

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL

November 6, 2015

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Carole Cassidy, Katie Cusano, Claudia Edwards, David Harder, Karel Kurst-Swanger, Kate Newcomb, Debra Preston, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Susan Wheeler, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Tina Barber, John Bernardo, Allen Buyck, Alan Hertel, Arthur Johnson, Lee Livermore, Jerry Mollen, Dennis O'Keefe, Gabe Osterhout, Dr. Peter Ronan

Karel Kurst-Swanger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Susan Wheeler was introduced as a new member of the Broome Opioid Abuse Council.

The Broome County website was updated to put the local hotline number first and then the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) HOPEline number (1-877-846-7369).

Community Education Committee: Jill reported for the committee. Three community education events were held since the last BOAC meeting: the Johnson City Rotary held a Heroin Awareness Night on October 27th; the Greene heroin awareness event was held on November 2nd; and the Chenango Valley drug awareness night was held on November 4th. There was good feedback from all three events and follow-up events may be held in the Spring. At the wrap-up session for the Johnson City event, Dr. Gartman, a retired physician, indicated that he is very interested in helping with this issue. Jill is now working with the Vestal School District to schedule an event. The PTA President from Maine-Endwell and a parent attended the Chenango Valley event and Jill will contact them to schedule an event. Binghamton University is interested in developing a program to educate the student population to be informed consumers. They will be holding an event on November 20th. Ron Heebner and Rocky Martinez from the Johnson City Rotary will be contacting other Rotaries about scheduling events in their communities. I'm Dope without Dope will hold a Strike Against Heroin bowling event on November 15th at Noon at Laurel Bowl and will host a craft fair at the Tabernacle United Methodist Church. They would like to establish themselves as a not-for-profit and have a sober social club.

The committee is putting together a fact sheet for parents so they would have an idea of what to ask their doctor or their child's doctor about prescription of opiates or alternatives and to discuss the course of treatment. A fact sheet for the Binghamton University student population would be helpful.

Jill met with John Barry from STAP (Southern Tier Aids Program) last week. 1,600 Naloxone kits have been given out to families (some were duplicate). There were 40 overdose reversals among individuals that the kits were distributed to.

Law Enforcement Committee: Captain Kate Newcomb reported for the committee. A meeting of the committee was held last week. They discussed awareness training for law enforcement -- conducting an initial training for new officers and to heighten awareness for seasoned officers. Sheriff Harder said they could include something in the training for new officers. Jack Collins said he would verify that the Good Samaritan cards are being given out by officers. There are some good PSA's running that were developed by the state and the committee discussed development of a local PSA.

The proposal for second hand shops to use a computer tracking program for what they take in (that may have been stolen) so law enforcement agencies can track this has been in the discussion phase for two years. Shop owners would get the photo identification of the person bringing in the items to be sold as well as photos of the items. They would be required to hold the items for a certain number of days and shop owners are concerned about losing money.

The committee would like to expand the number of drug drop boxes in the community. There is presently one at the Broome County Sheriff's Department; they collect about a thousand pounds per year. They take in a lot on National Pill Take Back Day; the DEA picks up the pills from this event. Otherwise the Sheriff's Department has to drop off the pills in Oswego, NY at a cost of \$225/load. There was a drop box at the County Office Building but they did not collect much there; it may be moved to the Broome County Library. It was suggested that a drop box be made available at community education events. The drop boxes need to be in secure locations. Sheriff Harder contacted the US Post Office to see if they had any mailboxes we could use for this purpose; they cost \$1,000 to buy. CTRC Employment Services on Clinton Street has inquired about getting a drop box. We could provide boxes at locations with plenty of parking; perhaps the Deposit Police Department. Federal law allows pharmacies to have drop boxes; however, NYS law prohibits them at this time. MedSave has generic mail-back envelopes that individuals can use to mail pills; Dr. Ryan will see if the state has any objections to the use of these mail-back envelopes. This is allowed through the federal Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010. Right now pharmacies can buy pre-paid envelopes and sell them to customers for \$4-5.00. A suggestion was made that we buy envelopes and provide them to people at awareness events. SHARPS Compliance, Inc. offers an affordable option for mail-back services. The County Executive said she would look into funding options for this.

Kate Newcomb, Art Johnson and Katie Cusano met and developed some questions to ask Sheriff Harder and Chief Campanella from the Gloucester Police Department regarding PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative). Responses have been received and they will meet again on this topic.

Treatment and Prevention Committee: Katie reported for the committee which met yesterday. They discussed how to proceed with the Angel Program and Katie met with Truth Pharm representatives last Friday. They have applied to the state for a two-bed waiver at the Addiction Crisis Center, which would open up four beds for the Angel Program. They are working with all treatment providers to speed up the waiting list admission issue with the outpatient program. The inpatient program is willing to treat people with opiate addiction. Medicaid can be charged for people seeking treatment for chemical dependency. Individuals on Managed Medicaid can revert to fee for service Medicaid until July 2016. There are 12 Dual Recovery Coordinators in New York State. They asked on their list serve what people from the various areas were doing in response to the opioid issue and there was a huge response from around the state.

Katie is preparing an OASAS grant application for \$350,000/year for five years for a Recovery Community Outreach Center to be called Southern Tier Voices. Six grants will be approved for the State. Fairview will apply as the Lead Agency for Broome, Tioga, Chenango and the western part of Delaware County. This grant would be for a house for individuals and families who are having trouble navigating the system to come in and get information on available resources. A project director and peer advocates would be hired. The purpose of the center would be to get people connected to services. It would not be open 24/7 but would have some evening and weekend hours.

The Center could be used for twelve-step meetings, exercise or painting classes, and other supportive services for families and consumers. This would not be for clinical services. The grant application has to build in sustainability for the Center.

The Demilitarized Zone, a supervised injection program using a harm reduction model in Vancouver, Canada, was discussed. The program is funded by the federal government in Canada. This program opened in 2003 to allow a place where clean equipment is available for people to use drugs. Health teaching is provided and medical staff is on site to provide medical care and respond to overdoses. Staff are available to provide supportive services and connect people to counseling and treatment. 12,000 people have used this site since it opened and there have been no deaths. Statistics provided were: 2 million injections; 3,416 referrals to detox; 2,047 (estimated number) HIV infections averted; 2,667 lives saved through overdose intervention; 905 visits to site daily (average number); and 587 daily injections average number). They only administer Narcan when oxygen does not bring someone back. Additional information on the program will be distributed.

Education of Medical Professionals Committee: Sean Britton provided a proposal for a contractor to perform academic detailing at provider offices with the goal of modifying prescribing behavior for opioid medications. The contractor would be expected to visit 95 practice sites at least once during the three phases of the contract period with success defined as a 75% success rate at providing academic detailing at each practice site. The minimum qualifications would be two years of experience in academic detailing. The cost is expected to be \$35,000 for the year-long contract period. The contractor would be prohibited from simultaneously representing any other medication or message. A grant application will be submitted to the Community Foundation by the beginning of December for approval by the Community Foundation Board. Dr. Michael Bailey from Albany Medical presented at a conference that Karel attended; he said that academic detailing was the best approach to change prescribing practices. Follow-up with Dr. Kolodny still needs to take place. Ray Serowik was approached by SUNY Broome Professor Kimberly McLean who is Co-Chair of the Campus Ethics Committee to present at a conference scheduled for April 30, 2016 on ethics surrounding addiction. There will be a panel discussion.

Dr. Ryan and Lee Livermore were allowed 10 minutes to present to the UHS medical staff at their last meeting at which approximately 70 physicians were present. Dr. Ryan said the fifth vital sign asked of patients at routine visits is what their pain level is like today. Physicians are expected to treat pain and not let a patient suffer. This is part of accreditation standards for JCAHO. A question on pain level follows pulse, respiration, blood pressure and weight.

Karel will be putting together a summary report of what BOAC has accomplished during 2015 which will be placed on the website.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 4th in the large conference room at the Broome County Legislature. Brian Sickora from WSKG is interested in working with BOAC and will be invited to attend the December meeting. John Barry will also be invited to present. Meetings will continue on the fourth Friday of each month in 2016. The January meeting will be held on January 8th because January 1st is a holiday.