



# Broome Opioid Abuse Council & Drug Free Communities

September 8, 2017 | 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Conference Rooms A & B • Broome County Health Department

- Present:** Jill Alford-Hammitt, Jerry Bennett, Lisa Bobby, Theresa Bovier, Don Bowersox, Megan Brockett, Diane Brown, Barbara Christensen, Katie Cusano, Valerie Datta, Megan D’Introno, Jason Ellis (for Stephen Cornwell), Maria Fabrizi, Jason Garnar, Matthew Gawors, Eric Greene, David Harder, Erika Kalgren, Rebecca Kaufman, Amber Kida, Cydne Kimbrough, Kyle King, Reginald LaBare, Jill Lloyd, Haley McCrory, Mary McFadden, Jim Mullins, Kim Myers, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Michael Ponticiello, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Penny Stringfield, Eric Velzis, Colleen Wagner, Jeffrey Wagner, Susan Wheeler, Alan Wilmarth, Kurt Zumbach
- Absent:** Katelyn Albright, Robin Alpaugh, Scott Baker, Iris Borilla, Rich David, Matthew Gawors, Andrea Guccia, Jim Hawley, Dr. Julia Hunter, Lee Livermore, Donna Lupardo, Kevin McManus, Dennis O’Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Chris Whalen, Dr. John Zevan

Rebecca Kaufman, Director of Public Health, opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Katie Cusano, on behalf of the Drug Free Communities Grant, called the BOAC meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introduced the SAMHSA Grant Manager, Cydne Kimbrough. Three members of the Finger Lakes Prevention Resource Center were in attendance as well. The new BOAC letterhead was introduced which reflects the Drug Free Communities Grant as part of CCSI (Coordinated Care Services Inc.). The required twelve sectors of the community for BOAC membership are represented: youth; parents; businesses; media; schools; youth-serving organizations; law enforcement; religious or fraternal organizations; civic or volunteer groups; healthcare professionals; state, local or tribal governmental agencies with expertise in substance misuse; and other organizations involved in reducing substance misuse (treatment providers).

**OLD BUSINESS:** Kara Skellett, Coordinator of the Drug Free Communities Grant, resigned to accept another position. Interviews have taken place and a new Coordinator will be selected this afternoon.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS:

### Community Education Committee:

- Sports injury forums could not be scheduled during the summer but the committee will work on scheduling them during the fall months to discuss alternatives to prescription narcotics.
- Maria Fabrizi from Lourdes Youth Services worked with Kara Skellett and will continue work with Jim Mullins and Doug Titus from BOCES to put drug and alcohol information on school websites with different messages for parents and students. The Deposit High School allowed us to put information on a sign in the main lobby.
- Drs. Julia and Stanley Hunter will present to student athletes at Union-Endicott in November.
- The Drug Free Communities Grant held three family fun nights: Northside Park in Endicott (32 youth and 14 parent surveys); Klumpp Park in Windsor (131 youth and 53 parent surveys); and CFJ Park in Johnson City (75 youth and 133 parent surveys). The survey contained questions about talking to youth about drugs; survey results will be provided.

- The Social Norms Misconceptions Campaign will survey students about alcohol use.
- The Prevention Needs Assessment was conducted last Fall in 10 school districts to survey youth in grades 7-12. Aggregated data analysis has been completed and will be presented to BOAC. School specific data will be provided to the school districts.
- Katie Cusano will attend training in Baltimore this month on sustainability. Carole Kuklis, Dual Recovery Program Coordinator, will attend as well and will join BOAC.
- There are two free showings of “The Anonymous People” in Binghamton on September 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the Broome County Library and 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the Koffman Southern Tier Incubator. This is a documentary film about Americans living in long-term recovery from alcohol and other drug addiction.
- Naloxone training will be provided on Wednesday, October 4, 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Lourdes Youth Services, 219 Front Street, Binghamton.
- Last year, Senator Akshar worked to provide this community with \$175,000 to expand the student assistance program in schools. That same amount is being funded next year and the program will expand to the Whitney Point School District in January.
- A suggestion was made to have agency websites link to the BOAC website and Facebook page to share BOAC information.

#### **Law Enforcement Committee:**

- The Peer Response Team has been meeting on a regular basis to implement the initiative. ACBC has been providing peers for wellness checks with law enforcement. Jill Lloyd from ACBC has taken the lead to develop policies and protocols. She noted that during the wellness checks there is a point of separation when law enforcement is no longer present during the interview and the peer engages the individual and explains confidentiality under HIPAA. The Peer Response Team met last Wednesday with representation from most law enforcement agencies in the county and they are very interested in helping to break down the barriers and challenges.
- A concern was raised that we need to provide more information on the peer response program to the public as individuals who could be helped are being given misinformation. Information will be added to the BOAC website and Facebook page. Tairla Ackley, a peer counselor at ACBC, will be interviewed by a news station for Recovery Month. Cydne Kimbrough suggested that we need to arm the media with our message by using professionals in the community that are highly skilled in social media to address negative things not addressed or positive things not addressed enough. Quick snapshots for youth are effective. An interview with law enforcement can be scheduled. Kyle King noted several school districts have students attending the Teen Institute which would be a good opportunity to connect with youth in the community.
- The Sheriff’s Assisted Recovery Initiative began in March 2016. As of yesterday, there have been 67 calls for services since January 1. Numbers are slowly dropping and the program will be reevaluated at the end of the year.
- National Prescription Pill Take-Back Day is Saturday, October 28, 10:00 – 2:00. The BC Sheriff’s Office will have five locations: Broome County Sheriff’s Office; Johnson City Elks Club on Watson Boulevard; Main Scoop Ice Cream Shop in Whitney Point; Vestal Fire Station #4 on the Vestal Parkway; Windsor Community House on Main Street; and the American Legion Post 1700 on Maple Street in Endicott. The Sheriff’s Department is now equipped to also collect sharps at each location. Sharps can be dropped off at the BC Sheriff’s Office anytime during regular business hours. There will be a take-back box at the Deposit Police Station as well.

#### **Education of Medical Professionals Committee:**

- The committee’s work with the academic detailing project is finished. The committee will not meet again unless further need is determined.
- Judicious opioid prescribing training is taking place for medical professionals with guidelines from CDC.

### **Treatment and Prevention Committee:**

- Binghamton General Hospital has two care navigators working in the Emergency Department. Care navigators conduct outreach to anyone with an opioid related issue who refuses to stay when brought to the emergency department. During August, 23 individuals who overdosed were transported to the emergency department; 1 was admitted. Care navigators connected with 11; it is difficult to get accurate contact information. Two individuals are now fully engaged in treatment: 1 in inpatient treatment and 1 in medication assisted treatment. The program will expand to Wilson Hospital during September. Discussion has begun with Lourdes Hospital to involve them in the program as well.
- UHS can now prescribe both Methadone and Buprenorphine at their Methadone Clinic. The ceiling was lifted from 150 patients to as many as they can handle. Thirty people were admitted in the last month and a half. The program continues to grow and they receive 40-42 requests for medication assisted treatment each week and can admit 7-8 per week.
- UHS provided Buprenorphine waiver training for 12 providers in August and will provide another for community physicians in October. Once a physician is trained for the waiver program, they can have 30 patients the first year and 100 patients the second year. Drs. Hunter and Ronan are conducting mini residencies where physicians can shadow them when they begin medication assisted treatment.
- UHS has an Opioid Prescriber Reduction Team. They track every provider in the system and receive a monthly report. They have initiated several policies relative to urine drug screening for people on long-term medical treatment to adhere to CDC guidelines and are making significant progress.
- The ACBC Family Navigator Program had 18 new families with 9 referrals to OASAS treatment providers. There are 4 families in the co-occurring group which meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Peer Counselors interacted with 47 individuals in August with 11 referrals to OASAS treatment providers. The first woman through the Family Navigator Program utilized several facets available in the community and recently returned for some grief counseling – a success story.
- ACBC is now conducting assessments between 8:00-11:00 to increase capacity. People are asked to call in. They hope to have an additional 20 per week through open assessments. Priority is given to people who need an inpatient referral and are actively using.
- The ACBC psychiatrist is now full-time and completed the Buprenorphine waiver training.
- ACBC is setting up reports in the medical record system for data collection for the Peer Response Program with law enforcement. Reports can be provided by jurisdiction.
- Fairview Recovery Center will open in September and provide services for families and individuals looking for help with addiction issues. They will have peer advocates and recovery coaches.
- The YWCA Bridge Program began about a year ago and will present evaluations to the Department of Social Services within the next couple of weeks. The program is funded by Broome County and can house up to 8 women who have opioid addicted babies. Programs are provided to alleviate stress and help the women become productive citizens. The goal is to have them involved in volunteer work, school or employment. Two new groups are starting: a healthy relationship group and a relapse prevention group. They utilize the UHS Baby Basics Program and the feedback is that the Bridge Program provides a safe, free of judgment place for these women.
- The programs at Calvary's Love in Johnson City serve 60 people every week. Average numbers are 20 women and 15 men in the addiction program; 15 in the co-dependent program; and 10 in the abortion recovery program. These are confidential programs where participants are encouraged to help each other; there are no facilitators for the groups. Programs have been found to be beneficial to all involved. They have an 8-10% success rate.
- OASAS put out an RFP for an open access center. Local providers will meet on Monday to collaborate on the RFP which is due October 31.

- Katie Cusano distributed an article on the increase in alcohol use disorder. There has been a big increase in the number of people with alcohol use disorders coming to emergency departments. The UHS emergency department had 44 visits related to opiates as compared to 120 for alcohol related issues and 40-50 related to other drugs last month. There has been a substantial increase in other drugs along with opiates. Kids often start with alcohol at ages 11-13. The first three drugs youth use are alcohol, nicotine and cannabis. There are 40,000 deaths from opioids each year and 130,000 from alcohol use disorders. We need venues for kids to discuss these issues other than the schools. Conversations among adults are also needed to encourage people to seek treatment. Statistics show that one in four adults who need treatment have not received it and 80-90% of people do not think they need treatment. Our messages may need to be redefined. Community norms and parental attitudes are risk factors for youth.
- Drug Court graduation is scheduled for September 26 at 2:00 p.m.

#### **Data and Statistics Committee:**

- The committee continues to refine the indicators and information to be collected and hopes to have three useful indicators of the problem and solution. We would like to be able to measure and track how well we are doing with response resources, i.e., the number of physicians prescribing Buprenorphine.

#### **Rural Committee:**

- There are a lot of activities occurring in Whitney Point with many events coming up at the school to educate parents and students and to provide Naloxone training.
- The Wings of Hope 5K walk for mental health, suicide and addiction awareness is scheduled for September 16<sup>th</sup> at Dorchester Park.

#### **RECOVERY MONTH ACTIVITIES:**

- September is National Recovery Month. Rebecca Kaufman, Haley McCrory, and Mary McFadden developed a calendar of activities for the month for the website and Facebook. Please provide any additional activities to them to be included on the calendar of events.
- Tabernacle Church will host their fourth annual candlelight vigil with a message of hope on September 24. Dr. Hunter will be coming to the church as part of their mission project for the last quarter of the year, which is open to anyone in the community who is interested in learning more about this epidemic.
- September 16 is Wing Fest at NYSEG stadium with all proceeds going to ACBC.
- October 15 is ACBC's first addiction awareness run/walk.
- The Chris Herren presentation is scheduled for September 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Broome County Forum. Tickets are free and available at the door. Agencies are encouraged to table at the event.
- There will be a Broome County proclamation to make everyone aware of the problem and that resources are available to prevent use and provide recovery.
- Jason Garnar thanked everyone at the table for their work in the community to address this problem and help Broome County through this epidemic.
- There will be four news interviews for inspiration and hope. Someone in recovery will be interviewed to inspire recovery.
- The BC District Attorney's Office will hold a free community cook-out at CFJ park in Johnson City on September 14, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next BOAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 6 at 10:00 a.m. at the Broome County Health Department.