

NEWS:

Delaware's Drug Epidemic Target of New Groups

Wednesday afternoon (8/16), Gov. John Carney signed two bipartisan bills into law to help combat Delaware's growing issues with substance abuse.

The event was held on the site of SUN Behavioral Health's psychiatric hospital, currently under construction in Georgetown.

The first measure ([Senate Bill 111](#)) establishes the Behavioral Health Consortium to provide oversight of the private and public entities operating in Delaware that affect behavioral health care and substance abuse treatment. The sponsors hope the coordination and interaction facilitated by the consortium will improve the delivery of quality care. It cleared the General Assembly without a dissenting vote.



[Click on image to watch short video.](#)

The second new statute ([House Bill 220](#)) forms the Addiction Action Committee to develop a coordinated approach to Delaware's addiction epidemic. The committee will recommend comprehensive prevention, treatment, surveillance and monitoring strategies to evaluate and reduce the incidence of addiction. The measure passed unanimously in the House and Senate.

Following the signing ceremony, [State Reps. Rich Collins, Harvey Kenton, Dave Wilson and Ruth Briggs King](#) took a few moments to reflect on the legislation and other aspects of substance abuse in The First State. ([click on image](#))

Last year, 308 people died in Delaware from drug overdoses.