

Lakes Region Substance Awareness Coalition (LRSAC) is committed to countering the opioid crisis in the Lakes Region of Western Maine. We commit to bring people, information and ideas together to end opioid misuse in our community. We commit to remove barriers that prevent people from receiving treatment for opioid use disorder. We commit to strengthen our community by promoting understanding of opioid misuse and offering hope, resilience and recovery to everyone in our community. We believe no single approach or group will solve the opioid crisis, everyone in the community must come together and get involved. We work to facilitate community action, create meaningful strategic partnerships, and recognize progress toward three stated goals, which are: 1) Prevention and education...evidence based opioid misuse prevention strategies are widely used to address a variety of underlying causes, and risk and protective factors for individuals, families and communities, 2) Treatment and recovery... people with opioid use disorder are able to access locally available evidenced based treatment and recovery services, 3) Policy and enforcement...evidence based policy and enforcement strategies that prevent opioid overdose deaths and provide treatment and recovery services are widely utilized by local public and private institutions, law enforcement and courts. In 2018 over five hundred individuals participated in LRSAC meetings, trainings and events, and ninety organizations partnered in support of LRSAC goals. Our capacity to influence and measure change on identified community conditions of concern blossomed as members and friends seized many opportunities to advocate in support of mental and substance use disorder prevention, treatment and recovery.