



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Broome County Health Department

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Rebecca A. Kaufman, MS, Director of Public Health

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL

March 3, 2017

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Scott Baker, Iris Borilla, Diane Brown, Katie Cusano, Jason Garnar, David Harder, Arthur Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Ben Lainhart, Jill Lloyd, Haley McCrory, Mary McFadden, Tom Morellino, Jim Mullins, Michael Ponticiello, Raymond Serowik, Kara Skellett, Penny Stringfield, Susan Wheeler, Alan Wilmarth, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Robin Alpaugh, Stephen Cornwell, Valerie Datta, Rich David, Megan D'Introno, Matthew Gawors, Rebecca Kaufman, Lee Livermore, Donna Lupardo, Kevin McManus, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Dennis O'Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Colleen Wagner, Chris Whalen

Guests: Dr. Julia Hunter and Lena LaDue, United Health Services Hospitals

Announcements:

- Information on the Erie County presentation was distributed via email. It was very educational and provided recommendations for a four-pronged approach for local leaders to combat the growing substance use epidemic.
- The results of a Southern Tier Treatment Survey by Truth Pharm was distributed via email.
- The Care Compass Network approved \$15,000 in funding toward the AmeriCorps Opioid Pilot Project. Additional funding may be available. A meeting will be scheduled to develop the workplan, interventions and performance measures for that project.

Community Education Committee:

- The Maine-Endwell School District Sports Injury Forum was held on February 21. A former athlete from Syracuse who is in recovery presented. His message was well received; however, he cannot attend the Windsor and Afton/Bainbridge-Guilford forums. The parent wallet cards are being distributed at these events.
- The Windsor School District will have a parent/athlete meeting on March 7 with panel presentation at 6:00 p.m.
- The Afton and Bainbridge-Guilford School Districts will hold an event on March 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Afton high school. A person in recovery will speak.
- An underage drinking prevention poster contest sponsored by Mirabito, the STOP-DWI Program and Lourdes Youth Services is being held for high school students. Kara discussed the contest on Around the Tiers on February 28. Kara has reached out to all school districts and four are involved in the contest so far. The winning poster will be displayed at Mirabito stores during prom/graduation season and on school district websites. The creator of the winning poster will receive \$100 with \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.
- The Drug Free Communities Grant is sponsoring a commercial contest around alcohol and drug use to be aired on WBNG as part of the Social Norms Campaign.
- As part of the Substance Abuse Prevention/Information Awareness Campaign, information about drugs and alcohol (8 topics biweekly) will be posted on school websites. This will be done throughout the entire school year next year.
- April is Alcohol Awareness Month. The Drug Free Communities Grant and the Binghamton Rumble Ponies are hosting a Substance Prevention Game Night for the community on April 19. There are 500 tickets at a discounted price for parents and children can get in free with a canned good. This will be an alcohol-free night. Rumble Ponies management said they would lose \$3,800 in revenue for an alcohol-free night. The Rumble Ponies owner will provide \$1,800 toward that loss in revenue and Kara is working to raise the remainder through sponsor donations.

Law Enforcement Committee:

- The Sheriff's Department continues to receive phone calls from people interested in getting into rehab through the Sheriff Assisted Recovery Initiative.
- Kate Newcomb and Jill Lloyd met to discuss some behavioral interventions in the jail and hope to begin groups for both men and women in the jail. ACBC is planning a Grief Recovery Group and WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Planning) Group at the jail.
- A meeting is scheduled with Senator Akshar's office to discuss alternatives to arrest for people using drugs by diverting them to community-based programs. There is a program running in Albany (LEAD – Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) that we can model our program after.
- The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Program reported that Erie County is experiencing an increase in overdose deaths (6 or 7 in one day). They are finding heroin in pink glycine bags rather than clear bags and are not sure exactly what might have been mixed with the heroin.
- The two additional drop boxes have been received and a press release will be sent out to inform the public on where the four drop boxes are located. This information will also be placed on the BOAC website and Facebook page. Katie recently attended a conference where they had envelope pouches with deactivated charcoal which people could use to dispose of medications by adding water to the deactivated charcoal and disposing of the pouches in the garbage.

Treatment and Prevention Committee:

- Alan Wilmarth reported that a corporate objective for UHS is to reduce the number of opioid prescriptions written and to reduce the number of prescriptions for benzodiazepines. Most overdose deaths that they see in the 24-45 age group are due to a combination of opioids and benzodiazepine.
- UHS is offering physicians the opportunity to do a mini residency with Drs. Hunter and Ronan to become comfortable with prescribing Suboxone. Physicians would be able to refer patients to New Horizons. Once patients are stabilized at New Horizons they will be referred back to the provider in the same manner as other chronic illnesses are treated.
- UHS applied to OASAS to be able to start patients on a daily dosing program of Buprenorphine through their Methadone Clinic. They hope to have this up and running quickly. There is currently a 150-person cap at the Methadone clinic; there will be no cap once approval is received to dispense both Methadone and Buprenorphine. There is a new Buprenorphine implant that releases slowly over a six-month period which can be used for patients that are stable with a good support system; it is an invasive procedure and there is not a good pool of patients now.
- There has been a dramatic increase in evaluations at the Jail since 2015 when there were about 70-80 as opposed to 70-80 in the first quarter of 2017.
- Dr. Hunter began a stigma reduction campaign at UHS. There is now a screensaver throughout the entire UHS system regarding the old and new language of addiction to provide education and reframe the chronic disease of addiction.
- There are several alcohol-dependent inmates at the jail that would like to sign up for the Vivitrol Program; however, it is not designed for alcohol-dependent patients. Opioid-dependent inmates have not signed up for the program. One issue is that many inmates think that they will be fine when they are released and they do not want to consent when they learn of the potential side effects of Vivitrol.
- The ACBC Family Navigator and Peer Counselor Program hopes to offer a free evening family support group for co-occurring disorders by the end of April. They are meeting with agencies and organizations within the community to assure that they are aware of all available resources so they can advocate for all agencies and forms of treatment. They are seeing a huge increase in referral sources. The Detox Program will be up and running soon – they need to get the digital record system in place.
- There are six women in the Bridge Program at the YWCA. Two women have been sober for two years and their babies are thriving. One mother gave birth last week and the baby is doing well in the NICU. Two of the women attended an AA convention which they found beneficial. They may be able to attend a NA convention in May for another recovery weekend. Women can stay up to 24 months in this program. They recently hired a part-time staff member and will hire someone for the weekends soon so the women can attend evening and weekend meetings.
- Fairview Recovery Services expanded from 18 to 20 beds; 18 for women and 2 for children.
- The Dual Recovery Project has a lot of free training coming up; an email will be sent out with details. May 10 is the fourth annual Day of Recovery with a *Promise of Hope* theme.

- The Addiction Crisis Center recently dropped from 22 to 20 beds because there was a 90% utilization rate. They still maintain two beds for the Sherriff Assisted Recovery Initiative. They are transferring to 820 regulations which is a stabilization model which will allow people to stay six weeks rather than two weeks. A psychiatrist and physician will be on staff to enhance medical care for people in crisis. There is concern that people will find it harder to get into the program when patients are staying six weeks rather than two.

Education of Medical Professionals Committee:

- The academic detailing project is in its third and final phase with targeted messages for safe and judicious management of prescriptions for patients dealing with chronic pain that cannot be cured. Tom Morellino reported that it has been difficult to see providers during this phase because providers are extremely busy dealing with illnesses through the winter months. He has reached about 35 providers. His contract expires at the end of March.
- There are three school districts (Deposit, Binghamton and Vestal) involved in the Narcan project.

UHS New Horizons Pregnancy Program: Dr. Julia Hunter, Assistant Medical Director for Addiction Medicine at UHS, and Lena LaDue, a counselor at New Horizons, presented on their pregnancy program for women who suffer from a substance use disorder. There are five components to the program: medication; psychosocial counseling; group education; contingency management; and multidisciplinary team meetings. Studies show that 70-90% of people relapse without medication; they want to avoid withdrawal for pregnant women because withdrawal puts the fetus at risk. Use of Buprenorphine is now the standard of care for pregnant women. They are providing individual counseling, intensive outpatient programming and inpatient treatment. Most pregnant women do better with inpatient treatment to provide a good foundation for recovery, followed by an intensive outpatient program so they are involved in a treatment program for most of their pregnancy. They are providing group education for the women enrolled in the program and incentives (baby bucks to purchase baby items) for behaviors that improve health. Additional participants will be included in multidisciplinary meetings as the program progresses.

Rural Community Subcommittee: The Community Foundation covers five counties and has received several requests from small rural communities for \$2,500-\$5,000 to address the substance use epidemic. A Rural Subcommittee will be formed which will be tied in with the AmeriCorps project.; Mary McFadden will work with Jack Salo from the Rural Health Network.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 7th at 10:00 a.m. at the Broome County Health Department. The inventory and framework of databases tracking Naloxone administration will be discussed at that meeting.