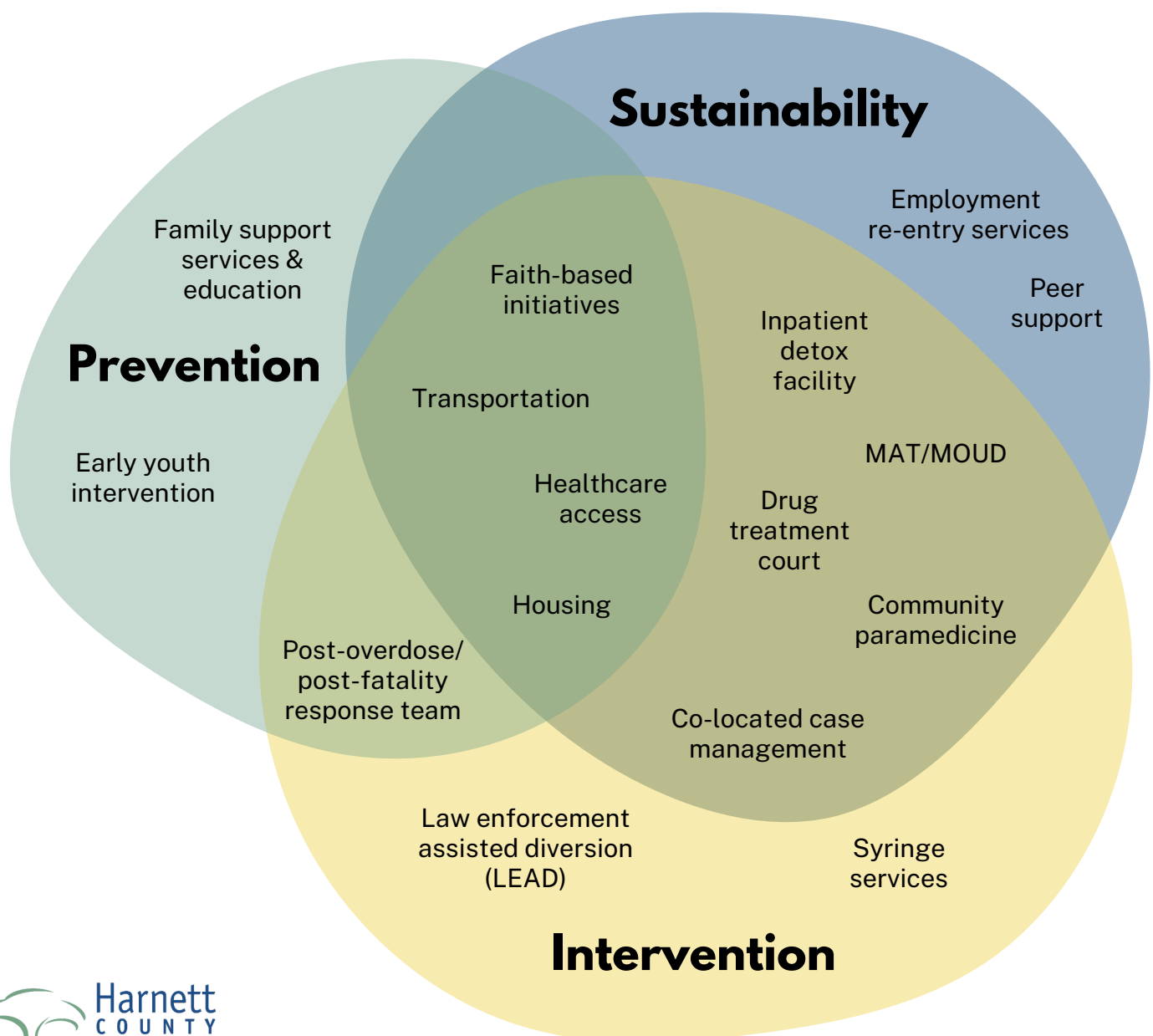


ADDRESSING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN HARNETT COUNTY

The following initiatives have been identified as priorities through discussions with healthcare professionals, survivors of opioid use disorder, and other community members with invaluable input on this topic.



PRIORITY DEFINITIONS

- **Inpatient detox facility:** disrupts behavioral patterns and environmental triggers, allowing patients to focus solely on recovery
- **Family support services & education:** using social marketing to increase awareness surrounding substance abuse and the opioid epidemic
- **Employment re-entry services:** supports individuals who have recently been incarcerated as they re-enter the workforce
- **Faith-based initiatives:** 12-step programs, Narcotics Anonymous, and other faith-based initiatives have helped many individuals recover from substance use disorders
- **MAT/MOUD:** Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) uses medications, counseling, and other therapeutic techniques to treat substance abuse disorders; Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is an approach that utilizes medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, and suboxone, to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- **Peer support:** licensed peer support specialists, who have overcome OUD themselves, provide personal support for those who are currently struggling with OUD
- **Transportation:** transportation assistance (i.e. medication appointments, outpatient therapy, peer groups, etc.) may increase individuals' likelihood of overcoming OUD
- **Drug treatment court:** drug treatment courts provide an alternative to jail time for those suffering with SUD and who have committed a felony, where they may receive rehabilitation, counseling, and job placement
- **Early youth intervention:** education of youth and their families about OUD, along with programming to mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences, may discourage opioid use
- **Healthcare access:** OUD-specific training for local healthcare providers may help to improve treatment of and reduce the stigma surrounding OUD
- **Community paramedicine:** proactively reaching out to opioid overdose survivors to initiate MAT and counseling
- **Housing:** recovery housing provides shared living environments, centered around peer support, which are free of alcohol and drug use
- **Post-overdose/post-fatality response team:** post-overdose response teams connect overdose survivors to recovery and treatment services; post-fatality response teams review the circumstances of deaths relating to opioid use to identify points of intervention in the future
- **Co-located case management:** integrates mental health professionals (case managers) into primary care teams to increase communication and coordination
- **Law enforcement assisted diversion:** LEAD is a pre-arrest diversion program for low-level offenders who use drugs to be redirected to community-based programs and services, instead of jail and prosecution
- **Syringe service programs:** safe disposal of needles remove hazards from the community, reduce transmission of blood-borne diseases and prevent infections associated with intravenous substance use