

## **BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL**

**February 5, 2016**

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Carole Cassidy, Claudia Edwards, Matt Cower for David Harder, Alan Hertel, Arthur Johnson, Karel Kurst-Swanger, Lee Livermore, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Susan Wheeler

Absent: Tina Barber, John Bernardo, Allen Buyck, Stephen Cornwell, Katie Cusano, Jerry Marinich, Dennis O'Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Lorraine Wilmot

Karel Kurst-Swanger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### Announcements:

- The Broome Opioid Abuse Council 2015 Annual Report was distributed. It is available on the county website.
- Art Johnson was named President of the New York State Public Welfare Association.
- Kimberly Newell joined the Council as the Drug Court Coordinator.
- Katie Cusano put together a team to develop a grant application for Drug-Free Communities Support Program funding (\$125,000 annually for five years). The BOAC mission statement for the grant is "The Broome County Opioid Abuse Council focuses on identifying barriers and developing solutions to the issues resulting from the increase in heroin, opiate and other drug abuse in our community. This Council will work as a Coalition, together with community agencies, to ensure we are addressing the following: community education; outreach and prevention; law enforcement response, substance abuse treatment; education of medical professionals and reduction of substance abuse among youth of our area. BOAC also targets factors existing in our community that place our youth at risk for substance abuse with the goal of reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors. BOAC seeks to increase community collaboration and awareness in order to create a healthier, safer community." Twelve sectors need to be included in the Coalition for this grant (business, civic or volunteer, health care, law enforcement, youth, media, parent, religion, youth service organization, school, government; and other organization involved in reducing substance abuse). Art Garrison, Director of the Broome County Youth Bureau will be invited to join BOAC as well as Natalie Hogan and Kelsey Mikeska (youth representatives from the Youth Bureau). The outreach coordinator from the Assembly of God will be asked to join for the religious sector.

### Community Education Committee:

- Drug awareness nights were held on January 20 in Newark Valley, January 21 in Vestal, January 27 in Windsor, and January 28 in Chenango Forks.
- Future drug awareness events: Deposit on February 4; Sidney on February 10; Hancock on February 11; Johnson City student assemblies on February 11; Endicott Visitor's Center on March 3; Afton/Bainbridge on March 9; Waverly on April 21; Vestal student assemblies in April/May (TBD); and we are working on an event in Binghamton.
- The committee is developing wallet cards for parents with facts and questions they should ask their child's physician about opiate prescriptions for their child. Mock cards were distributed for comments. A link to BOAC will be added.
- Jill presented to the Community Association of the Southern Tier on BOAC's accomplishments.

#### Law Enforcement Committee:

- Good Samaritan cards have been made available to all police agencies in the county.
- Work continues on development of the Angel Program in Broome County with an expected April start date. Those seeking treatment can come to the Sheriff's Department and the Deputy will transport them to the Addiction Crisis Center who will take over at that point. The list of angels needs to be established as there is a vetting process and some required training (which the Department of Social Services will provide). A meeting is scheduled with Broome County Risk and Insurance to discuss any possible liability issues.
- Dr. Ryan and Sheriff Harder have been working on the drug drop-off box issue. There are different regulations for law enforcement and pharmacies. For law enforcement, boxes can only be maintained at a police agency. The one at the Library will need to be moved. Dr. Ryan and Kate Newcomb will meet to try to get additional boxes maintained at other police agencies and continue to advocate with pharmacies.

#### Treatment and Prevention Committee:

- Request for Proposal are in for the DSS funded project for a residential program for 8-10 women with young children who test positive for opiates to make sure they have housing, case management, day care, etc. The expected start-up is April.

#### Education of Medical Professionals Committee:

- A letter of support was received from Lourdes Hospital in support of the academic detailing program and we anticipate a letter of support from UHS. The program is anticipated to begin in early April following legislative approval.
- All police agencies are now participating in the Naloxone Program and new Sheriff's Deputies and Corrections Officers are being trained in Naloxone administration.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2016 in Conference Room A at the Broome County Health Department.