

## **Special Session on Opioid Abuse**

### **April 4, 2017**

#### **Emergency Administration of Opioid Antagonists in Schools (SSAB 1):**

- Currently, school personnel are allowed to administer certain life-saving drugs to students in compliance with written instructions from a practitioner.
- These lifesaving drugs include epinephrine (epi-pen) for treating an allergic reaction, and glucagon for students who suffer from diabetes.
- This bill allows school personnel with the proper training to administer an opioid antagonist if a person on school grounds is experiencing an overdose.
- This bill is not limited to students – more often than not, school personnel are concerned that parents are at a higher risk than students.
- Schools are often the center of our communities, and this bill helps to ensure the safety of all who visit our local schools.
- An amendment to this bill allows for residence hall directors at UW-System institutions, technical colleges, and private colleges to administer an opioid antagonist in the event of an overdose on campus.

#### **Treatment and Diversion (SSAB 2):**

- This bill allocates \$2 million each year for Treatment and Diversion (TAD) programs, \$150,000 each year to expand TAD to new counties, and \$261,000 each year for a pre-booking diversion pilot program.
- TAD grants are awarded by DOJ to counties that offer alternatives to prosecution and incarceration – like drug courts – for individuals charged with certain drug-related crimes.
- TAD programs are over 60% successful, whereas traditional treatment has less than a 40% success rate and simple incarceration has a 0% success rate.

#### **Prohibiting Schedule V Medications to be Dispensed without a Prescription (SSAB 4):**

- Prescriptions are required for all Schedule II, III, and IV controlled substances.
- Currently, a Schedule V controlled substance may be dispensed to a patient without a prescription, subject to various requirements and limitations.
- These medications include strong cough syrups containing codeine.
- According to the Pharmacy Society of Wisconsin, many pharmacists across the state aren't comfortable dispensing Schedule V medications. Large pharmacies like CVS and Walgreens have gone so far as to stop carrying these medications altogether.
- With this bill, Schedule V controlled substances that contain the opioid codeine will not be able to be dispensed without a prescription.
- Additionally, an amendment to this bill broadens the scope to require a prescription for other Schedule V medications beyond the ones that contain codeine.
- This requirement will help mitigate instances of diversion and abuse of potentially dangerous medications.

#### **Recovery School (SSAB 6):**

- This bill authorizes the Office of Educational Opportunity (OEO), housed within the UW-System, to contract for the operation of a recovery charter school.

- This recovery school will offer high school aged students who have struggled with addiction an opportunity at long-term recovery while continuing their high school education.
- To attend this school, a student must have attended treatment and is required to be sober.
- The recovery school is an alternative to a student's residential school – away from possible relapse triggers, potentially unhealthy routines, etc.
- The school will offer mental health and therapy supports to encourage students to continue on the path to recovery.
- OEO's contract for the school will be decided through an RFP.
- This bill is based on proven national recovery school models, utilizes a braided funding structure, and is capped at 15 students during the pilot phase to ensure every student gets the support they need to succeed.

**Graduate Medical Education (SSAB 7):**

- This bill allocates funding for additional graduate medical education fellowships in an addiction medicine specialty.
- There is a shortage of addiction medicine specialists in our state, and this support for additional fellowships will help address this shortage.

**Hope Centers (SSAB 8):**

- This bill appropriates funding for up to 3 additional opioid treatment centers in underserved areas of Wisconsin.
- DHS will work to determine which areas qualify as "underserved." An underserved area doesn't necessarily need to be rural.
- These treatment centers will expand access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) as well as other treatment models.
- There is an amendment being offered that will broaden the language of the bill so people suffering from a methamphetamine addiction can utilize the services at these centers in addition to those suffering from an opioid addiction.

**Doctor-to-Doctor Consultation Hotline (SSAB 9):**

- This bill allocates funding for a doctor-to-doctor consultation hotline.
- This service will be a great resource for doctors who may not have formal training or experience with treating addictions.
- Often times, doctors in rural areas of the state have less experience with addiction medicine. This hotline will connect these doctors with specialists who are experts in their field.

**DOJ Agents (SSAB 10):**

- This bill allocates funding for 4 new DOJ positions to fight drug trafficking.
- Often times, people who become addicted to opioids inevitably turn to drugs like heroin when prescription medications become too expensive or difficult to obtain. These positions will function in tandem with the DEA to focus solely on stopping drug trafficking into Wisconsin.

**Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SSAB 11):**

- This bill allocates funding for a program called Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).
- Through this program, students will have access to trained counselors should they have any concerns about substance use, abuse, and addiction.
- Often times, students don't feel comfortable going to a teacher or school administrator with questions about drugs or alcohol. This program ensures students have access to a trusted adult who can offer confidential assistance and guidance.
- Data shows that access to these counselors has a positive impact on the lives of students who may be at risk for substance abuse disorders.
- An amendment to this bill increases the funding amount to match what the governor included in his budget recommendations.