



Broome Opioid Abuse Council & Drug Free Communities

October 6, 2017 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Conference Rooms A & B • Broome County Health Department

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Fred Akshar, Scott Baker, Lisa Bobby, Theresa Bovier, Megan Brockett, Diane Brown, Katie Cusano, Valerie Datta, Jason Ellis (for Stephen Cornwell), Maria Fabrizi, Jason Garnar, Matthew Gawors, Jim Hawley, Erika Kalgren, Saima Khan, Amber Kida, Jill Lloyd, Mary McFadden, Erin Monroe, Jim Mullins, Kate Newcomb, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Eric Velzis, Susan Wheeler, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Katelyn Albright, Robin Alpaugh, Iris Borilla, Don Bowersox, Rich David, Megan D’Introno, Andrea Guccia, David Harder, Dr. Julia Hunter, Rebecca Kaufman, Kyle King, Carole Kuklis, Reginald (Corkey) LaBare, Lee Livermore, Donna Lupardo, Haley McCrory, Kevin McManus, Kimberly Newell, Dennis O’Keefe, Michael Ponticiello, Dr. Peter Ronan, Penny Stringfield, Colleen Wagner, Jeffrey Wagner, Chris Whalen, Alan Wilmarth, Dr. John Zevan

CALL TO ORDER: Katie Cusano, on behalf of the Drug Free Communities Grant, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were made. Maria Fabrizi was introduced as the new Drug Free Communities Program Coordinator. Upon a motion by Jill Lloyd, seconded by Jim Mullins, the minutes of the September 8, 2017 meeting were approved as presented and placed on file.

Katie completed the third week of intensive training in Baltimore and has several products to complete by the end of October. She provided draft revised BOAC vision and mission statements for approval. After discussion and revision, the following statements were approved upon a motion by Dr. Christopher Ryan, seconded by Theresa Bovier.

Vision Statement: Community members make healthy, responsible decisions regarding substance use.

Mission Statement: The Broome Opioid Abuse Council (BOAC) will lessen substance misuse by reducing risk factors, enhancing protective factors, increasing community collaboration and awareness, and ensuring the availability of compassionate and effective treatment for those suffering from the illness of addiction, to create a healthier, safer environment for all its citizens.

Katie provided a PowerPoint presentation on community history and demographics, the history of BOAC, and community assessment strengths, gaps, needs, resources and strategies. The PowerPoint presentation will be sent out with these meeting minutes.

Prevention Needs Assessment Overview: Katie Cusano and Maria Fabrizi presented aggregate data for the prevention needs assessment survey which was administered in 10 school districts and BOCES during 2016. The survey is conducted every two years. The Binghamton and Vestal School Districts chose not to participate this year. Information was presented on the top three in each category (alcohol, marijuana and tobacco as well as opioids). 8,250 surveys were completed and 6,016 were found to be valid. The answers to certain questions in the survey indicate whether the individual completing the survey was taking it seriously and providing valid responses. The PowerPoint presentation will be sent out with these meeting minutes. The aggregate data will

be presented to the community at the Broome County Library on November 1st, 2:30-4:30 in the Decker Room. Broome County data was compared to national data (Monitoring the Future) and regional data (Bach-Harrison). School specific data will be presented to each school district individually. Katie mentioned a new study that links marijuana use to later opioid use which she will send out to BOAC members. Maria raised a concern that many adolescents report using marijuana to handle the side effects of certain medications (such as for ADHD). There was discussion about the possible legalization of marijuana and how it might affect employment. Many employers are required to perform drug testing before hiring and the presence of marijuana prevents individuals from being hired.

The definition of **risk factors** are characteristics within the individual or conditions in the family, school or community that increase the likelihood someone will engage in unhealthy behaviors such as: the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, violence, suicide, or early sexual activity. The more risk factors present in a child's life, the greater the likelihood problems will develop in adolescence. **Protective factors** are characteristics within the individual or conditions in the family, school or community that help someone cope successfully with life changes. When people can successfully negotiate their problems and deal with pre-existing risk factors, they are less likely to engage in unhealthy behaviors. Protective factors are instrumental in healthy development as they build resiliency and connections. Katie or Maria can email the survey to anyone who is interested in the actual questions. Analysis of the surveys suggested the following steps: recognize school and community trends; link to other services to better impact behavior - school mapping project; school district involvement—more education; community collaboration and write grants to better serve the population.

SENATOR AKSHAR UPDATES: Senator Akshar provided an update on the Senate Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Addiction. There will be three more public hearings (Hudson Valley, Cortland and Finger Lakes) to listen to community-based providers to help draft legislation as they move forward and to determine funding appropriations for this year's budget. They provided \$175,000 in funding to Lourdes Youth Services and partner with Lourdes Hospital for their Yes Safe Choices leadership program which will expand to the Hancock School District. Trinity-CASA will receive \$95,000, Chenango Behavioral Health will receive \$70,000, and ACBC will receive \$40,000. Senator Akshar asked BOAC to provide him with information on specific project or program funding requests and he will move them forward to try to secure the necessary funding.

Senator Akshar provided an update on progress to provide treatment services at the Broome Developmental Center; \$500,000 to \$1 million in capital improvements are being made to the building. Senator Akshar and County Executive Garnar will meet with providers in the community on October 10th to have an open discussion to address any concerns to build consensus and collaboration to move forward as a community. Up to \$3 million more in funding is coming to ensure that services are provided in this community (up to \$30,000 per bed). County Executive Garnar said many great ideas are generated from this committee as we move forward to partner for services that Broome County residents need and deserve. An RFP was put out and several proposals were reviewed with OASAS to select a licensed treatment provider. Syracuse Behavioral Health will be providing the services at the treatment center. There will be up to 50 medication assisted treatment beds and up to 50 long-term residential beds. The center will service individuals 18 years of age and older. Syracuse Behavioral Health has a robust adolescent program as well.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM UPDATES: Amber Kida reported on her work with the Whitney Point and Northern Broome Addiction Awareness Committee where access is a focus. There have been two recent events at the Whitney Point Schools where a survey was presented on student use of drugs and alcohol and there was a presentation at the middle school open house for parents. There will be Naloxone training for the community.

Saima Khan is working with patients in the Binghamton General Hospital Emergency Department. There are three care navigators who conduct outreach to anyone who refuses to stay when brought to the emergency

department following an overdose from opioids to try to get them connected to services. The biggest barrier is that they do not have accurate current contact information for these individuals which makes follow-up very difficult. Since August, there have been 38 overdoses brought to the emergency department. There was discussion about how to obtain correct contact information from police or EMS without violating HIPAA regulations. This can be explored further through the Legal Action Center who specialize in HIPAA issues.

Eric Velzis has been working at STAP in the Syringe Exchange Program at Prevention Point in Johnson City. They see about 35-60 people per day. They usually have someone come in for a new Naloxone kit every day. They also have a mobile van that goes to rural areas and out of the county for people who cannot make it to the site in Johnson City. There is a barrier reaching the rural population; there is more of a community of users in the urban areas. Flyers have been posted in neighborhoods about the program. A connection was made with CHOW so that people can pick up food donations once per week when they come in. They do have a significant number of homeless people who take advantage of the program. A larger office space would be ideal to make the office more of a health hub (like their Ithaca site) where the space is a safe place to receive support and assistance with treatment options, do laundry, pick up supplies, etc.

Erika Kalgren works with the Liberty Partnership at Binghamton University. They target school districts that have high dropout rates and at-risk students to provide tutoring, social-emotional workshops, etc. to make students more resilient and able to make good choices and motivate them to stay in school. They try to teach them healthy coping skills and provide them with information on available resources to help them feel empowered to make healthy choices. Erika will work with Maria to develop specific programs and workshops for students. They are launching a Books for Bing initiative to spread the joy of reading and strengthen the community by collecting books and distributing them throughout the community. They are looking for partner organizations to have drop boxes for the books and to host workshops.

HIDTA UPDATE: The OD Mapping Project will now get spike alerts if there is a major episode in the county which will allow us to send out public health alerts. Jim Hawley has been working with police chiefs about the peer initiative and they have requested training for officers to go out with the peer counselors. Mike Hatch will be contacted to provide training. Rebecca Kaufman will be attending a CDC/HIDTA conference in Baltimore. Broome County is being recognized for being a pioneer with the Overdose Mapping Project and Peer Response Program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Committee reports will be provided at the next meeting.

- Numbers continue to decline for the Sheriff's Assisted Recovery Initiative and the program will be reevaluated. There were only 8 calls in September and 2 so far in October.
- The Chris Herren event was very well received and ACBC would like to host another similar event next year.
- The Fairview Recovery Center is open and are looking for groups that would like to use their facility for meetings. The parent/grandparent group will begin meeting there as well as the women's re-entry group.
- ACBC printed 2,000 postcards with peer information on them that can be put into Narcan kits. Pocket guides are available as well.
- US Representative Claudia Tenney is hosting a heroin awareness panel at Binghamton University at 6:00 p.m. on October 17th. Jill Alford-Hammitt, Kate Newcomb, Alan Wilmarth and Alexis Pleuss as well as a person in recovery will be on the panel.

NEXT MEETING: The next BOAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 3 at 10:00 a.m. at the Broome County Health Department in conference rooms B and C.