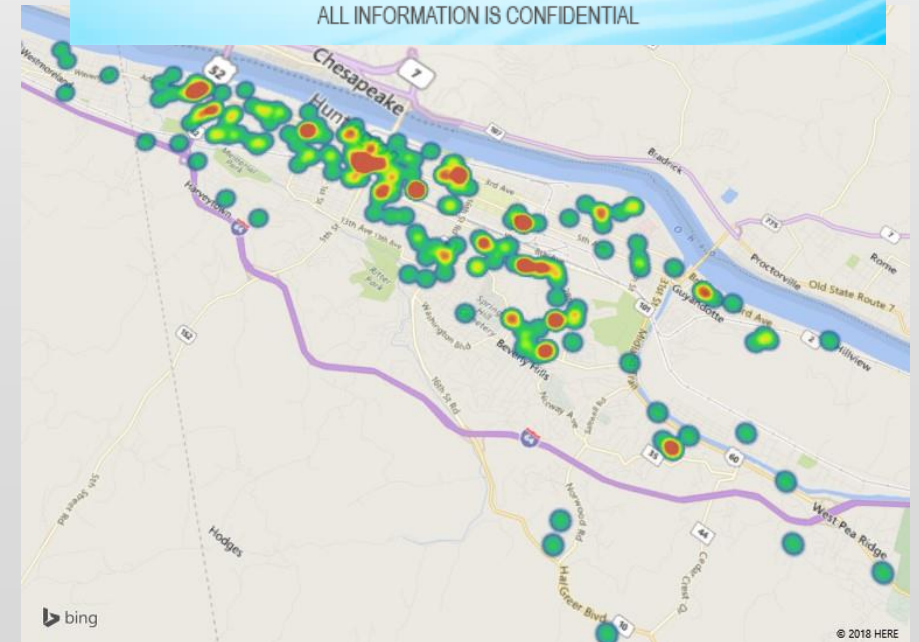


QRT Quick Response Team
Huntington, WV

Facing Addiction? We can help.

Contact us at:
Email: QRT@ccems.org Phone: (304)526-8541
<https://www.facebook.com/QRTHuntington/>

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL



Beyond Overdose

Expanded Services:

- Risk Reduction – Referral to Health Department for Harm Reduction
- Educate on the use of naloxone
- HIV field testing
- COVID testing/vaccines
- Distribution of Fentanyl test strips
- Condom distribution
- CPS/APS referral
- Homeless referral
- Transportation
- Distribution of “snack bags”, blankets, gloves, hats

Community Paramedic

This type of mobile integrated care is becoming cutting edge in current EMS practice. COVID brought to the forefront how many underserved populations there are, and how sometimes the only way for these individuals to have access to care is if the “healthcare” comes to them. What was once utilized only for “overdose” related calls. Now has become a goal for overall healthcare. Taking care directly to the individuals. Whether it be wound care, vaccines, HIV/Hep C testing, naloxone or fentanyl test strip distribution. The possibilities expand every day.



A WAVE OF THE
FUTURE



EMS holds the key to become the leaders in healthcare. The medics/EMT's at Cabell County EMS have "buy-in". They see a benefit to themselves, the individuals they serve and their communities.



CHANGING
MINDS...ONE
MIND AT A
TIME



QUESTIONS??

THANK YOU!

<https://www.coapresources.org/Learning/PeerToPeer/Diversion>