

# Michigan's Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

October 2019 – September 2022



## Michigan Alliance for Drug Endangered Children: An Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Task Force Strategic Plan



**MICHIGAN ALLIANCE**

FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

Help. Hope. Support.

## **Executive Summary**

### *Analysis of the Problem*

In 2018, there were 67,367 overdose deaths in the United States, with 69.5 percent (46,802) involving an opioid (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). Nationally, overdose deaths from opioids have increased nearly six times since 1999 (CDC's Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research [WONDER], 2020).

Similarly, the total number of overdose deaths involving any type of opioid in Michigan increased by more than 17 times from 1999 to 2018. In 2018, there were 2,011 overdose deaths involving opioids in Michigan. That is a rate of 20.8 opioid-related deaths per 100,000 population, which is significantly higher than the national rate of 14.6 (National Institute on Drug Abuse [NIDA], 2020).

The statistics on overdose fatalities are some of the most alarming, and most well-known, data on the opioid crisis. However, the effects of the crisis reach farther than individuals struggling with addiction and cause serious harm to families, children, and communities as well. Substance and/or opioid use disorder (SUD/OD) inhibits a parent/guardian's ability to appropriately care for children in their custody. The National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC) defines drug endangered children as those who are at risk of suffering physical or emotional harm because of drug use, possession, manufacturing, cultivation, or distribution. They may also be children whose caregiver's substance misuse interferes with the caregiver's ability to parent and provide a safe and nurturing environment (National DEC, 2019). As recognized by National DEC and evident in the research, primary challenges with responding to the crises facing drug endangered children include both identifying these at-risk youth and coordinating the various agencies charged with intervening and providing services to these children and families.

One of the most alarming yet consistent findings regarding caregiver SUD and OUD is that it is correlated with both child abuse and neglect and frequently exists as a co-occurring issue (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2014; Fortson et al., 2016; Victoret et al., 2018). Caregiver substance use is often accompanied with the need for other services, such as domestic violence and mental health services (Victor et al., 2018).

Parents with SUD or OUD are three times more likely to physically or sexually abuse their child and four times more likely to neglect their child; studies have shown that between one-third to two-thirds of child maltreatment cases involve some degree of substance misuse (Lander et al., 2013). Drug endangered children may experience a variety of negative consequences due to their exposure to substance misuse and their increased risk of being abused or neglected. Children whose parents have SUD or OUD are at a higher risk for mental and behavioral disorders and have more academic, social, and family functioning difficulties than children whose parents do not struggle with SUD/OD (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2014; Lipari & Van Horn, 2017).

A 2016 study found that maternal, paternal, and both-parent substance misuse are significant predictors of mental [health] disorders in adolescents, and these results were substantiated even after the researchers controlled for variables such as other adverse childhood experiences, parental education, and the child's gender (Jääskeläinen et al., 2016). Moreover, drug endangered children are more likely than other children to engage in substance misuse (Lander et al., 2013; Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2014; Jääskeläinen et al., 2016; Lipari & Van Horn, 2017). The same 2016 study found maternal, paternal, and both-parent SUD/ODD to be significant predictors of harmful substance use in children ages 13-17 (Jääskeläinen et al., 2016). Drug endangered children whose parents exhibit parenting deficiencies due to SUD/ODD also have a higher chance of experiencing many mental health issues, such as depression, anxiety, and other trauma-related symptoms (Child Welfare Information Gateway, 2014). The family environments of these at-risk children also tend to have greater life stressors, such as caregiver instability and marital dysfunction (Solis et al., 2012).

Both nationally and statewide, the number of drug endangered children is likely underestimated due to a lack of uniform data collection and communication among agencies. In Michigan, neither law enforcement agencies (including drug task forces) nor Child Protective Services (CPS) have a drug endangered children data collection or tracking system. Reporting on drug endangered children is often optional among law enforcement agencies; thus, the data is frequently incomplete and unrepresentative. Michigan CPS reports that field workers have requested a tracking system, but the agency has not yet implemented one (Michigan CPS, 2018). Because the coordinated efforts of law enforcement and child welfare are crucial for the safety and care of impacted youth, a lack of streamlined communication and data poses a critical problem.

In recognition of the unique struggles facing drug endangered children and the professionals charged with supporting this population, the Michigan State Police (MSP), with funding from the Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention has launched the Michigan Alliance for Drug Endangered Children: An Opioid and Substance Use Disorder Task Force. This project will work to raise awareness of the effects of the opioid crisis on families and children, to improve data collection and sharing, and to promote multidisciplinary collaboration among DEC professionals.

#### *Project Overview*

In October 2019, the Michigan State Police Grants and Community Services Division (MSP GCSD) received \$1 million in grant funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI). The core elements of this project include creating a multidisciplinary task force, using data to develop strategies to improve coordinated responses, and implementing public safety, intervention, prevention, and diversion services for youth and families who are directly affected by opioid use. To address these components, the MSP GCSD partnered with National DEC to implement the DEC approach, which

promotes multidisciplinary collaboration to increase awareness and identification of drug endangered children. The DEC approach uses a multi-level structure, with alliances at the national, state, and local level all working together. MSP's first step toward implementing the DEC approach was to create the Michigan DEC Alliance.

The Michigan DEC Alliance is a statewide advisory entity comprised of representatives from various fields that interact with drug endangered children, such as law enforcement, child welfare, medicine, education, prosecutors, and others. The Michigan DEC State Steering Committee serves as the statewide oversight and guidance body for local and regional DEC alliances. The state steering committee provides resources to assist with the implementation and coordination of DEC alliances across the state of Michigan. The committee also discusses topics such as funding, leadership, and other state-level issues.

Committee membership represents communities all over the state and reflects the varied professions working to protect children from harmful exposure to drugs. Members are invited to join based on work or personal expertise and experience and are appointed by the Project Coordinator and current steering committee members. Individuals working in both direct service and management level positions are both invited and encouraged to join, to provide diverse and well-rounded perspectives. Expectations, duties, and services/resources provided by Michigan DEC are outlined in a Participation Form that members are required to sign. New members are oriented through participation in CORE DEC Awareness, DEC Approach, DEC Development, and Train the Trainer training, as well as through cross-education with other Steering Committee members. As local-level alliances develop, at least one member from each local alliance will serve on the state steering committee as well. The Michigan DEC State Steering Committee serves as a liaison with National DEC, opening the door to extensive resources, training, and networking opportunities.

#### *State Steering Committee Structure*

The Michigan DEC Alliance has committee members from the following state and federal agencies and nonprofit organizations:

- Michigan State Police
  - D/Sgt. Nathan Grant: Narcotics Task Force
- Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
  - Chief Dale Dwojakowski, Sterling Heights Police Department
- Michigan Sheriffs' Association
  - Sheriff Brian Gutowski, Manistee County Sheriff's Office
- Michigan National Guard, Drug Demand Reduction Operation (DDRO)
  - Kasey Robbins
  - Keith Kerrigan
- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
  - Jessica Kincaid: Children's Protective Services (CPS) Program Office
  - Katie Kidd: Macomb County CPS Office
  - Annie Heit: Home Visiting Unit
  - Lisa Coleman, Office of Recovery Oriented Systems of Care
- Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan
  - Julie Knop: Child Abuse Training Unit
  - Megan Aukerman: Forensic Interviewing Trainer

- Michigan Department of Education
  - Mary Teachout: Office of Health and Nutrition Services
- Children’s Advocacy Centers of Michigan
  - Dr. Amelia Siders: Director of Clinical Practice, Development and Education
- Up North Prevention (Catholic Human Services)
  - Lynda Rutkowski: Certified Prevention Specialist
- Thumb Opioid Response Consortium (TORC)
  - Cheryl Hieber: Outreach Specialist
- Tribal Behavioral Health Network
  - Daun Bieda: Behavioral Health Director
- U.S. Attorney’s Office—Eastern District of Michigan
  - Brandy McMillion: Assistant U.S. Attorney
- Emergent Biosolutions
  - Amanda Lick: Government Liaison
- Catholic Charities of Shiawassee and Genesee Counties
  - Melissa Mehalko: Director of Human Resources and Quality Assurance

MSP is the lead agency and GCSO employees Leslie Wagner and Libby Gorton serve as the Project Administrator and Project Coordinator, respectively. The Project Administrator oversees high-level decision-making, financial aspects, and federal reporting requirements. The Project Coordinator manages daily operations, facilitates committee meetings, and serves as the main point of contact for committee members. After delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and technical difficulties associated with mandatory telework, the MI DEC State Steering Committee met for the first time on June 9, 2020. Subsequently, the committee meets the second Tuesday of each month for about one to one and a half hours. To date, the committee has only met virtually over Zoom. However, project staff intend to transition to in-person meetings when public health allows. In-person meetings will rotate in location to best accommodate committee members and will include a call-in option. Once the committee is well-established, meetings will move to a quarterly schedule.

*State Steering Committee Purpose and Duties*

The main tasks of the committee include raising awareness of the struggles drug and opioid endangered children face and promoting multidisciplinary collaboration as a method to better identify and serve these youth and families. To fulfill this purpose, committee members:

- Meet monthly (later quarterly) to share professional experience and expertise and discuss high-level issues, such as funding, DEC protocols, and leadership
- Participate in National DEC trainings and sponsor/promote these trainings for local DEC alliances
- Offer guidance and coordination/implementation assistance to local DEC alliances
- Help local alliances connect with National DEC and other state and local

DECalliances across the country  
Identify data gaps and strategies to collect and share needed data more effectively

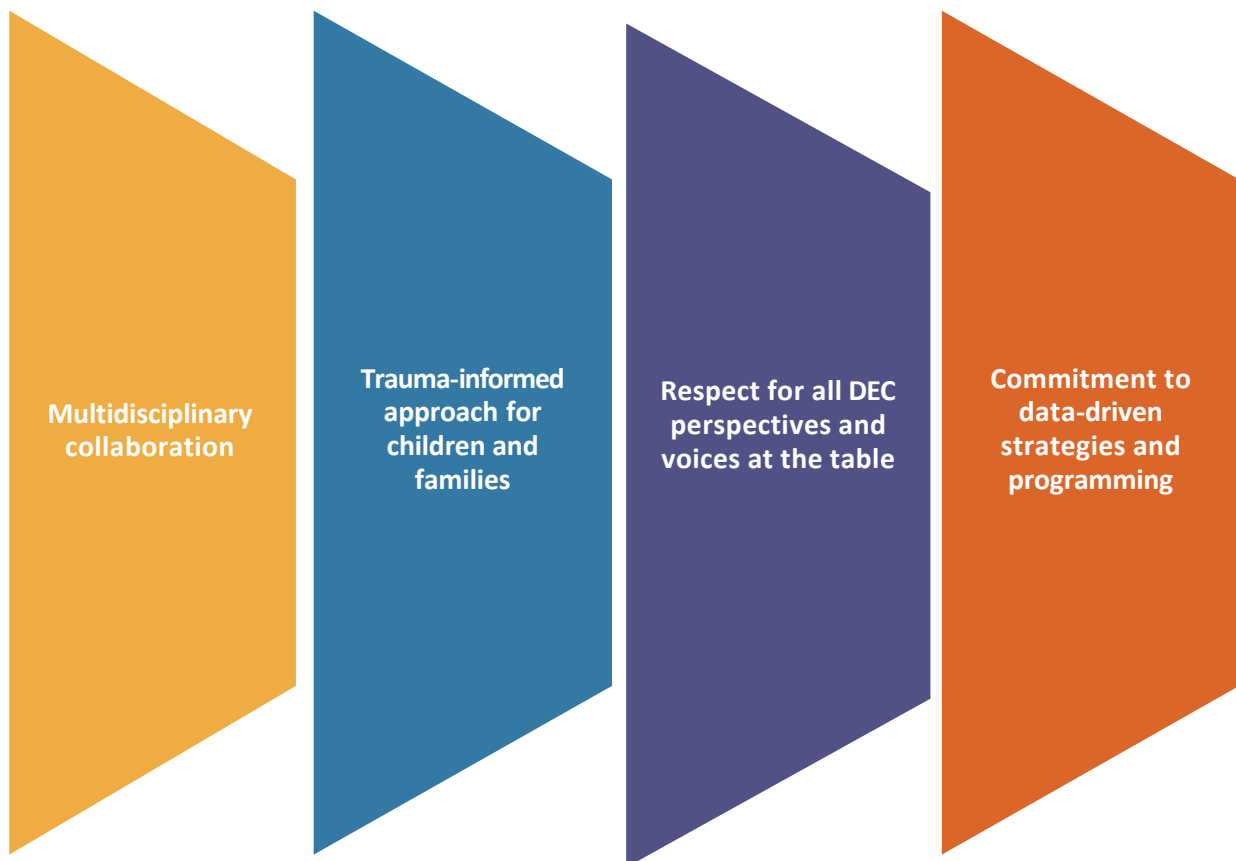
**Vision Statement**

The Michigan DEC Alliance seeks to establish a collaborative system of professionalsthat work to ensure all families lead lives free from abuse, neglect, and exposure to opioids and other harmful substances.

**Mission Statement**

The Michigan DEC Alliance protects and serves drug endangered children and their families by promoting multidisciplinary collaboration and information sharing among DEC professionals, from early identification through intervention, response, and support.

**Core Values**



**SWOT Analysis**

## Strengths

- Diverse backgrounds and perspectives
  - Expertise from National DEC
- Existing prevention coalitions and county level Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)
- Access to many resources as a state agency leads the project

## Weaknesses

- Still looking for more board representation from medical field
- Pandemic and remote work related delays
- New organization, building from the ground up
- Data is not consistently collected

## Opportunities

- Online training leads to wider outreach
- Partnerships with other organizations (ex. MiSHCA, Handle With Care)
- National DEC and OAYI conferences/events
- Data from different fields can be triangulated

## Threats

- Some communities may be skeptical or uninterested
- Project may not be seen as a priority, or may be seen as additional work
- Local-level organizations may not be receptive to state-level project

### Goals-Based Approach Justification

The Michigan DEC Alliance uses as goals-based approach in order to:

- Feel well positioned to identify current and future goals
- Establish a clear mission and vision statement and core values
- Be able to make decisions in hierarchical fashion
- Assess each program goal and objective individually, and conduct the planning required to accomplish each goal and objective

### Process

To accomplish the program goals and objectives, the Michigan DEC State Steering Committee agrees to a decision-making process including:

- Goal brainstorming

- Reviewing goals presented
- Prioritizing goals
- Creating an action plan for each goal that identifies ‘who, what, when, how’

## **Strategic Goals**

The overarching goal of the Michigan DEC Alliance is to reduce the harm experienced by youth and communities that is caused by caregiver opioid and substance use disorder. To ensure that activities conducted during the performance period contribute to this broad goal, the OAYI team has identified more specific strategic goals. The strategic goals and their connection to the overarching goal are listed below. More detailed information on strategic goals, objectives, activities, performance measures, and data-tracking mechanisms are included later in the plan in a table format.

*Strategic Goal #1: Raise awareness of the effects of the opioid crisis on families and children throughout Michigan.* Most coverage of the opioid crisis describes the effects on those struggling with opioid use disorder, such as health issues and overdoses. The effects on families and children are not as well-known but have serious consequences, nonetheless. Michigan DEC cannot effectively intervene for opioid endangered children without first becoming an established and respected community organization. Raising public awareness of the impact on families and children is a necessary first step toward reducing the harm the opioid crisis has caused to this community.

*Strategic Goal #2: Improve data collection and sharing between DEC professionals.* The lack of data collected on drug and opioid endangered children makes it difficult to implement targeted programming. To be impactful, interventions must be data-driven and responsive to specific problems. Michigan DEC seeks to implement data-driven, impactful programming by first collecting information necessary to fully understand the problem. The DEC approach promotes multidisciplinary collaboration as the best way to improve service to at-risk and drug endangered youth. Data-sharing is critical to this collaboration, as it ensures all professions are working toward a shared goal with shared information. DEC professionals can meet goals more efficiently by aligning resources and data, rather than operating from separate silos. Improving data collection and sharing will help Michigan DEC reduce the harm experienced by youth and communities caused by the opioid crisis.

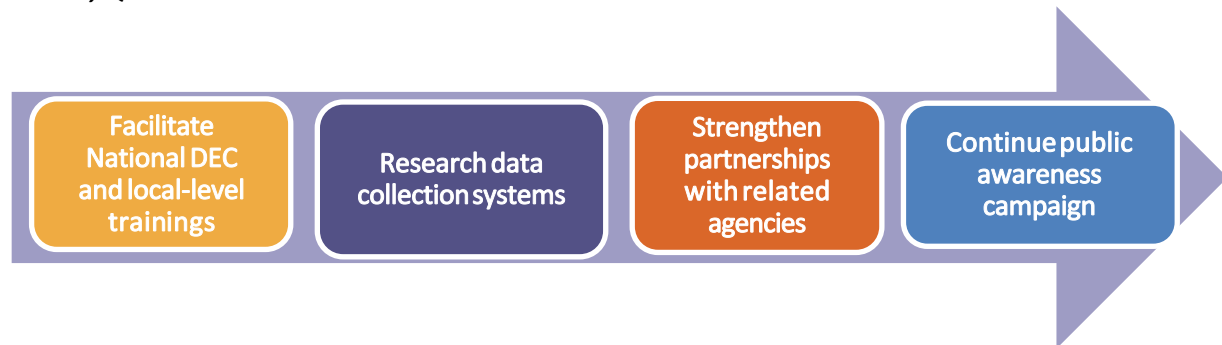
*Strategic Goal #3: Promote multidisciplinary collaboration.* As previously stated, multidisciplinary collaboration is critical to improving service to at-risk and drug-endangered youth. Building cross-sector relationships ensures coordinated strategies that provide a more comprehensive view of an opioid endangered child’s situation. Multidisciplinary collaboration allows various professions to combine their resources and strengths to best address the issues facing drug and opioid endangered children. Improving services and early interventions through multidisciplinary collaboration will contribute directly to reducing the



harm caused to youth and communities by the opioid crisis.

### Activity Timeline (2 years)

#### Year 2, Quarter 1



As Michigan DEC moved to the implementation phase in year two, the project team focused on conducting National DEC trainings for communities throughout the state. With the state committee now well-established, the project team shifted its work toward creating and assisting local-level DEC alliances in their start-up phases.

Local-level alliances will serve as a community driven effort that allows each locality to focus on its specific needs. Local-level alliances are a means of giving ownership to local leaders and of recognizing that each community has unique needs and will accordingly implement different activities to meet those needs. Activities include conducting a community assessment, developing response teams, hosting listening sessions, implementing Handle With Care, and utilizing QR codes and mobile apps, among other resources (National DEC Roadmap Toolkit, Implementation, <https://www.nationaldec.org/implementation>). Upon implementation, an MOU will be put in place between the local-level alliance and the state alliance. This agreement will ensure that local alliances regularly provide reports to the state alliance on activities undertaken and appropriate performance metrics (number of participants in an activity, number of disciplines involved, any changes in policies or practices of local agencies, etc.).

Continuing public awareness activities (website updates, press releases, e-newsletter, participation in events, etc.) and forming cross-sector partnerships with related organizations (Handle With Care, MI Children’s Trust Fund, etc.) will contribute to the implementation of local-level DEC alliances across Michigan. Setting up a network of multidisciplinary local-level alliances throughout the state is critical to the overall effectiveness of Michigan DEC, as this system-level initiative will ensure that the project is well-known and sustainable.

Alongside expanded training efforts, Michigan DEC continued to research data collection and sharing software. Research into data-sharing systems and communication with the MSP Internet Technology (IT) Division resulted in the conclusion that starting a new software project (either implementing a new system or building on an existing one) was not feasible during the OAYI timeline. At this point, Michigan DEC shifted data collection and sharing efforts to the National DEC mobile app, CheckDEC. Michigan DEC is also pursuing manual data collection and sharing through agreements with

local alliances and other partners. Michigan DEC developed a data collection worksheet for local alliances to fill out and report quarterly. This worksheet will be uploaded to the CheckDEC app during a future phase of development, allowing local alliances to upload and share data with Michigan DEC through the app.

Finally, Michigan DEC drafted an evaluation plan at the beginning of the implementation phase. As with the strategic plan, the project team will continually revise the evaluation plan to ensure that all goals, objectives, and performance metrics are regularly assessed. Though Michigan DEC has an evaluation plan, the team decided not to engage a third-party evaluator at this point, as the project is still in the early stages of development. If the team does choose to undergo an evaluation later, the evaluation plan will be a helpful resource.

### ***Year 2, Quarter 2***



Year two quarter two was largely a continuation of work from year one. Michigan DEC continued to build and strengthen the project network and cross-sector partnerships and coordinated with National DEC for technical assistance with these and other efforts.

Additionally, Michigan DEC formed a Sustainability Subcommittee to focus on community, financial, and organizational sustainability. As well as alternate funding sources, the Sustainability Subcommittee also works to identify strategies to increase community buy-in on the DEC approach, expand an active network of alliance members and trainers, build strong stakeholder partnerships, maintain consistent leadership, and institutionalize DEC efforts. These components are all essential to the sustainability of the Michigan DEC Alliance. With the help of IIR subject matter experts, Michigan DEC compiled these sustainability indicators into a formal Sustainability Plan.

### ***Year 2, Quarter 3***



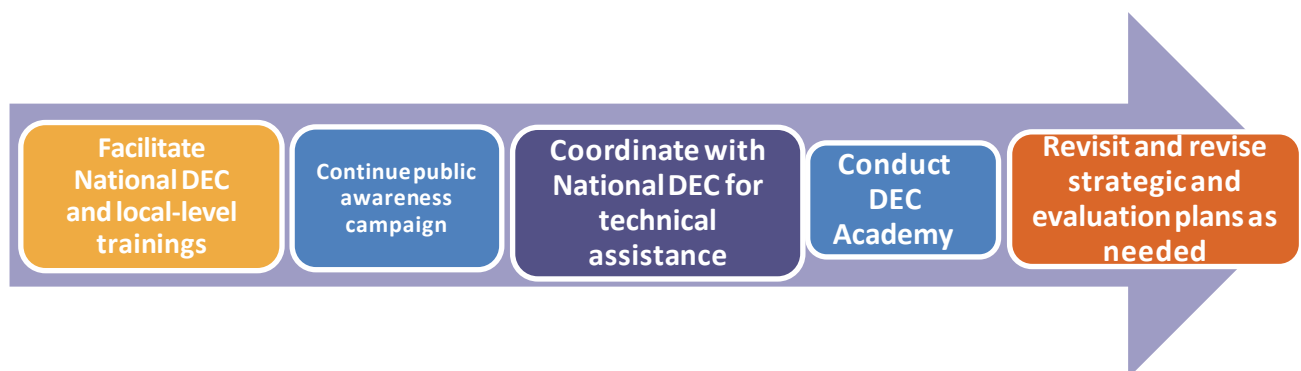
Most work conducted during quarter three of year two was a continuation of previous projects.

During this time, Michigan DEC also worked toward increasing the number of certified DEC trainers by continuing and expanding DEC Awareness trainings. Due to COVID precautions, the weeklong Train the Trainer session was converted to a virtual course. To better accommodate the virtual space, National DEC now conducts Train the Trainer in shorter sessions over the course of several weeks and ensures that all participants have had DEC Awareness and DEC Approach training before enrolling in Train the Trainer. Expanding DEC Awareness was Michigan DEC’s first step toward increasing the number of certified DEC trainers through Train the Trainer courses.

In May 2021, Michigan DEC conducted an online questionnaire targeted to youth ages 11-18. The questionnaire asked youth to provide information on how they have been affected by opioid and other substance use disorders, what supports they need to address substance use disorder, and who they turn to for help. Michigan DEC collected nearly 100 responses over the course of one month. The results were shared with National DEC and were used to inform content available on National DEC’s mobile app, CheckDEC, for which Michigan DEC is serving as a pilot site.

Beginning in June 2021, Michigan DEC launched the DEC Academy, a three-month program designed to give small teams the resources they need to implement local-level DEC alliances in their communities. The program included five live sessions every two weeks, and offline activities in between. Fifteen participants across four teams participated from regions throughout the state. One team intends to serve as DEC trainers, while three others are working toward implementation in their respective counties.

**Year 2, Quarter 4**



In the last quarter of year two, Michigan DEC continued to facilitate National DEC trainings for local-level alliances and other interested parties and continued public awareness efforts.

Michigan DEC worked with National DEC to participate as a pilot location for National DEC’s mobile application. The mobile app launched on September 30, 2021 and includes many features for both DEC professionals and community members. Community members can find local services and resources by entering their zip code. Users can also view news articles, real life stories, and motivational videos. In a later phase, professionals working across various DEC fields will be able to enter and share data on several measures relating to opioid and other substance use disorders. For example, health professionals may share overdose death data, child welfare may share information on child removals and foster care placements involving substance misuse, and law enforcement may share arrest data. As previously stated, the CheckDEC app will incorporate local alliance data collection and sharing at a later date.

As a pilot location, Michigan DEC staff meet with National DEC and other pilot sites monthly to provide feedback and recommend improvements to the app.

### ***Year 3, Quarter 1***



Michigan DEC will continue to conduct DEC trainings for local alliances and other interested parties, add certified DEC trainers, coordinate with National DEC for technical assistance as needed, revisit and revise the strategic plan, and continue youth outreach efforts.

Specifically, Michigan DEC intends to hold a DEC Approach training session for Steering Committee members and other partners who have already had DEC Awareness training on December 7, 2021. This session will be provided by National DEC, will be a continuation of DEC trainings, and will also work toward adding certified DEC trainers. The DEC Approach training is a prerequisite for Train the Trainer sessions that certify participants to conduct CORE DEC and DEC Approach trainings. Ensuring that Steering Committee members and other partners have had DEC Approach training is a step toward certifying these individuals as DEC trainers. Train the Trainer sessions will be scheduled as part of a second round of the DEC Academy in spring 2022. National DEC will present the DEC Academy sessions, including Train the Trainer.

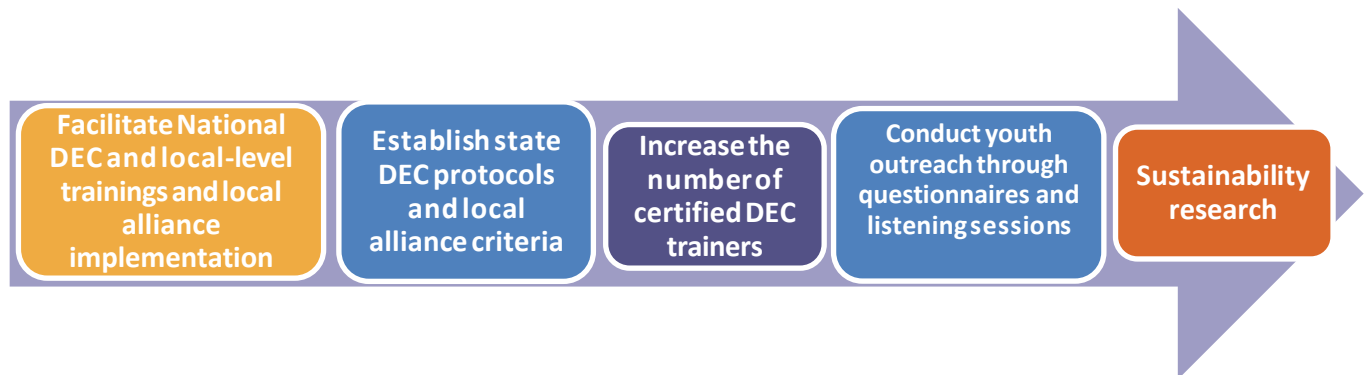
Michigan DEC will continue youth outreach efforts with an online questionnaire and follow up listening sessions. The listening sessions will also be virtual, and questions will draw upon the results of the online questionnaire. Michigan DEC

will hold the first listening session with students at Grand Valley State University, and will then broaden outreach efforts to other colleges, universities, high school, middle schools, and youth programs. Connections to other colleges/universities will be coordinated through the Michigan Higher Education Network (MIHEN), which is a program that falls under the Michigan Prevention Network.

During this time, Michigan DEC will also continue to use, promote, and review the National DEC app, CheckDEC. Michigan DEC participates in monthly surveys and meetings to provide feedback to National DEC on the CheckDEC app. Promotion may include activities such as drafting press releases, email blasts, social media posts and/or ads, and user trainings/tutorials, among others. National DEC will provide promotional materials and updates.

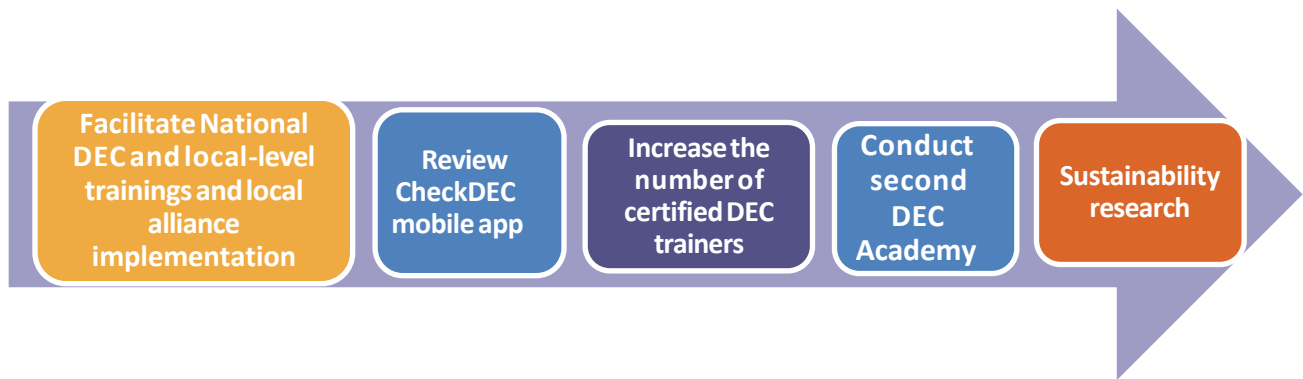
Finally, Michigan DEC will meet with National DEC at least twice a month, at times more frequently, for technical assistance on a variety of projects. National DEC will also provide technical assistance in revising the strategic plan.

### ***Year 3, Quarter 2***



In year three, quarter two, Michigan DEC will continue with regular training and technical assistance operations, as well as sustainability research, youth outreach, and the public awareness campaign. Michigan DEC will also continue with efforts to increase the number of certified trainers and will establish state-level DEC protocols and criteria for local alliances. DEC protocols will be adopted based on guidance from National DEC and insight from Michigan DEC Steering Committee members. Local alliance criteria will be developed by Steering Committee members as well. Michigan DEC will use the state DEC protocols and local alliance criteria to further local-level implementation. Local communities will be more likely to get involved with DEC efforts when guidelines and expectations are clear. National DEC will provide technical assistance around building sustainability.

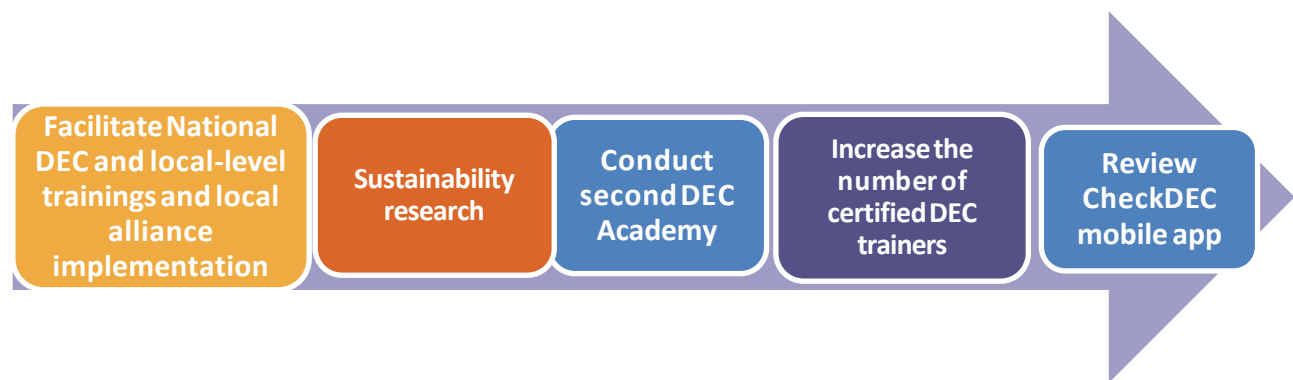
### ***Year 3, Quarter 3***



Quarter three of year three will largely be a continuation of existing operations. Michigan DEC committee members, and especially members of the Sustainability Subcommittee will expand the search for sustainable funding solutions to other resources, such as community organizations and foundations.

Michigan DEC also intends to host a second round of the DEC Academy, likely starting in March or April of 2022. The program will be similar to the one conducted the previous year but may include new sessions on topics such as trauma-informed approaches, resiliency, and mandated reporting. The 2022 DEC Academy will also include Train the Trainer sessions that will certify participants to present the CORE DEC and DEC Approach trainings. If conducted entirely virtually, the DEC Academy will be about twelve weeks long, with one live session per week. Six of those sessions will be Train the Trainer courses. National DEC will coordinate the logistics of the program and present the live sessions, while Michigan DEC will recruit teams throughout January and February of 2022. Michigan DEC hopes to recruit 5-6 teams, all covering different regions of the state. This would equate to 25-30 participants, with roughly five members per team. The DEC Academy is one of the primary methods of local alliance development and is critical to institutionalization of the DEC approach throughout the state.

**Year 3, Quarter 4**

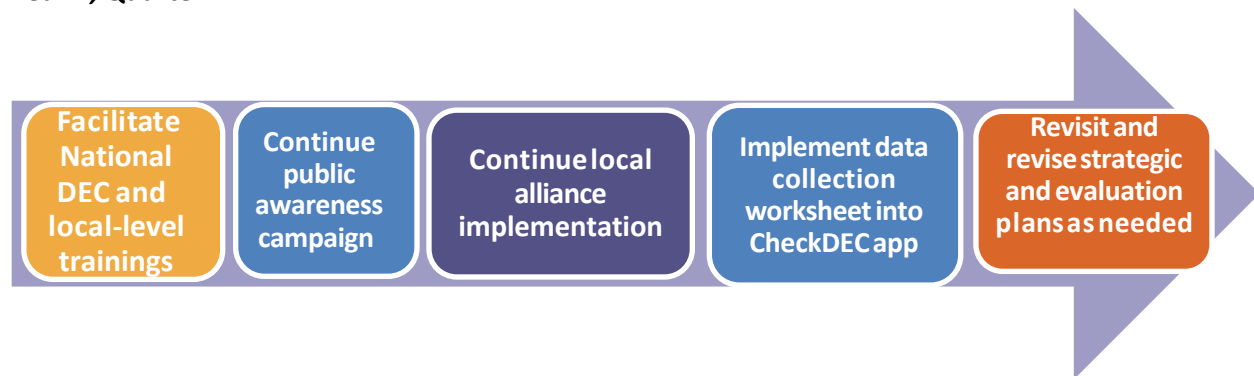


In the final quarter of year three (second year of implementation), Michigan DEC will continue with regular operations. By this time, Michigan DEC will have implemented three local-level alliances and will continue working to

add more over the next year. Michigan DEC will also conclude the second DEC Academy in this quarter, likely in June 2022.

During 2022, Michigan DEC will conduct four DEC Awareness sessions and three DEC Approach sessions, in addition to holding the second DEC Academy.

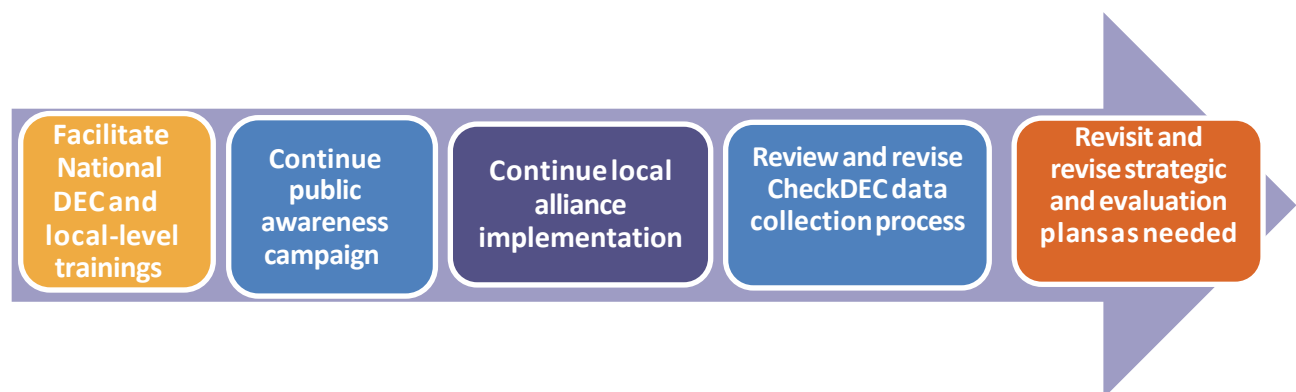
#### ***Year 4, Quarter 1***



An extension for a fourth grant year will allow Michigan DEC to continue to provide DEC trainings to communities across the state, continue an awareness campaign, and continue to implement more local-level alliances. The COVID-19 pandemic became the top priority for many communities and potential DEC partners during 2020, which consequently slowed Michigan’s DEC ability to engage local-level partners in trainings and other programming. During a fourth year, Michigan DEC will conduct four DEC Awareness sessions, three DEC Approach sessions, a Train the Trainer course, and a third DEC Academy. Michigan DEC will aim to form at least two additional local-level alliances during grant year four, bringing the total to five local alliances across the state.

In quarter one of year four, Michigan DEC will also focus on implementing the data collection worksheet into the CheckDEC app. At this point CheckDEC will be a year old and will have gone through several updates and new phases. Michigan DEC will work with National DEC staff and software developers to streamline the data collection and sharing process for local-level alliances and other DEC partners.

#### ***Year 4, Quarter 2***

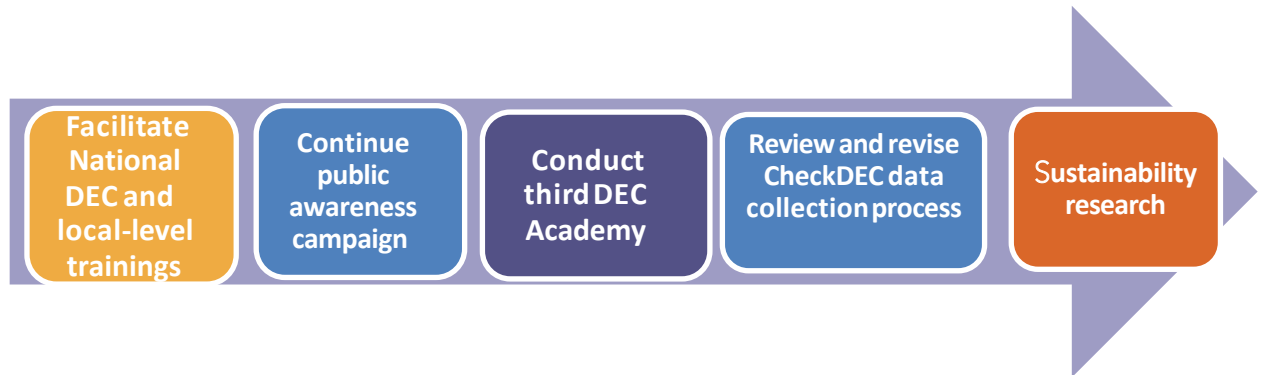


In quarter two of year four Michigan DEC will continue all existing operations and will review and revise the CheckDEC data collection tool to improve the user experience. Review may include conducting a poll of users to uncover any gaps in service or understanding and creating a user tutorial if necessary. Michigan DEC will also spend some time reviewing the strategic and evaluation plans, as some objectives or activities may need to be revised. The Michigan DEC Steering Committee and staff will revisit the possibility of a

third-party evaluation and will start planning for this process if needed.

Michigan DEC will work with National DEC staff to document operating policies and procedures for the State Steering Committee and for local-level DEC alliances. Michigan DEC will also document the process by which Steering Committee and alliance members are invited to join, member qualifications, and member orientation.

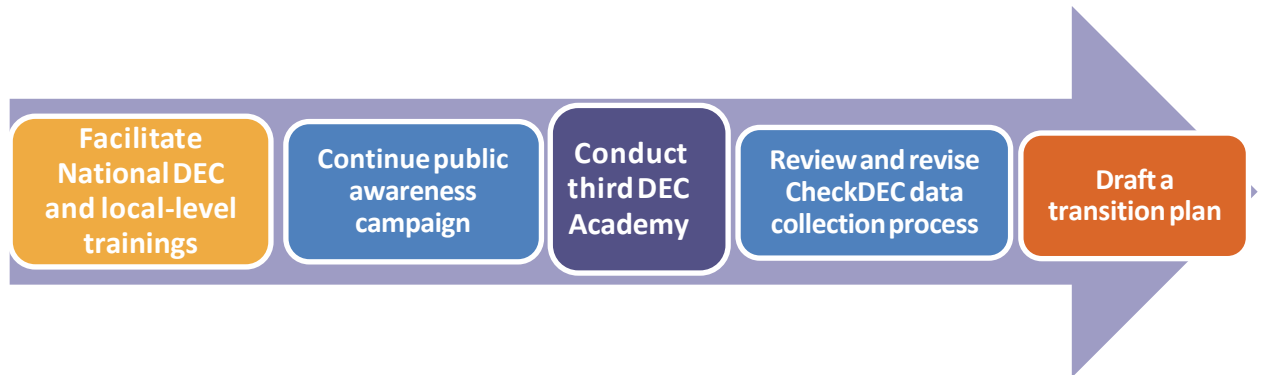
**Year 4, Quarter 3**



In year four quarter three Michigan DEC will continue all existing operations, including DEC trainings, the awareness campaign, local-level alliance implementation, and reviews and revisions of the CheckDEC mobile app, particularly the data collection function. Additionally, Michigan DEC will begin to focus more intently on sustainability research, as the end of the OAYI project period nears. The Sustainability Subcommittee will take the lead and will report back to the full Steering Committee for further suggestions and discussion. As previously mentioned, sustainability research will include a focus on community, financial, and organizational sustainability. The Sustainability Subcommittee will use the Sustainability Plan as a guide.

Michigan DEC will start the third DEC Academy during quarter three of year four. Sessions will likely be similar to the ones from the first two Academies, but staff will review feedback in year three quarter four and early in year four and will make adjustments as needed. Michigan DEC will also work with National DEC to pilot a continuation of the DEC Academy, called DEC Academy 2.0. National DEC will coordinate and present specific sessions included in this programming. Content for each session is still under development but may cover topics such as the challenges of collaboration, challenges during recovery, and mandated reporter training, among others.

**Year 4, Quarter 4**



In quarter four of year four Michigan DEC will continue with existing operations, conclude the third DEC Academy, and create a transition plan for moving out of OAYI and into a



different structure. By this time, Michigan DEC will have implemented a sustainable funding solution, to ensure that work can continue without interruption. Michigan DEC will also have successfully implemented at least five local-level DEC alliances. Local-level implementation will mean a community or region has a structured DEC alliance with established leadership, has adopted standardized DEC protocols, and regularly shares relevant data with Michigan DEC, among other requirements.

The Transition Plan will be a companion to the Sustainability Plan and will outline which activities will continue, what agency(ies) will lead DEC efforts, and what objectives will be priorities moving forward. Together, the sustainability and transition plans will help Michigan DEC maintain consistent programming as the project moves away from OAYI and into the next phase.

## Two-year Action Plan for Implementation

### Goal #1: Raise awareness of the effects of the opioid crisis on families and children throughout Michigan

#### Objective #1a: Establish the Michigan Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (MI DEC)



## Outreach Mechanisms

- Phone calls, emails, meetings (both in person and virtual) to recruit members.

## Performance Indicators

- Outputs: Number of confirmed committee members, number of MOUs and/or data-sharing agreements signed
- Outcomes: Greater awareness of DEC approach, high-level advisory committee that will create a permanent, cohesive movement throughout the state

## Data-tracking Mechanisms

- List of all individuals and agencies contacted (including follow-up if necessary), date of confirmation, contact information of individual confirmed for committee. Notes from calls, email threads

## Timeline

- Year 1, quarters 1-2

### Objective #1b: Implement local level DEC alliances

## Activity

- Reach out to counties and Native American tribes across the state to gauge interest
- Increase outreach to prevention coalitions, county Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)

## Audience Reached

- Counties, cities, and tribal communities across Michigan

## Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* Weekly, but may vary, as some communities will request more follow-up than others.
- *Intensity:* Will vary by community. Some will request more in depth discussion and training opportunities than others.
- *Duration of Service:* Remaining 2-3 years of OAYI grant

## Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator-Libby Trubac
- OAYI Project Administrator-Leslie Wagner
- MI DEC committee members

### Outreach Mechanisms

- Website and social media posts, press releases, phone calls, emails.

### Performance Indicators

- *Outputs:* Number of contacts made, number of inquiries or requests for service, number of local alliances started
- *Outcomes:* Stronger, more widespread DEC movement throughout Michigan, better view of the situation of drug endangered children, larger social network, stronger relationships

### Data-tracking Mechanisms

- Website/social media views (may use trackable links), records of phone calls and emails

### Timeline

- Begin in year 1 quarter 4, continue through years 2-3

## Objective #1b: Implement local level DEC alliances

### Activity

- Build on existing local efforts
- Develop protocols, criteria, and guidelines for local-level DEC alliances to provide clarity of expectations

### Audience Reached

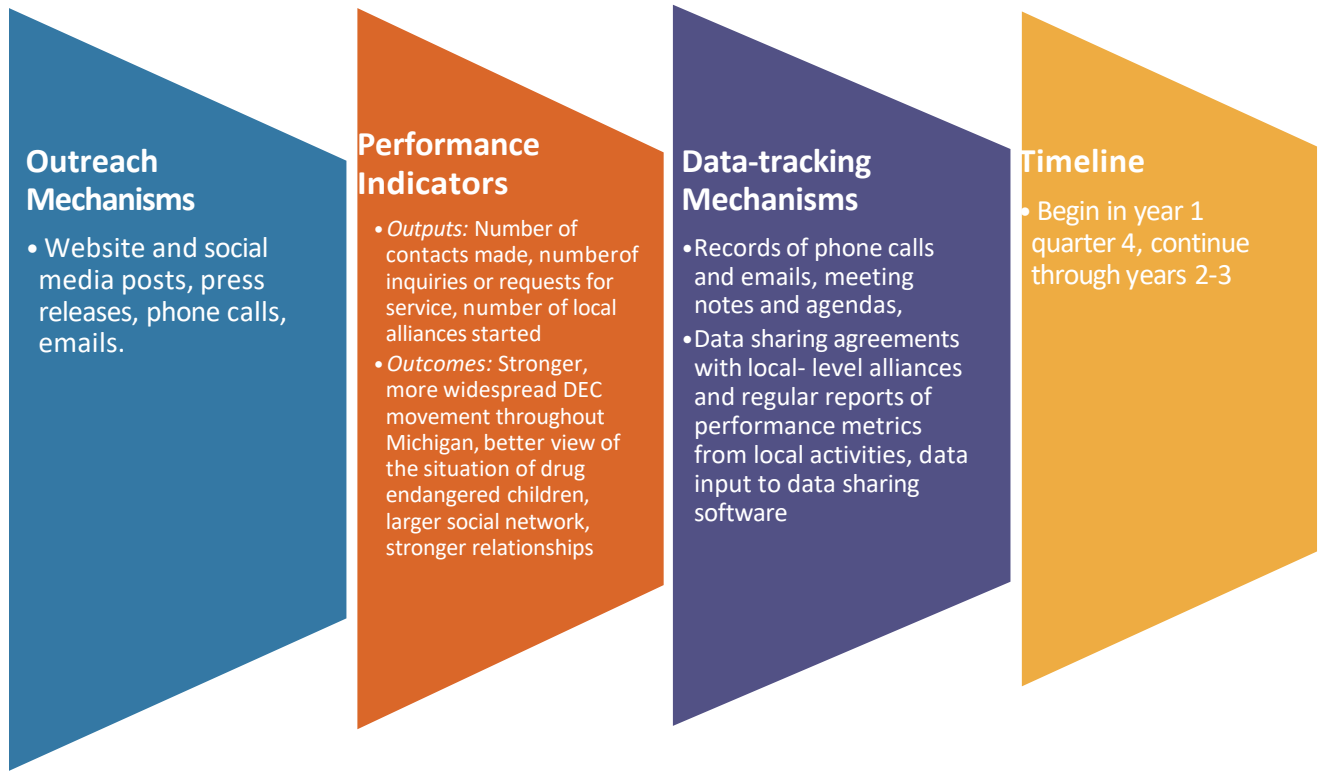
- Counties, cities, and tribal communities across Michigan

### Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* Biweekly
- *Intensity:* Less intense than with communities that have not yet started DEC alliances
- *Duration of Service:* Remaining 2-3 years of OAYI grant

### Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator-Libby Trubac
- OAYI Project Administrator-Leslie Wagner
- MI DEC committee members



**Objective #1b: Implement local level DEC alliances**

### Activity

- Conduct DEC Academy annually

### Audience Reached

- DEC professionals from counties, cities, and tribal communities across Michigan

### Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* DEC Academy will occur annually in Spring or Summer
- *Intensity:* High--The DEC Academy is a 3-4 month long program with live virtual sessions and offline activities
- *Duration:* 3-4 months, recurring annually

### Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator-Libby Trubac
- National DEC partners

### Outreach Mechanisms

- E-mail invites to contact list
- E-newsletter
- Social media posts

### Performance Indicators

- **Outputs:** Number of participants, number of counties/regions participating, number of live sessions, number of offline activities
- **Outcomes:** More local-level alliances formed, greater awareness of DEC approach, wider social network

### Data-tracking Mechanisms

- Registration forms
- Zoom participation records

### Timeline

- Years 2-4

## Objective #1c: Implement a public awareness campaign

### Activity

- Launch a website

### Audience Reached

- DEC professionals-- individuals who interact regularly with drug endangered children and include but are not limited to: law enforcement, child welfare, medicine, education
- Community members throughout the state of Michigan who are concerned with the impact of the opioid crisis on families and children, and are seeking to address these problems.

### Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* Website updates will occur at least once a month
- *Intensity:* The website will keep text to a minimum but will provide links to resources and brief summaries of current events
- *Duration of Service:* Remaining 2-3 years of OAYI grant

### Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator- Libby Trubac
- OAYI Project Administrator- Leslie Wagner

### Outreach Mechanisms

- Digital

### Performance Indicators

- *Outputs:* Number of views (may use trackable links), number of inquiries or requests for service that mention the website
- *Outcomes:* Wider social network, MI DEC becomes a well-known and respected project, greater awareness of DEC approach

### Data-tracking Mechanisms

- Trackable links, emails and phone calls referencing the website

### Timeline

- Year 1 quarter 2 (March 2020)

## Objective #1c: Implement a public awareness campaign

### Activity

- Create social mediapresence through existing Michigan State Police accounts

### Audience Reached

- DEC professionals and concerned community members throughout the state

### Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* Monthly social media check-ins/posts
- *Intensity:* Social media will keep text to a minimum but will provide links to resources and brief summaries of current events
- *Duration of Service:* Remaining 2-3 years of OAYI grant

### Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator- Libby Trubac
- OAYI Project Administrator- Leslie Wagner
- MSP Public Affairs Section

### Outreach Mechanisms

- Digital

### Performance Indicators

- *Outputs:* Number of contacts made, number of inquiries or requests for service, number of local alliances started
- *Outcomes:* Stronger, more widespread DEC movement throughout Michigan, better view of the situation of drug endangered children, larger social network, stronger relationships.

### Data-tracking Mechanisms

- Number of views (may use trackable links), number of inquiries/requests
- for service that mention social media platforms

### Timeline

- Begin in year 1 quarter 4, continue through years 2-3

## Objective #1c: Implement a public awareness campaign

### Activity

- Create and distribute brochures
- Create additional materials (ex. one-pagers, business cards) and update regularly

### Audience Reached

- DEC professionals and concerned community members throughout the state

### Frequency , Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* Distribute brochures at least monthly, if not more often
- *Intensity:* Low, meant as an intro to MI DEC project
- *Duration of Service:* Remaining 2-3 years of OAYI grant

### Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator- Libby Trubac
- OAYI Project Administrator- Leslie Wagner
- DE C Committee members will contribute to distribution as well

### Outreach Mechanisms

- Physical

### Performance Indicators

- *Outputs:* Number of brochures printed and distributed, number of follow-ups that mention the brochure
- *Outcomes:* Wider social network, MI DEC becomes a well- known and respected project, greater awareness of DEC approach

### Data-tracking Mechanisms

- Brochure orders, records of inquiries or requests that mention the brochure

### Timeline

- Year 2, quarter 1



## Objective #1c: Implement a public awareness campaign



**Objective #1c: Implement a public awareness campaign**

**Activity**

- Participate in events (ex. National Child Abuse Awareness Month, National DEC Awareness Day)

**Audience Reached**

- DEC professionals and concerned community members throughout the state

**Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service**

- *Frequency:* Infrequent, several times a year
- *Intensity:* High—though infrequent, participation in events will require more intensive preparation, effort, and availability than other public awareness outlets.
- *Duration of Service:* Remaining 2-3 years of OAYI grant

**Lead Entity**

- OAYI Project Coordinator- Libby Trubac
- OAYI Project Administrator- Leslie Wagner
- MI DEC Committee members will participate in events as well

**Outreach Mechanisms**

- Virtual and physical (in-person)

**Performance Indicators**

- *Outputs:* Number of events participated in, number of MI DEC committee and local DEC alliance members participating, number of new connections/follow-ups resulting from participation in an event
- *Outcomes:* Wider social network, MI DEC becomes a well-known and respected project, greater awareness of DEC approach

**Data-tracking Mechanisms**

- Participation lists and agendas from events

**Timeline**

- Begin in year 2 quarter 2, continue through years 2-3

**Goal #2: Improve data collection and sharing between DEC professionals Objective**

**#2a: Implement a data collection and sharing software system**



## Objective #2a: Partner with National DEC to promote CheckDEC

### Activity

- Partner with National DEC to promote and refine CheckDEC mobile app

### Audience Reached

- DEC professionals across the state in various professions including child welfare, law enforcement, prevention, legal, education, and others.

### Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* Participate in monthly app review meetings
- *Intensity:* Medium-Discuss app regularly (at least weekly) with partners, both state and local level
- *Duration of Service:* First phase launched in Year 2, Quarter 4. Second phase launches in Year 3, Quarter 2. Use will continue through years 3 and 4

### Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator- LibbyTrubac
- OAYI Project Administrator- LeslieWagner

### Outreach Mechanisms

- Participate in monthly CheckDEC review calls with National DEC.
- Put together a CheckDEC review team from Michigan DEC
- Promote CheckDEC through social media, e-newsletter, partner meetings, etc.

### Performance Indicators

- *Outputs:* Number of meetings with National DEC and review team, number of months needed to accomplish launch, number of users
- *Outcomes:* Data collection system will be easy to locate and use, local resources easier to access

### Data-tracking Mechanisms

- Meeting notes, social media posts and e-newsletter stories, National DEC mobile app events attended, user logs based on location data

### Timeline

- Years 3 and 4

## Objective #2a: Partner with National DEC to promote CheckDEC



**Goal #3: Promote multidisciplinary collaboration**

**Objective #3a: Work with National DEC to provide training to local alliances and partner organizations**



**Objective #3a: Work with National DEC to provide training to local alliances and partner organizations**

**Activity**

- Advertise training opportunities to local communities and partner organizations

**Audience Reached**

- DEC professionals and concerned community members throughout the state

**Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service**

- Frequency:* Aligned with training sessions, so a minimum of six time per year.
- *Intensity:* Medium intensity —advertising will occur across multiple platforms, both digitally and physically.
- *Duration of Service:* Advertising for upcoming training sessions will begin two months before the training date

**Lead Entity**

- OAYI Project Coordinator-LibbyTrubac
- OAYI Project Administrator-LeslieWagner
- MI DEC Committee members will assistwith advertising as well

**Outreach Mechanisms**

- Website and social media updates, email blasts/newsletter updates, coordination with training certification agencies, and physically posting flyers

**Performance Indicators**

- *Outputs:* Number of clicks/views on website and social media, number of communities/agencies contacted
- *Outcomes:* Better understanding of how different professions interact with drug endangered children and how they can work together, better understanding of the importance of multidisciplinary collaboration, greater awareness of blind spots, greater awareness of DEC approach

**Data-tracking Mechanisms**

- Registration for trainings, sign-in sheets at training, registration form for communities/tribes hosting training
- Copies of website and social media posts, trackable links to determine number and origin of views, records of communities/Agencies contacted

**Timeline**

- Begin in year 2 quarter 1, continue through years 2-3

**Objective #3a: Work with National DEC to provide training to local alliances and partner organizations**





## Objective #3b: Engage youth/lived experience voices



## Objective #3b: Engage youth/lived experience voices



## Objective #3b: Engage youth/lived experience voices

### Activity

- Share information on MI DEC with youth groups for youth involved with criminal justice and/or child welfare systems, or youth participating in opioid use disorder-related programming (FAN Family Forum)

### Audience Reached

- At-risk youth, youth involved with child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems

### Frequency, Intensity, Duration of Service

- *Frequency:* MI DEC committee members will continually share information and reach out to youth groups. Estimated frequency is about once a month
- *Intensity:* Low intensity. Outreach will consist of regular but casual sharing of updates, event info, highlights, etc. .
- *Duration of Service:* Remaining 2-3 years of OAYI grant. Preparation of materials should not take longer than one week leading up to training session

### Lead Entity

- OAYI Project Coordinator- Libby Trubac
- OAYI Project Administrator- Leslie Wagner
- MI DEC Committee members

### Outreach Mechanisms

- Use networks of current members, advertise on website, social media, newsletters, flyers, etc.

### Performance Indicators

- *Outputs:* Number of youth groups contacted, number of follow-ups from each contact
- *Outcomes:* Increased youth participation, greater respect for youth/lived experience voices, programming will better address needs of target population

### Data-tracking Mechanisms

- List of relevant agencies/groups, copies of correspondence with agencies/groups, record of follow-up

### Timeline

- Begin in year 2,
- continue through year 3