

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL

April 10, 2015

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Fred Akshar, Diane Brown, John Bernardo, Sean Britton, Katie Cusano, Claudia Edwards, Alan Hertel, Arthur Johnson, Karel Kurst-Swanger, Lee Livermore, Carole Cassidy for Gerald Mollen, Dennis O'Keefe, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Tina Barber, Allen Buyck, Brett Chellis, David Harder, Dr. Peter Ronan

Karel Kurst-Swanger called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and introductions were made. County Executive Debra Preston announced that there would be a press conference this afternoon with Senator Schumer who is supporting Broome County's designation as a high intensity drug trafficking area. This is a joint effort with the City of Binghamton to bring in additional federal funding, resources and intelligence to address this issue from a law enforcement perspective. Rockland, Chautauqua, Dutchess, and Putnam Counties have received the designation; Oneida County is seeking the designation.

A crime analysis center has been set up in Broome County to analyze crime statistics. They are connected to other data centers in the state to share information quickly. Fred said that he works closely with the Broome County Drug Task Force which consists of six members each from the Binghamton Police Department and the Broome County Sheriff's Department as well as two representatives from the Johnson City Police Department and one member from the Endicott Police Department.

At the last meeting, Jerry Mollen and Fred Akshar spoke about crime statistics from an internal perspective. NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services data from 2009-2013 was provided (2014 data is not available) on violent crimes (murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) and property crimes (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft). Reporting jurisdictions included in the statistics are: Broome County Park Police; Broome County Sheriff's Department; NYS Police; SIU Taskforce; and Binghamton, Deposit, Endicott, Johnson City, Port Dickinson, SUNY Binghamton, and Vestal Police. There has been a steady increase. Numbers appear to have dropped off in 2013; however, Fred believes that an internal change may have affected the way the numbers were captured. The greatest percentage of crimes are reported in the City of Binghamton (52.2% for violent crimes and 37.1% for property crimes).

Carole Cassidy said that oftentimes motor vehicle thefts associated with heroin addiction are by family members who trade the vehicle for drugs. We are seeing more parents and grandparents having family members arrested in order to get them into treatment.

Lorraine Wilmot said that about 2,000 individuals are on probation in Broome County (1 out of every 100). Many of these individuals are on probation for mental health or drug issues. Probation is now drug testing about half of their clientele. Urine testing is done now; they are considering transdermal testing. Drug tests to be used for evidence are sent to a lab in Rochester with a 3-day turnaround time. Lorraine will provide more detailed data at the next meeting. Carole will provide data from the drug courts. Dr. Ryan provided information on Naloxone administration from patient care reports in the EMS database (approximately 25-30 per month). He is not sure if all law enforcement administration of Naloxone ends up in the EMS records. EMS providers have been administering Naloxone for a long time. The number of providers may be increasing but the numbers are not; although people may be receiving it sooner. A handout was provided on the number of EMS calls dispatched as overdoses for

2010-2014 by jurisdiction. 75% of dispatches over the five year period were to Binghamton and Johnson City. If someone sees a person overdosing and calls for help, the individual can be saved. Dr. Ryan will provide a spatial analysis of Naloxone administrations for the next meeting. Lourdes Hospital has teamed up with the Southern Tier AIDS Program to provide community training on Naloxone administration. This is for family members or friends of people actively using drugs to be able to administer Naloxone. These uses are probably not reported although we can track distribution of the kits. The numbers are reported to the AIDS Institute. . There were 26 deaths associated with drug use in Broome County in 2014.

There is \$250,000 in the NYS budget to expand Naloxone administration training and distribution into public schools. There was an incident at the Binghamton High School in the Fall that did not show up in the EMS database. Many of the schools are struggling with a title for the community education sessions as "heroin awareness" was not well received by all members of the school communities. Fred noted that when you get 350 people to come out for an education session, it is successful regardless of what you call the night. Art Johnson said it is a process; however, he and Katie have met with school superintendents and schools are partnering with them much more. Schools are at the table with the Promise Zone initiative and these issues are on their radar.

A prevention needs assessment has been done with schools every other year since 2000. One was done in December 2014 and will be done again in 2015; all schools have signed on. Katie will provide data from these assessments at the next meeting. Broome County numbers for opiate use among twelfth grade students is above the national average. Substances most often used by school students are marijuana, alcohol and tobacco.

There will be an Emergency Management Trauma Teaching Day on Saturday, April 18 at the Doubletree. One of the presenters will be Edward Beach, a drug intelligence analyst for the New York/New Jersey High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area. Ray Serowik will send out additional information on the event. Katie Cusano pulled together a team (Lynne Esquivel, Jeff Prior, Rebecca Rathmill, and Terry Cole) to prepare a grant application which is due June 1, 2015. The application requires a letter of support from the NYS Commissioner of OASAS (Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services) which Art Johnson will request. Carole will ask Jerry Mollen to request the required letter of support from the Supreme Justice. Debra Preston will request letters of support from Congressman Hanna and Senator Schumer. Karel asked members if they wanted guest speakers brought in. Claudia suggested Dr. Ronan. Lee Livermore will present. He serves on several drug taskforces in other New York counties and can discuss opiates and heroin, prescription drug abuse and synthetic drugs.

There is a group of parents interested in attending a meeting to tell their stories. It is important to hear their perspective on the issues and treatment options. Katie and Diane will invite the parents to the next meeting.

The Community Education Committee will explore options to increase awareness among the school districts. Lourdes Youth Services sponsored drug education training in Windsor in February for professionals, specifically school nurses. They were trained on identifying different substances that students might be under the influence of. An educational session is scheduled for April 22, 7-9 p.m. in Whitney Point. Jill is working with Jason Garnar on a presentation scheduled at SUNY Broome on April 28, 6-8 p.m. Jill is working with Ron Heebner to schedule an event in Johnson City in the Fall and with the High School Principal at Union-Endicott who is trying to partner with Maine-Endwell on a presentation for early August or the Fall. Legislator Karl Bernhardsen contacted Jill about setting up a

presentation for his district in Binghamton. Dennis O'Keefe asked Jill to provide him with information on these meetings to post on the County website. Joe Gonzales from the organization Dope Without Drugs would like to be involved. He is working with Jason Garnar on the heroin education night at SUNY Broome. Katie will attend a board meeting next week for Dreams Over Drugs which is a group of professional people who are in long-term recovery working to provide professional education. Jill said that she has heard a couple of people from that group speak and they are very frank and enlightening about the struggles associated with addiction.

Karel emailed the two county legislators, Scott Baker and Jason Garnar, who expressed interest in participating on this council to see which committees they would like to participate on. Katie will contact Jason Garnar about participation on the Treatment and Prevention Committee and Fred will contact Scott Baker about participation on the Law Enforcement Committee.

Dr. Ryan, Sean Britton and Ray Serowik met as team leaders of the Education of Medical Professionals Committee. They want to establish what best practice is and determine which professionals they want on the technical advisory group to develop the education piece. Individuals who will be asked to participate are Dr. Ronan, the emergency room directors at UHS and Lourdes, Dr. Kevin Hastings who runs a pain management center in Vestal, Michelle Newkirk who is President of the local pharmacist association, and Lee Livermore. It was suggested that a dentist also be included. They want to determine how to deliver the education to physicians and mid-level prescribers. Prescribers are very busy in their practices and participation at hospital medical staff meetings is way down. They may bring lunch to practices and provide the education the way that pharmaceutical companies do. They know some individuals in the EMS community who are retired from pharmaceutical companies who might be able to provide that education on a part-time basis. They would need funds to do this. There was discussion about providing CME hours to physicians for this training; the accrediting body would need to be paid. Dr. Ryan said that CME hours would not be the deal breaker for physicians to attend, the time commitment is.

Claudia noted that there will be a system through DSRIP that monitors patient outcomes based on who follows hospital and outpatient protocols. They have designed a software system for physicians to follow to yield the desired outcomes.

The Treatment and Prevention Committee has met twice. There is a provider group in the county that will be used as a basis for the workgroup and they will use the first half of the meetings for BOAC and then provider business. They are talking about who else might be invited and they are making those contacts. Karel noted that the Children's Home is interested in being involved and Katie will contact Chip Houser.

Katie said that a big focus has been creating the Partnership for Success which will be structured like the KYDS Coalition with a project coordinator and data person responsible for implementing strategies in the community, including PSA's, education in the schools and a survey of 18-25 year olds. The grant required that they use a coalition already in existence and she used the KYDS Coalition which has been pulled into the Promise Zone. The grant application was written with the mindset that we had a working coalition and that BOAC is part of that effort to target youth and younger adults. The grant is for 4 ½ years and is for \$627,300. The grant had to be submitted by April 1st to begin April 15th. They received letters of support from Congressman Hanna, Senator Libous, Assemblywoman Lupardo, Assemblyman Crouch, SUNY Broome, BOCES and Davis College. Binghamton University did not want to take part in the

survey but will support the grant. BOAC was registered on the OASAS website. We have not received word yet whether funding will be received; there will be 10 grants awarded across the state.

There are some good speakers lined up for the second annual Day of Recovery sponsored by the Broome County Dual Recovery Project. It is scheduled for May 6, 9:00-4:00 on the 18th floor of the State Office Building. Register online at yourmha.com/event-registration. Registration is free. The next BOAC meeting is scheduled for May 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the Broome County Health Department.