

Five-Point Plan

to address the substance abuse crisis

1

The City of Philadelphia should invest in long-standing, trusted, community-based drug addiction treatment facilities. These facilities have been working on-the-ground for years, many with volunteer staff. As part of this investment, the City should encourage the hiring of citizens in recovery to counsel those currently in the throes of addiction.

2

The City of Philadelphia should require the Philadelphia medical examiner to perform toxicology reports and to track data identifying specific drugs linked to fatal overdoses. This would aid the City in targeting specific drugs found to particularly contribute to overdose deaths in an effort to reduce fatalities.

3

The City of Philadelphia should launch community-based drug prevention and education campaigns in all schools, recreation centers, libraries and other city-supported programs. The campaigns should provide resources to refer community members to drug treatment facilities in their own neighborhoods, and educate residents on what to do when faced with various drug-related scenarios.

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4

The City of Philadelphia should, in addition to the City's suit against several major pharmaceutical companies, create a monitoring system that tracks doctors associated with over-prescribing opioids and work with doctors to establish a protocol for prescribing opioids. The City should consult professionals at the University of Pennsylvania, who saw prescriptions for smaller amounts of opioids increase after creating a system designed to help combat the opioid crisis.

5

The City of Philadelphia should investigate exonerating misdemeanor drug convictions and help guide these individuals into treatment; investigate clearing records of those convicted of certain drug felonies who have not been convicted of a crime in a certain number of years and; investigate on a case-by-case basis clearing records of those convicted of prostitution and similar crimes where drug addiction was involved.

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This new willingness to address opioid overdose deaths through the establishment of safe injection sites also opens up the opportunity for a much larger and long overdue conversation that acknowledges the disparities with which we have historically recognized and treated substance abuse.

- Cindy Bass



Substance Abuse and Mental
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