

## OBAMA TURNS ATTENTION TO GROWING OPIOID ABUSE PROBLEM



The trajectory of opioid deaths in the United States is trending in the wrong direction and should be atop the federal government's radar screen along with the threat of terrorism, responding to natural disasters and promoting a strong economy, President Barack Obama said Tuesday, March 29th. Obama said more people are being killed from opioid overdoses than from traffic accidents. "I think the public doesn't fully appreciate yet the scope of the problem," Obama told about 2,000 people attending the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit.

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## NY STATE BUDGET: \$166M TO FIGHT HEROIN, OPIOID EPIDEMIC

New York state will spend \$166 million to expand and strengthen programs to fight heroin and opioid addiction. The money is contained in the new state budget approved by lawmakers on Friday, April 1st. Lawmakers from both parties in the Assembly and the Senate pushed to increase funds to fight what they say is an epidemic of overdoses from heroin and opiates. Specifically, the funds will go to strengthen and expand efforts to prevent abuse and addiction and to help users get into recovery. The total investment was proposed by the Republican Senate majority. Senate Leader John Flanagan said last month that addiction is a "huge" problem throughout the state.

## ACACIA NETWORK

### Our Response

Acacia Network is a New York State based integrated care organization providing a full continuum of behavioral health services, including 20 OASAS licensed programs and 4 OMH licensed treatment programs that serve adolescents and adults. Acacia has responded to the opioid epidemic by expanding its capacity to treat individuals seeking medication assisted therapy.



The organization currently provides treatment in four regions across New York State including:

- Albany,
- Bronx (at two locations),
- Brooklyn,
- and Buffalo.

With a capacity to serve 3,000 opioid dependent clients each day, Acacia Network is dedicated to reversing the tide by promoting recovery that is responsive to the health and cultural needs of the community.

[Read more about our treatment programs.](#)

## SPOTLIGHT

### La Casa de Salud

The sharp rise in opioid disorders and opioid-related deaths in recent years underscores the urgent need for increased access to substance use services in the integration of behavioral and primary healthcare. Despite the considerable evidence for buprenorphine as an effective treatment of opioid disorders, there is a severe shortage of providers in the Bronx who are approved and certified to administer it.



La Casa de Salud (LCDS), an Acacia Network affiliate, received a two year award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to expand substance use services, including Medication Assistance Therapy (MAT), at its Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) designated to serve the homeless. LCDS also received a three year grant from Public Health Solutions to provide buprenorphine services at three of its health centers in the Bronx. Expanding LCDS's capacity to provide MAT services will not only increase access to MAT for the target population, many of whom face transportation barriers to accessing services throughout the Bronx, but the MAT services will be provided at the same location as patients' primary care and enabling services. Read more about our treatment programs.

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Acacia Network's mission is to partner with our communities, lead change, and promote healthy and prosperous individuals and families.

Excellence | Commitment | Customer Service | Leadership

[www.acacianetwork.org](http://www.acacianetwork.org)

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