



NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER

HOSPITAL SPOTLIGHT

Mary Breckinridge Appalachian Regional Healthcare

Critical Access Substance Abuse Project (CASAP)

Mary Breckinridge Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH), located in Hyden, Kentucky, is a 25-bed critical access hospital (CAH). In 2017, supplemental funding was awarded to the Kentucky Office of Rural Health's Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility (Flex) Program to support CAHs located in communities with high rates of poverty, unemployment, and/or substance abuse. Mary Breckinridge ARH utilized the supplemental funds based on need identified around substance abuse.



Top Accomplishments

Mary Breckinridge ARH is located in Leslie County, which has one of the highest rates of Hepatitis C in the nation. With support from the Kentucky Flex Program, Mary Breckinridge ARH has formed partnerships to help reduce the rates of Hepatitis C as well as to bring awareness to the opioid epidemic by implementing a needle exchange program.

"We take the approach of hospitality and compassion and create a judgement free zone to provide care. We're just doing what's right." -Mary Breckinridge ARH Administrator

Positive Outcomes

- The number of patients given education on substance abuse increased 255% in the first year of the project.
- The Board of Education and local law enforcement carry Narcan as a result of a free Narcan clinic hosted by Mary Breckinridge ARH.
- Narcan prescriptions are being written in conjunction with opioid prescriptions.
- There has been a reduction in stigma toward patients with opioid use disorder by staff as well as other community partners towards substance abuse due to education initiatives.

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