

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL  
September 25, 2015

Present: Jill Aflord-Hammitt, John Bernardo, Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Arthur Johnson, Karel Kurst-Swanger, Jerry Mollen, Kate Newcomb, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Raymond Serowik, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Tina Barber, Allen Buyck, Carole Cassidy, Katie Cusano, Claudia Edwards, David Harder, Alan Hertel, Lee Livermore, Dennis O'Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Dr. Christopher Ryan

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

There was follow-up discussion about the Angel Program presentation by the Chief of Police from the Gloucester Police Department. A letter from Alan Wilmarth following the presentation was e-mailed to BOAC members; it was determined that no follow-up was necessary. The Broome County Sheriff said he would like to implement an Angel Program in Broome County and planning must occur before it is implemented. . The Executive Office continues to work on securing and staffing a 6-8 bed house where people can stay after they are stabilized at the Crisis Center and are awaiting an open bed in a treatment facility. Fairview will provide the staffing as part of their continuum of care. The house will cost about \$300,000 to staff. Debbie asked for a number on how many people are waiting to get into the Addiction Crisis Center at any given time; Art said he will provide that number. Katie Cusano prepared a grant application for enhancement of the drug court and it looks like we may be awarded \$.5 million for this program.

Gabe Osterhout is putting additional BOAC information on the county website and asked members to send him information that they would like posted. Meeting agendas and minutes have been posted. Information about community events will be posted. Karel will prepare a comprehensive year-end report to be posted. Narcan administration data will be posted. There is no one place where all Narcan data is being collected. Ray can provide the data from EMS and Jill will get numbers from the Southern Tier AIDS Program (STAP). John Barry, STAP Director, will provide Naloxone training at the BOCES Superintendent's Day on October 9.

Information on deaths from opiates/heroin was prepared by Dr. Ryan. (2010/2011=10; 2012=12; 2013=20; 2014=26 and 2015=11 through the end of August).

The Education of Medical Professionals Committee is working on a public health plan detailing in medical practices as an avenue to change prescribing practices. The I-STOP law has stopped people from getting prescriptions from multiple providers; however, many of these people have moved to heroin which is readily available and cheaper. Some have suggested that 85-97% of people addicted to heroin first became addicted to prescription pain medication and we need to address prescribing practices by medical professionals.

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Jerry Mollen suggested bringing in a professional to kick off the education campaign and suggested that Dr. Kolodny would be ideal to meet with medical professionals (medical society, medical staff at UHS and Lourdes, dentists, orthopedic practices, etc.) and to host an open forum for the public to continue our community education efforts. It would be really helpful if the presentation could be taped and replayed for groups or put online. He will make the contact with Dr. Kolodny; Sean Britton will complete

the actual scheduling of events. After Dr. Kolodny's presentation, someone should follow-up at medical offices. We need to find funding to hire someone now to do that follow-up. Jerry said that Art Johnson gave a powerful presentation at the Chemical Dependency Breakfast and suggested that he address the community at future events.

The Community Education Committee continues to work on education events in the community. Scheduled community education events include: Johnson City on October 27; Chenango Valley on November 4; and Greene on November 26 or November 2. There were about 35-38 people at the multi-county (Broome, Chenango, Delaware and Otsego) roundtable discussion in Deposit including 3 District Attorneys, 4 Undersheriffs, 2 pharmacists, and a DEA representative for New York/New Jersey. Teens with sports injuries become addicted much more quickly than adults because of their stage in brain development. Physicians typically prescribe a 30-day supply of pain medication to patients; however, the new recommendation is for a 5-day prescription and, given the seriousness of this issue, no one should be prescribed more than a two-week supply. Parents need to be educated about the addictive quality of these medications. There are definite withdrawal issues after taking the medication for 90 days. Jill is working on a partnership between BOCES and the NYS Police to provide a two-day training program for education professionals to recognize kids under the influence.

The next BOAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 16, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in Conference Room C at the Broome County Health Department. Adam Hughes will present briefly at the October 16 meeting about his experiences addressing the heroin problem in Boston. The October 16th, November 6th and December 4th meetings will be held in the legislative conference room on the sixth floor of the County Office Building.