



Opioids and Addiction: A Governors Roundtable on States Approaches to Treatment

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health held a roundtable this week with governors discussing the need for wraparound services that could help people who are currently addicted to opioids get back to “normal life.” Some of the factors that interfere with this transition back to normal life are lack of programs in the criminal justice system and the stigma associated to addiction. Governors proposed a public awareness program similar to one that was successful when working to reduce stigma associated with HIV-positive people. The governors on the panel urged other state representatives to really listen to people’s stories and look closely at case studies in their region to help citizens with what they need. Ultimately, the panelist and other speakers asked the policy makers to focus and address the root cause of the issue rather than bringing short-term solutions to the table that simply keep patients in an endless cycle of drug abuse.