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# Broome Opioid Abuse Council

## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2015

# BOAC

BROOME  
OPIOID ABUSE  
COUNCIL



# **BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL (BOAC)**

## **Annual Report 2015**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Since 1998, Broome County officials, in collaboration with several other community leaders, have operated an Integrated County Planning (ICP) team. The team has sought to serve as a mechanism for coordination and collaboration to provide comprehensive services and minimize duplication in human services. The team has assisted in streamlining planning processes and enabled community leaders to respond to issues as they arise in the community. Team members, concerned over the rising number of opioid-related deaths in the county, began working to address the issues in a number of sectors with their community partners over the past several years.

In December of 2014, Broome County Executive Debra Preston requested a specific planning structure be formalized to enhance their work specific to the growing opioid abuse crisis in the county. The Broome Opioid Abuse Council (BOAC) was formed and goals established within the structure of four subcommittees; community education, treatment and prevention, law enforcement, and education of medical professionals. BOAC core and committee membership includes a multidisciplinary team of professionals and leaders from multiple agencies and organizations in the community with expertise to identify critical priorities for improving services and to assist in the development and implementation of a unified plan. The goals of BOAC are to improve local policy and practice and ensure systems of care are in place to reduce fatal and non-fatal opioid overdoses and prevent abuse.

BOAC began meeting in January, 2015. The work of the Council was shaped by an examination of local data, an exploration of evidence based practices, and consultation with individuals with specific expertise in various program areas and with family members who graciously shared their personal experiences. Opiate addiction is a complex problem that impacts individuals, families and communities and defies short term solutions. This report highlights some of the important work that has been accomplished during 2015 by BOAC and its numerous community partners. The report is organized to present the work of each committee as well as a brief discussion of the types of data reviewed by BOAC.

### **DATA:**

In addition to consulting with various community experts and family members, BOAC examined local data to define the scope of the problem and to anticipate future needs. Throughout the year, BOAC members shared data from their individual domains in an effort to understand how and what data is collected and to gauge the prevalence and impact of opioid abuse in the county. Data related to drug use and abuse is complex and thus requires careful examination. This process assisted BOAC in the development of a workplan to address the most critical needs in Broome County. Examples of specific data sources examined included the

following: opioid-involved deaths, pre-hospital Naloxone administration, infants diagnosed with Neo-natal Abstinence Syndrome, Hepatitis C, prescriptions filled by patients for various prescription drugs, amount of unused prescription and over the counter medications drugs collected via the Sheriff's Office, drug treatment admission data, drug-related arrest data, crime data, methamphetamine lab seizures, drug court admissions, probation caseload data and results of probationer drug testing, and survey data related to youth substance use. In addition, reports from previously gathered needs assessments and planning processes such as the Community Health Assessment, KYDS Coalition, and the Dual Recovery Project were consulted.

### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION:**

The Community Education committee was tasked with creating educational opportunities for the community at large to be educated on drug addiction and provide information where community members can turn for help. The following are examples of what has been accomplished in 2015 by the committee and its various partners:

- Nine Heroin Awareness Community Education events have been held in Broome, Chenango, and Delaware counties. Community events held in Deposit, Windsor, Whitney Point, Binghamton at SUNY Broome, Susquehanna Valley, Chenango Valley, Johnson City, Greene and a Broome Tioga BOCES Superintendents Day session. Panel members presenting to the community included representatives from the following organizations: Lourdes Substance Abuse Prevention, New York State Police, Broome County Sheriff, Broome County Coroner, Upstate Poison Control Center, Broome County District Attorney, UHS/New Horizons, I'm Dope Without Dope, Dreams Over Drugs, Addiction Center of Broome County, Broome County Drug Court, Tully Hill, Fairview Recovery Services, Southern Tier AIDS Program, and local clergy. In addition, affected parents and persons in recovery served on the panels. Each event was well attended, with a total of 1,618 people attending these eight sessions.
- Deposit Multi-County Roundtable Event for School Administrators & Personnel was held on September 2, 2015. A total of 41 school district representatives attended from Broome, Chenango, Otsego, and Delaware counties. Panel included representatives from local, state and federal agencies including; New York State Police, Drug Enforcement Administration, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, District Attorneys' (Broome, Chenango, Otsego), Broome County Legislator and NYS Senate Candidate, treatment and prevention agencies from Broome and Delaware, Upstate Poison Control, Pharmacists/Medical providers (Broome, Delaware, Chenango), Southern Tier AIDS Program, and recovery groups.
- Five Community Opioid Overdose Prevention trainings were held in Broome County. A total of 134 people have been trained in Naloxone Administration and the Syringe Exchange Program by Southern Tier AIDS Program staff. Trainings were intended to empower family, friends, and community members the opportunity to intervene when an overdose has occurred in their home or establishment. Of those trained, 40 have returned to Southern Tier AIDS to gain a replacement kit.

- Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital organized and provided the Death after Overdose Recovery and Support (DORS) group for families struggling with the loss of a family member due to drug overdose.
- I'm Dope Without Dope held several community events throughout the county and is seeking establishment as a non-profit organization.
- The county website was modified to improve community access to important information about drug abuse and drug treatment, with phone numbers of where to call for assistance.

**Goals for 2016:** The committee expects to expand to other communities in the county during 2016 and to develop a Fact Sheet for distribution to parents and college students about prescription opiates. The Fact Sheet will include a list of questions to ask their medical providers when being prescribed opiates and alternative forms of pain management. The workgroup is also working on coordinating a follow up to the Heroin Community Awareness events. These follow up sessions would provide small group sessions which address education participants on prevention and addiction resources for adolescents, parents and community members. The committee is also seeking to partner with BOCES to conduct school based trainings.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT:**

The law enforcement committee was tasked with developing enhancements to current law enforcement approaches and exploring avenues for new programs and training.

- The County (partnered with the NY/NJ HIDTA Executive Board) applied to designate Broome County as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). This designation would facilitate that federal resources are made available to assist law enforcement and public health efforts to address the increased drug activity in the region. U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer urged the federal government to designate Broome County. Press release can be found at: [http://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-war-on-drugs-is-raging-in-broome-county-and-the-feds-need-to-get-more-involved\\_senator-launches-push-to-designate-broome-as-high-intensity-drug-trafficking-area-which-will-mean-additional-resources-intelligence-and-coordination-to-help-disrupt-trafficking-effort-has-been-effective-in-other-new-york-areas](http://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-war-on-drugs-is-raging-in-broome-county-and-the-feds-need-to-get-more-involved_senator-launches-push-to-designate-broome-as-high-intensity-drug-trafficking-area-which-will-mean-additional-resources-intelligence-and-coordination-to-help-disrupt-trafficking-effort-has-been-effective-in-other-new-york-areas)
- Through a partnership with the City of Binghamton, the County Executive's Office brought Steve Wozniak (a drug and gang expert) to the county to conduct presentations for law enforcement and for others working with youth in the community.
- Training given to law enforcement and other officials on the use of Naloxone as part of the Opioid Overdose Prevention Program with numerous successful reversals of opioid overdose.
- Broome County Sheriff's Office continued to host a prescription medication drop-off program in which over 1,000 pounds of unused prescription medication and over the

counter medications are collected annually. Additional sites were provided throughout the year, including 5 additional drug drop-off dates at the Senior Centers of the Broome County Office for the Aging. In addition, due to recent changes in the federal and state law, new drug drop-off options can become available at pharmacies in the near future. BOAC will investigate additional sites in the next year.

- A Public Service Announcement was implemented on the Good Samaritan Law to educate the community to not abandon someone they may be with, or may find, who has suffered an apparent overdose.
- Information cards were designed and distributed to law enforcement officers. The cards provide valuable contact information in connection with opioid overdose and treatment.
- The Broome County Drug Task Force, which includes representatives from Binghamton Police Department, Broome County Sheriff's Office, Johnson City Police, and the Endicott Police Department was very active throughout the year. Additionally, a crime analysis center was established to analyze crime data.
- Representatives from TruthPharm requested Broome County consider developing a Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI). The PAARI Program was developed by the Gloucester Police Department in Massachusetts. Toward this end, there was an event for local law enforcement, BOAC members and other professionals held at SUNY Broome. The Chief of the Gloucester Police Department presented his program and met with local leaders. The PAARI Program utilizes local volunteers called "Angels" to assist the police in working with addicts seeking treatment. The meeting was very well attended. Sheriff Harder has made a commitment to initiate such a program in Broome.

**Goals for 2016:** The Law Enforcement Committee has partnered with the Treatment and Prevention Committee to ensure proper services are in place prior to the start of the program. Once services are in place, the Broome County Sheriff has agreed to begin the PAARI program. Additionally, the committee seeks to add training on addiction to in-service trainings for law enforcement officials in 2016.

#### **TREATMENT/ PREVENTION/HARM REDUCTION:**

The committee was tasked to enhance treatment and prevention efforts in the county and to continue coordination of treatment and prevention services. The committee enjoys membership from the various treatment and prevention specialists in the county as well as local groups such as Dreams Over Drugs and I'm Dope Without Dope.

- Broome County Mental Health (BCMHD) and Broome County Department of Social Services present the 2016 budget for drug treatment totaling \$3,662,233.00. Funding supports treatment and other services at the following agencies and programs: Addiction Center of Broome County, Fairview Recovery Services, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Substance Abuse Prevention, YWCA of Binghamton, Southern Tier AIDS Program, and Medicaid. Included in the budget is a \$260,000 proposal to provide enhanced services to

opiate addicted mothers with infants. Services include housing, case management, day care and coordination of addiction treatment services.

- In partnership with Broome County Mental Health, the Binghamton City Drug Court was awarded approximately \$700,000 grant (for three years) from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA) to enhance drug court treatment services.
- Broome County has restructured its website at [gobroomecounty.com](http://gobroomecounty.com) to include a link on the front page to assist the community with access to treatment services.
- Methadone treatment at United Health Services (UHS) was expanded from 85 to accommodate 150 clients. The program is currently serving 119 patients. Additionally, UHS has approximately 160 patients enrolled in Suboxone treatment.
- The Addiction Center of Broome County (ACBC) received a grant from the Community Foundation to pilot the utilization of Vivitrol as a component of opioid treatment. ACBC now has 10 clients enrolled in the Vivitrol program.
- BCMHD added verbiage to the ACBC renewal for the contract for 2016 that all people seeking treatment for an opiate use disorder and those from Fairview Recovery Services, Inc. (FRS) Addiction Crisis Center (ACC) must be given priority access to services within five working days of contacting ACBC for services. Also, they must then be evaluated and started in treatment if they meet admission criteria for any of ACBC's programs within an additional 10 working days.
- ACBC is evaluating the feasibility of implementing an Ambulatory Detox program.
- Fairview Recovery Services (FRS) restructured their admission process at the Addiction Crisis Center (ACC) eliminating the "call every hour" process in favor of a waiting list process. They have also restructured their length of stay processes which opened up access for at least 18 new clients, which represents a 29% increase. Approximately 60% of their clients are struggling with opiate addiction. In addition, FRS has applied for a waiver from the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) to add two more beds to the ACC.
- The county is working with FRS on the NYS OASAS Residential Redesign, which would add medical services to the ACC funded with Medicaid.
- FRS has been approved by NYS OASAS to build a new woman's halfway house to replace their older one, which served 12 clients. This new home will have a capacity to service 16 clients, of which two bedrooms will be designated to serve women with young children for a cost of \$3.6 million. 50-60% of the women admitted to this program are in recovery from opiate addiction.

- FRS applied to OASAS for a Recovery Center Program Grant.
- The Southern Tier AIDS Program increased screenings for Hepatitis C and increased availability of syringe exchange program.
- The Mental Health Department sponsors numerous free trainings and conferences in the latest evidence based practices in the addictions field. In October there was a full day presentation on Medication Assisted Treatment for opiate addiction that was attended by approximately 50 community members. All trainings are eligible for CEU's towards Credentialed Alcohol and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC) as well as the Prevention Credentials (CPS, CPP) and some earned Social Work credits.
- The second annual Day of Recovery, sponsored by the Broome County Dual Recovery Project, was held on May 6, 2015.
- The Broome County Promise Zone initiative, sponsored by Broome County Mental Health, Broome-Tioga BOCES and Binghamton University, supports all public schools in the county to enable children, families and communities to take advantage of needed health and social services. A prevention needs assessment was conducted in the schools in December 2014.

**Goals for 2016:** The committee will continue to work with its numerous partners to ensure adequate treatment and prevention services are available in the county.

#### **MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION:**

The committee was tasked to identify training needs for those working in the medical profession and to develop a plan to educate them regarding addiction and the role of prescription drugs in the current epidemic, Naloxone administration, and alternatives to pain management.

- Prescription awareness cards were distributed at Lourdes Shippers Road Pharmacy.
- UHS Emergency Medicine/Trauma Teaching Day was held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Edward Beach, drug intelligence analyst for the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, presented to an audience of 250 emergency medical services practitioners, emergency nurses, physicians, and allied health practitioners.
- Lourdes Youth Services sponsored drug education training in Windsor in February for professionals, specifically school nurses.
- Dr. Christopher Ryan (Broome County Medical Director), and Lee Livermore (Upstate Poison Center) presented to the Lourdes Hospital and UHS medical staff.
- All emergency medical service practitioners have been trained and equipped with Naloxone.

- The committee successfully received funding from the Community Foundation for South Central New York to implement the Opioid Prescription Reduction by Academic Detailing (OPRAD) Project in 2016. The goal of OPRAD Project is to modify opioid prescribing behavior among physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and dentists within the specialties of primary care, urgent care, neurosurgery, orthopedic surgery, general surgery, pain management, and dentistry. A detailing visit, which is typically limited to less than ten minutes with each prescriber, is a proven method utilized by the pharmaceutical and medical devices industries to influence clinician practice changes. Academic detailing advances not a product, but a desirable clinical practice. The project's academic detailing will include verbal and written information about safe and effective opioid prescribing, based on evidence-based practice guidelines from respected medical organizations and governmental public health bodies. In order for academic detailing to be effective, repeated visits by the academic detailer will be necessary in order to establish the personal relationships which are known to influence practice changes.

**Goals for 2016:** Since NYS law has been modified to allow additional drug drop off sites, the committee will be exploring options to install drug drop off boxes at area pharmacies.

**CONCLUSION:** Much has been accomplished by the myriad of professionals and community members working with the Broome Opioid Abuse Council. Goals for 2016 include: partnering with WSKG to facilitate community education on a variety of addiction related topics and completing goals established in 2015.

**Broome Opioid Abuse Council 2015**

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**BOAC Subcommittees and Members 2015**

Committee	Team Leaders	Members
<p><b>Community Education Committee</b></p>	<p>Jill Alford-Hammitt            Manager, Lourdes            Substance Abuse Prevention            Lourdes Youth Services  <a href="mailto:jalford-hammitt@lourdes.com">jalford-hammitt@lourdes.com</a>            (607) 584-3110</p>	<p>John Barry (Executive Director, STAP)            Michael Barton (Cofounder, Dreams Over Drugs)            Scott Beattie (Windsor Schools Assistant Superintendent)            Tom Lucia (Dentist/Dreams Over Drugs)            Kelly Musa (Cofounder, Dreams Over Drugs)            Theresa Rajner (Deposit High School Principal)            JoAnn Sexton (Whitney Point Schools Director of Curriculum)            Penny Stringfield (Parent)            Theresa Wade (I'm Dope Without Dope)            Alan Wilmarth (Director of Behavioral Health and Chemical Dependency, UHS)</p>
<p><b>Education of Medical Professionals Committee</b></p>	<p>Dr. Christopher Ryan            Medical Director            Broome County Health            Department  <a href="mailto:cryan@co.broome.ny.us">cryan@co.broome.ny.us</a>            (607) 778-3917</p> <p>Raymond Serowik            Emergency Medical Services            Coordinator            Broome County Office of            Emergency Services  <a href="mailto:rserowik@co.broome.ny.us">rserowik@co.broome.ny.us</a>            (607) 778-2184</p>	<p>Sean Britton (Deputy Public Health Director, BC Health Department)            Kevin Hastings (Osteopathic Pain Management Services)            Michelle Newkirk (President, Pharmacist's Association)            Dr. Peter Ronan (UHS)</p>
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