

## How do I get involved?

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The Arlington Addiction Recovery Initiative stakeholders' group meets monthly to address the community's response to the opioid epidemic. Meetings are open to the public.

Please join us!

**Where?** 2120 Washington Boulevard, Arlington VA 22204

**When?** The 4th Thursday of each month at 2 PM

If you would like more information about this group or the meetings, contact Suzanne Somerville at (703) 228-7340 or Emily Siqveland at (703) 228-4216

One crisis. One community. One conversation.

# #OneArlington



### For more information or support visit

<https://health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness>

Call the Addiction Recovery Support Warmline at  
1-833-4PEERVA  
(1-833-473-3782)

## Arlington Addiction Recovery Initiative

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*Community  
taskforce working  
to raise awareness  
of the opioid crisis*

## Who Are We?

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The Arlington Addiction Recovery Initiative (AARI) is a collaborative group of community partners working to raise awareness of the opioid crisis.

The group was founded in January 2017. AARI continues to focus on the response to opioid related issues, including prevention services, increasing access to treatment, and community outreach.

The initiative includes stakeholders from across the community, including providers specializing in the treatment of substance use disorders, Public Safety, Public Schools, medical providers, and private citizens who have been personally affected by this crisis.

## Our Mission

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To improve the community understanding of the dangers of opioid abuse utilizing an integrated system of professionals to provide support, resources, and education, in an effort to reduce the incidents of substance abuse, dependency, and overdose.

## Definition of Addiction

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Addiction is a **brain disease** characterized by an inability to consistently abstain, impairment in behavioral control, cravings, diminished recognition of significant problems with one's behaviors and interpersonal relationships, and a dysfunctional emotional response. Like other chronic diseases, addiction often involves cycles of relapse and remission.

Without treatment or engagement in recovery activities, addiction is progressive and can result in disability or premature death.

### Signs and Symptoms can include:

- Temporary blackouts or issues with memory
- Changes in physical appearance
- Neglecting obligations
- Irritability/Mood Swings
- Insomnia
- Increase in risk taking behaviors
- Secrecy
- Family history of use
- Tolerance
- Withdrawal symptoms

## Highlights of Our Accomplishments

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- Built a website with extensive information and links
- Created information cards for first responders to distribute to at-risk individuals
- Worked with Crisislink to have a hotline number for opioid questions and support
- Drug takeback days and permanent boxes
- Safe administration of Naloxone trainings to be provided to the community
- Addressing overdose through a team of police and DHS staff who will outreach and engage individuals to connect to treatment
- Department of Human Services' Office-Based Opioid Treatment program continues to grow
- Police have assisted with identifying priority locations in the county for outreach.