

## **Opioids: The Ongoing Crisis on Multiple Fronts**

Carol Falkowski, CEO Drug Abuse Dialogues

Prescription opioids, when used as medically directed, can be effective tools in the treatment of pain. But when abused, their use can result in addiction and a transition to more affordable heroin. This trend has significantly affected Minnesota and its social service professionals as well as first responders, emergency medical and other health professionals, law enforcement officers, school-based counselors, correctional workers, and addiction treatment providers. This fast-paced presentation helps explain the nature of this problem using data from multiple sources.

One of Minnesota's foremost drug abuse experts, Carol Falkowski, will describe the scope of this issue, the reasons behind it, its far-reaching consequences, and the steps being taken to address it.

### **Learning objectives:**

- Describe the nature and extent of prescription opioid use and abuse.
- Explain the transition to heroin addiction.
- Characterize components of this rising trend, the emerging population of at-risk users, and various policy responses.
- Explain the addiction process and the elements of effective opioid use disorder treatment