



Life Care Specialist

What is the Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership?

The Arkansas Opioid Recovery Partnership (ARORP) is an initiative of Arkansas Cities (represented by the Arkansas Municipal League) and Counties (represented by the Association of Arkansas Counties), working together to abate the opioid epidemic using opioid master settlement funds from the National Prescription Opiate Litigation. Arkansas settlement funds are split evenly between cities, counties, and the state. ARORP will use funds allocated to cities and counties for projects or facilities that will provide services or supports within the continuum of care not currently provided by the state.

What is the Life Care Specialist Program?

Life Care Specialist serves as pain coach and integrated members of healthcare teams. The Life Care Specialist Program is an opportunity for rural Arkansas hospitals to apply for funding to hire and sustain two Life Care Specialists (LCSs) for a period of two years. Selected hospitals will partner with the Christopher Wolf Crusade (CWC) Alliance, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preventing opioid addiction before it begins, which will provide training and ongoing support for the LCSs. This is a sustainable, affordable, and scalable model that has been shown to reduce opioid use without increasing pain levels for individual patients.

What do Life Care Specialists do?

Life Care Specialists employ a variety of non-opioid pain management strategies to help patients manage pain without the risk of addiction. They are integrated members of healthcare teams. It is recommended that each health-system develop a team to work with the LCS including nursing leadership, physician champions, rehabilitation staff, chaplain/spiritual staff, and social workers/case managers.

Who can apply to the Life Care Specialist Program?

- We are seeking rural hospitals that maintain surgical volume sufficient to necessitate an LCS in the inpatient setting.
- For the selection process, please see the Life Care Specialist application at arorp.org/learn-more-life-care-specialist.

Life Care Specialist Training:

- CWC Alliance will send two senior trainers to Arkansas to conduct an initial hands-on training week workshop with the LCSs.
- LCSs will complete an intensive online training program provided by CWC Alliance and accredited by Mercer University School of Medicine.
- LCSs will travel to Atlanta, GA for a week-long workshop/Job Shadow at the CWC Alliance office and Grady Memorial Hospital.
- LCSs will attend weekly zoom meetings to review cases and monitor progress. CWC staff will provide ongoing guidance for difficult cases and assist in facilitating referrals to community resources.
- Each LCS will be provided with a dedicated warm line for support from senior training staff available during business hours. CWC Staff will also coordinate with hospital staff to ensure efficient and effective workflow, troubleshooting logistical concerns as necessary.