

Town of North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Office of the Town Manager

INFORMATION PAPER

North Attleborough Opioid Task Force

“Left of Bang” Framework for Opioid Prevention, Response, and Recovery

Date: November 2025

Prepared By:

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On behalf of the North Attleborough Opioid Task Force

Contributing Departments:

- Health Department
- School Department
- North Attleborough Fire Department
- North Attleborough Police Department
- Town Administration

Community and Regional Partners:

- Bristol County
 - Hockomock YMCA
 - William James College INTERFACE Referral Service
 - RIZE Mosaic Initiative
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Purpose:

To provide an update on the formation, coordination, and ongoing initiatives of the North Attleborough Opioid Task Force, guided by the *Left of Bang* model for prevention, immediate response, and recovery reintegration.

Distribution:

Town Council • Board of Health • School Department Leadership • Fire and Police Command Staff • Community Partners

Point of Contact:

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Town of North Attleborough, MA

1. **Purpose**

To update the Town Council and community partners on the formation, coordination, and ongoing initiatives of the North Attleborough Opioid Task Force, guided by the *Left of Bang* prevention and response model.

2. **Background**

The North Attleborough Opioid Task Force was established to coordinate a unified, community-based response to substance misuse and overdose prevention. Using opioid settlement funds strategically, the Town has aligned multiple departments and community partners to take a proactive and sustained approach to the opioid crisis.

The guiding concept — Left of Bang — emphasizes acting *before* a crisis occurs while ensuring coordinated intervention during and after an overdose.

3. **Organization and Membership**

The North Attleborough Opioid Task Force operates as a coordinated, multi-departmental partnership that integrates public health, public safety, education, and Town administration to deliver a unified, community-based response. The strength of the Task Force lies in its collaboration across municipal departments and with regional and community partners who share the same commitment to prevention, intervention, and recovery.

a. **Health Department:**

Serves as the lead coordinating agency for the Task Force, providing direct access to the Board of Health and ensuring alignment with public health priorities. The Health Department’s Outreach Coordinator serves as the primary point of contact for both the opioid settlement funds and Task Force operations—managing grant reporting, community engagement, and coordination with state and regional agencies.

b. **School Department:**

Actively engaged through the leadership of Director of Student Services, Meg Camire, who oversees prevention and early intervention initiatives within the schools. Using opioid settlement funds, the School Department has implemented a series of student wellness, resiliency, and prevention programs that promote early identification and reduce stigma around mental health and substance use.

- c. **North Attleborough Fire Department (NAFD):**
Plays a vital role in both emergency response and data analysis. NAFD provides critical overdose data that enables the Task Force to identify community trends and geographic concentrations of incidents. This information directly supports targeted outreach, Narcan distribution, and community training programs.
- d. **North Attleborough Police Department (NAPD):**
The forthcoming Co-Response Mental Health Clinician—currently in the hiring process—is a foundational component of the Town’s response model. This clinician will partner with NAPD officers to provide on-scene crisis intervention, follow-up care coordination, and case management, ensuring individuals in crisis are connected to treatment and recovery resources rather than cycling through emergency response systems.
- e. **Town Administration:**
Provides overall leadership, administrative support, and fiscal oversight for Task Force operations. The administration ensures that opioid settlement funds are used strategically and transparently to sustain prevention and recovery initiatives while aligning efforts with the Town’s broader public health and human services priorities.
- f. **Community and Regional Partners:**
The Task Force’s success depends on the strength of its partnerships. Bristol County continues to be instrumental in supporting the Town’s initiatives. Community partners such as the Hockomock YMCA, William James College Interface Referral Service, and RIZE have expanded access to prevention programs, recovery resources, and grant opportunities. These relationships provide the Task Force with broader reach, technical expertise, and sustained community engagement.

Together, these departments and partners form a collaborative framework that strengthens prevention, enhances immediate response, and promotes long-term recovery and reintegration across North Attleborough.

4. **The Three Pillars – “Left of Bang” Framework**

The Town’s opioid response is structured around three operational pillars — *Before the Overdose*, *During the Overdose*, and *After the Overdose* — designed to provide prevention, intervention, and recovery as an integrated, continuous system of care. Two critical resources — the William James College INTERFACE Referral Service and the Co-Response Mental Health Clinician — support all three pillars, ensuring continuity of engagement for residents and families from

prevention through long-term recovery.

a. Before the Overdose – Prevention, Education, and Early Intervention

- i. Public Awareness Campaigns addressing opioid misuse, fentanyl awareness, and mental health resources.
- ii. Youth and School Outreach through prevention programs and social-emotional learning supported by the School Department.
- iii. William James College INTERFACE Referral Service: Provides early connection to mental health counseling and family support, helping to identify and assist residents before crisis.
- iv. Co-Response Mental Health Clinician: Engages individuals and families showing early signs of behavioral health challenges, diverting potential crisis situations through proactive follow-up.
- v. Data-Driven Outreach: Uses Fire and Police data to target education, Narcan distribution, and prevention resources where most needed.

b. During the Overdose – Immediate Response and Crisis Management

- i. First Responder Narcan Access and Training: All police, fire, and EMS personnel trained and equipped for overdose response.
- ii. Public Narcan Training: Community education sessions with Town employees and targeted employers in North Attleborough.
- iii. Co-Response Clinician: Collaborates with first responders to provide on-scene behavioral health support during overdose responses or related crises.
- iv. Real-Time Data Coordination: We are working to ensure information flows between emergency services, the Health Department, and INTERFACE for rapid follow-up and resource connection.

c. After the Overdose – Recovery and Reintegration

- i. Continuity of Care: Coordinated support between the Co-Response Clinician, INTERFACE, and community partners to connect survivors with treatment, counseling, or recovery coaching.
- ii. Family and Caregiver Support: Ongoing resource navigation and local outreach programs.
- iii. Employment and Housing Stability: Collaboration with local nonprofits to sustain long-term recovery.
- iv. Community Partnerships: Engagement with the Hockomock YMCA, RIZE, Bristol County, the Bristol County Sheriff and other organizations promoting healthy reintegration and peer support.

d. Cross-Cutting Elements:

- i. William James College INTERFACE Referral Service and the Co-Response Clinician ensure consistent, compassionate connection for individuals and families across every stage — before, during, and after an overdose.
- ii. Their shared mission is to build trust, reduce stigma, and provide seamless access to help at every point along the continuum of care.

5. Funding and Opportunities

- a. The Town continues to allocate opioid settlement funds toward sustainable programming focused on prevention, response, and recovery.
- b. Ongoing exploration of external funding, including the RIZE Mosaic Grant Opportunity, to expand community-based outreach and support services.

6. Progress to Date

- a. Task Force organized and operational with cross-department collaboration.
- b. Launched William James College INTERFACE Referral Service for residents and students.
- c. Implemented Narcan training and distribution across community locations.
- d. Established co-response clinician program within NAPD.
- e. Created micro-grant framework to fund targeted prevention projects.
- f. Strengthened coordination among Health, Fire, and Police for overdose tracking and response.

7. Next Steps

- a. Expand family education and public awareness campaigns in early 2026.
- b. Formalize data-sharing protocols across departments for better trend analysis.
- c. Launch annual community opioid awareness event to promote prevention and highlight available resources.
- d. Evaluate funded initiatives for impact and adjust investment priorities accordingly.

8. Summary

The North Attleborough Opioid Task Force is implementing a comprehensive, community-based strategy guided by the *Left of Bang* framework. Through prevention, immediate intervention, and recovery reintegration, the Town is taking measurable steps to reduce overdoses, strengthen resilience, and promote hope for residents and families affected by substance misuse.