

PRESS RELEASE

SSTAR Receives \$20,000 Grant

from CVS Health to Help Combat Opioid Abuse

Grant to Stanley Street Treatment and Resources is part of CVS Health's commitment to addressing and preventing the nation's opioid epidemic

Fall River, Massachusetts - June 11, 2018 - Stanley Street Treatment and Resources (SSTAR) announced today that it has received a \$20,000 grant from CVS Health, as part of the company's commitment to addressing and preventing the nation's opioid epidemic. The support from CVS Health will help SSTAR develop a program that focuses on women and prescription drug abuse, following a significant increase in call volume from women concerned about their use of prescription medications. Our goal is to develop group treatment specifically geared to this population and to utilize funding to target messaging to women about this new service.

SSTAR is a private not-for-profit women's minority business enterprise, founded in 1977, to provide a continuum of care especially to those who are affected by addiction. Women have been a particular concern since the establishment of the organization when observations showed that women were under-represented in our treatment programs. In every program we create, in every research project we undertake, we look to see that women and their access to care and their concerns are addressed.

"The opioid epidemic has hit Southeastern Massachusetts with brutal force. SSTAR has re-engineered our workflows to better meet the tsunami of patients who are flooding our access points. We have increased, with the help of state funding, the hours we assess and admit patients, and we now have open access for patients to walk-in 15 hours a day on weekdays and nine hours a day on weekends. From July 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 we have had 1,712 enrollments. Prior to the epidemic and our change in workflows we enrolled under 500 people in a six month period," said Nancy Paull, Chief Executive Officer SSTAR

"As a pharmacy innovation company, we are committed to helping people on their path to better health. We are proud to support organizations that address the nation's opioid epidemic because we know their efforts are critical to delivering a healthier community," said Eileen Howard Boone, Senior Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility and Philanthropy, CVS Health. "We are pleased to support the work that SSTAR does in the community and we look forward to working with them to fulfill their program's mission."

SSTAR will facilitate three general education programs (Fall - Winter - Spring) to bring awareness in the community about women and prescription drug abuse. Presented by Genie Bailey, MD and Susan St Amour, FNP, the program will highlight various aspects of prescription drug appropriate use and misuse; alternative coping strategies for anxiety and pain management; how trauma often leads to misuse and addiction; and why the misuse of prescription drugs can affect women much quicker, why treatment may be more difficult for women, and how women can recover with support. The program will be advertised in social media and print media.

CVS Health's support for SSTAR builds on the company's overall commitment to helping communities address and prevent drug abuse, through safe disposal, education and prevention. In September 2017, CVS Health announced it would add safe medication disposal units to a total of 750 CVS Pharmacy locations across the U.S.

This work builds on ongoing programs the company operates including the Pharmacists Teach program, which brings CVS Pharmacists to local schools to talk to teens and parents about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs. More than 350,000 teens have already participated in the program since 2015. CVS Health has also worked to expand access to the opioid overdose-reversal drug naloxone in 46 states.