

# Connecticut health centers to get \$2.5M for opioid abuse

POSTED 4:34 PM, MARCH 11, 2016, BY JIM MCKEEVER



HARTFORD — Federal Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell said seven Connecticut health centers will receive over \$2.5 million in federal money to pay to improve and expand substance abuse services, especially for opioid use.

Officials with the department said the money will help Connecticut increase the number of patients that can be screened for substance abuse disorders. It will also help connect more users to treatment.



The money is part of a \$94 million federal effort that is going to 271 health centers nationally. The department said it will support treatment services for approximately 124,000 patients.

The human services department estimates the number of unintentional overdose deaths from prescription pain medications increased almost fourfold from 1999 to 2013. Deaths related to heroin rose 39 percent from 2012 to 2013.

“The opioid epidemic is one of the most pressing public health issues in the United States today,” said Burwell in a statement. “Expanding access to medication-assisted treatment and integrating these services in health centers bolsters nationwide efforts to curb opioid misuse and abuse, supports approximately 124,000 new patients accessing substance use treatment for recovery and helps save lives.”

“Health centers treat some of the most at risk patients in the country,” said HHS Health Resources and Services Administration Acting Administrator Jim Macrae in the statement. “These awards position health centers to be at the forefront of the fight against opioid abuse in underserved communities.”

Research demonstrates that a whole-patient approach to treatment medication and counseling and behavioral therapies, is most success disorders, according to the HHS.

In 2014, over 1.3 million people received behavioral health services increase since 2008. This funding builds upon and leverages previous support to health centers to improve and expand the delivery of sub-integrated primary care/behavioral health model with a specific focus on disorders in underserved populations.

“HRSA’s innovative investment in the delivery of medication-assisted treatment for substance use disorders affirms the importance of behavioral health to overall health care. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration is pleased to support this effort.”

Community Health Center, Inc. received a \$379,167 grant for the communities of Middletown, Meriden, New Britain and New London.

Currently, CHC has 14 providers certified to prescribe buprenorphine as treatment for opioid-dependent patients. The grant provides for the training of 10 behavioral health providers to support buprenorphine prescribers.

“We estimate this funding will positively impact Middletown, Meriden, New London and New Britain by increasing patient access to buprenorphine therapy by more than 20 percent,” stated Mark Masselli, president/CEO of Community Health Center, Inc. in a statement. “The communities we serve will see a difference and lives will be saved.”

Other recipients were Community Health Services, Inc. in Hartford (\$325,000), Cornell Scott-Hill Health Corporation in New Haven (\$406,250), Fair Haven Community Health Clinic Inc. in New Haven (\$352,083), First Choice Health Centers, Inc. in East Hartford (\$406,250), Optimus Health Care, Inc. in Bridgeport (\$325,000) and Staywell Health Care, Inc. in Waterbury (\$325,000).

## RELATED STORIES

**Former NBA star speaks out about addiction at Windham Tech**

**Task force to fight opioid addiction to meet in Enfield**

**East Hampton community leaders and experts tackle the opioid epidemic**

## Follow “FOX 61”

Get every new post delivered to your Inbox.

Join 1,016 other followers

Sign me up

Build a website with WordPress.com



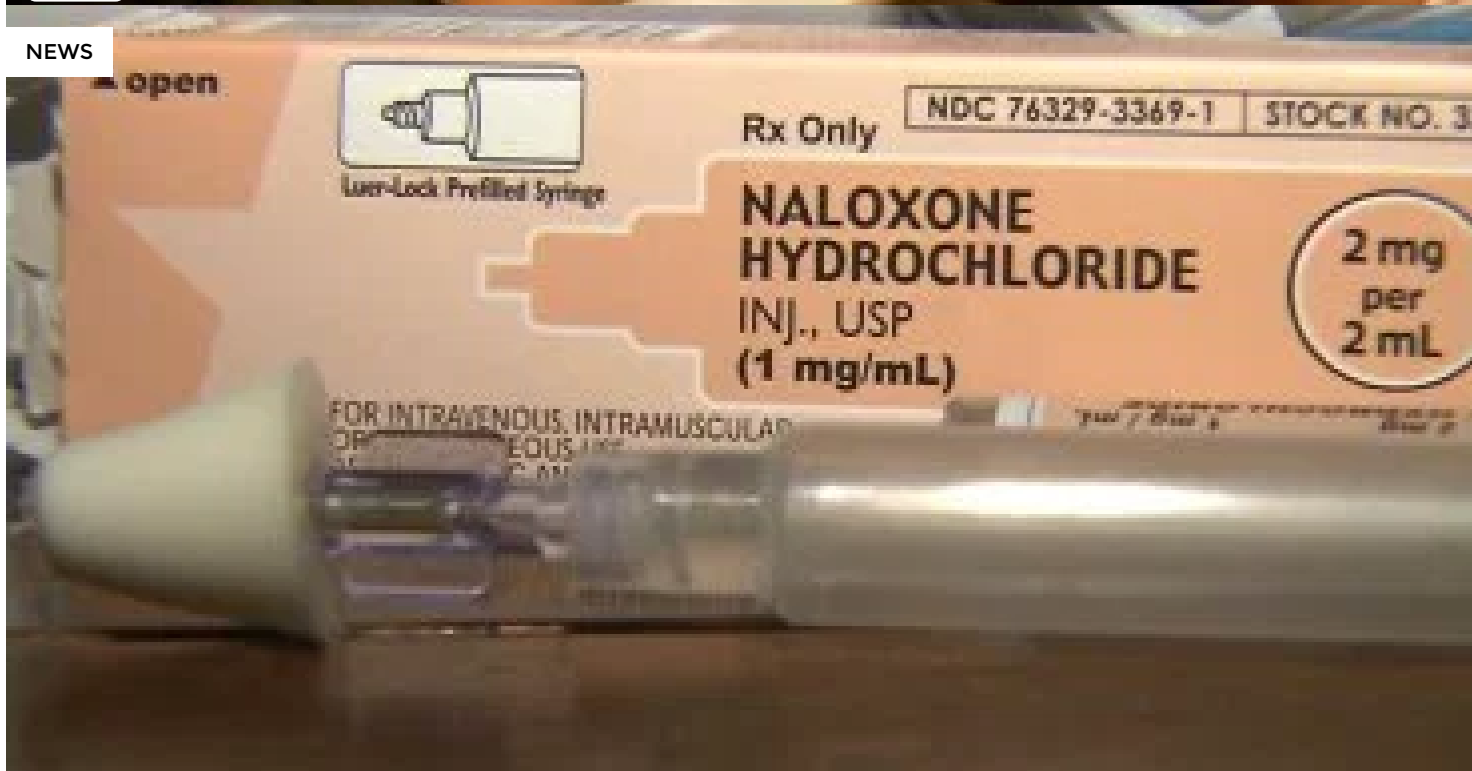
President Obama Speaks At Chiefs Of Missions Conference At State Department



NEWS



NEWS



NEWS



CT OPIOID HOT-LINE

1-800-563-4086



ASK THE PHARMACIST



NEWS





**Packed room for forum on opiate addiction in Middletown**

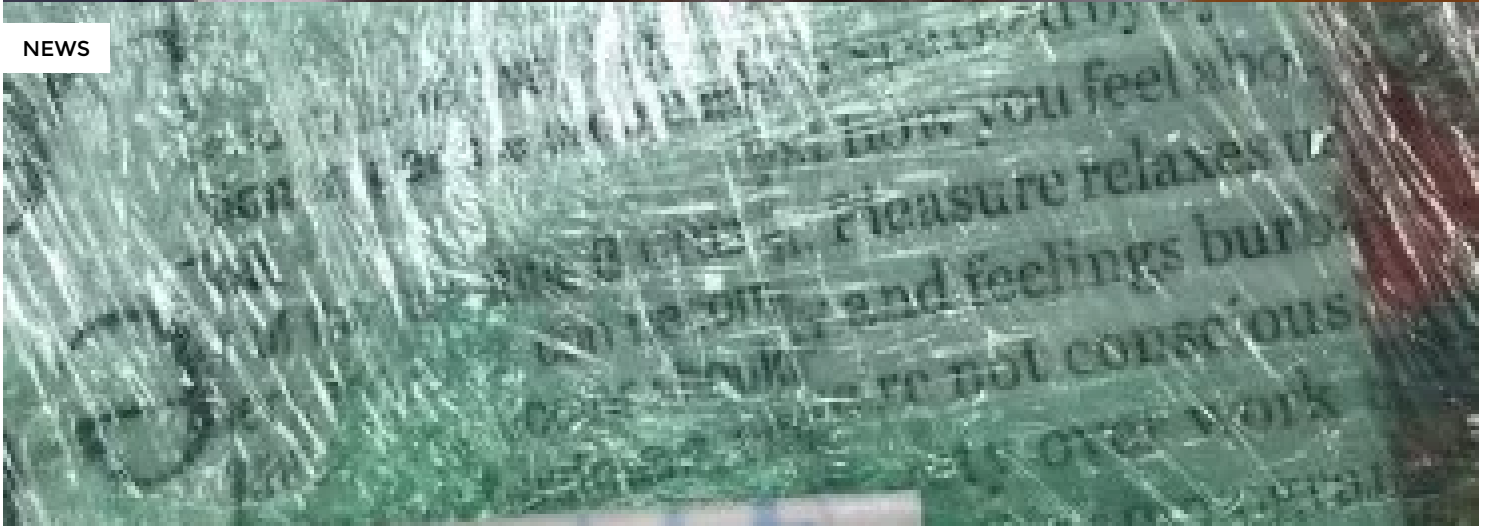




NEWS

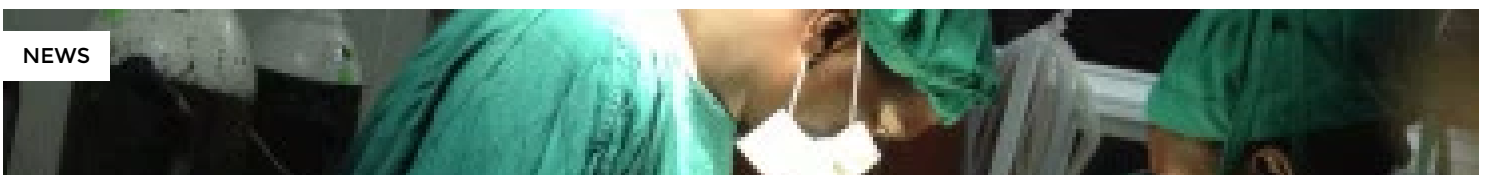


NEWS





## East Hampton community leaders and experts tackle the opioid epidemic





HEALTH



NEWS







**Drug overdose deaths reach all-time high**