

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL

May 6, 2016

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Robin Alpaugh, John Bernardo, Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Carole Cassidy, Katie Cusano, Lee Livermore, Kate Newcomb, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Susan Wheeler

Absent: Allen Buyck, Stephen Cornwell, David Harder, Arthur Johnson, Jerry Marinich, Kimberly Newell, Dennis O'Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Lorraine Wilmot

Guests: Tom Morellino (OPRAD Contractor)

Announcements:

- Robin Alpaugh, the new Executive Director of the United Way, was welcomed to BOAC.
- The County Executive received a letter in February from TruthPharm. One item of concern was gathering data on presumed overdose deaths. We are participating in a project with 13 counties and will be submitting data on presumed opioid overdose deaths. Information will be gathered from toxicology reports.
- There is a lot of information about BOAC on the Broome County website. Public relations will be an agenda item for the retreat. Ideas to explore include a stand-alone BOAC website, a BOAC Facebook page and redesigning the BOAC brochure.
- Diane Brown reported that the Community Foundation Grants Committee and Board felt that funding Dr. Kolodny's presentation was a great use of their funding. Neighboring counties have been invited to attend the June 7 presentation for a regional approach.
- Lee Livermore reported on some new information gathered from toxicologist reports at the Poison Control Center. There is some concern that people are taking mass quantities of an OTC antidiarrheal to get the opioid effect. He provided a handout on the W-series compounds which is a class of opioids that are showing up in pill form now; they are very toxic and currently not regulated. He will be presenting to an Athletic Directors meeting to bring them up to speed on opioids and to reach coaches as well.

Community Education Committee:

- Parent wallet cards were distributed. They are being sent out to schools and community agencies.
- The committee will collaborate with BOCES to provide deliberation training for students in the schools and for follow-up heroin awareness events for schools that have already done their initial panel presentations.
- Whitney Point will have a follow-up presentation on May 23, 6:00-8:30 p.m.
- Newark Valley's follow-up event is scheduled for May 11 at 7:00 p.m. and will address heroin and methamphetamine.
- Binghamton's awareness event on May 25 will open with a 20-minute presentation by Alan Wilmarth followed by breakout sessions for students and parents. Two Binghamton staff members will lead sessions for students. Michelle Napolitano, Carole Kuklis and Alan Wilmarth will lead sessions on treatment, community solutions and addiction education. Jill Alford-Hammitt and Carmela Pirich will lead sessions on signs and symptoms.

- Lourdes Hospital formed a support group for parents and family members who have lost a loved one to an overdose related death. Six-week sessions were held in August 2015 and January 2016. Another session begins May 17, 5:30-7:00, at 184 Court Street. This is a very specific structured curriculum and participants need to attend each week. The contact number is 584-3110.

Law Enforcement Committee:

- Last Saturday was National Prescription Take Back Day. Johnson City had two sites and the Broome County Sheriff's Office had five sites. During the four-hour event they collected 45 boxes with a combined weight of 1,300 lbs. The Sheriff's Office and Library site disposed of 30 boxes in March. Dr. Ryan and Jill have been talking to regional Rotary representatives about approaching CVS and other police agencies about drop boxes. Debbie, John and Carole will meet with the head of the Regional Rotary on Monday to discuss this further. Rotary is interested in taking this on as a signature project to fund a variety of projects to address this issue. The Sheriff's Office approached other police agencies about having drop boxes. The Endicott Police Department was interested but did not have the support of the Board. Johnson City was interested but did not have the storage capacity to store boxes until they could be transported to Oswego for incineration and there were concerns about the cost to do that. Wegmans has decided not to have a drop box at their location.
- The Assisted Recovery Initiative has helped ten people since March 30. Kate received a call this week for information and told the caller she would be referred to the Addiction Crisis Center; the woman said she was going there right now. There have been no issues and no one has been turned away. One of the ten people was a repeat from earlier in the week. She left on her own but wanted to go back. There are no insurance barriers. Michelle Napolitano has reported that the Sheriff's Assisted Recovery Initiative is going well as far as ACC is concerned.

Treatment and Prevention Committee:

- Katie listened to a national radio talk show where the Medical Director for OMH discussed the opioid epidemic and talked about the most appropriate approach to the problem, which is the same approach we are using in Broome County.
- ACBC has begun construction for new space for a Clinician, two more group rooms and an ambulatory detox program. This will increase the number of assessments they are doing.
- New Horizons is discussing the potential to begin an ambulatory detox center as well. Their inpatient beds have been full lately, partly due to referrals from the Chemical Dependency Services Unit.
- Teen Intervene has been very busy in the schools and are finding a lot of marijuana use and underage drinking problems.
- Heidi Mikeska, Promise Zone Coordinator, presented to the community on their Prevention Needs Assessment where they survey students in grades 7-12 in 9 schools and BOCES. Heroin and opioid use has decreased, except for seventh and eighth graders. This is a concern because there is a connection in the brain between early marijuana use and later opioid use.
- Lourdes is doing their SBIRT Program which is screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment. They trained emergency department personnel and the program is being rolled out to pediatric offices and clinics in the Lourdes network.

- Susan Wheeler, Carole Cassidy and Nancy Johnson will start a weekly support and informational group at Christ the King Lutheran Church on Plaza Drive to help parents and grandparents. A formal announcement will be prepared and sent out. The group begins June 6, 6-7 p.m.
- OASAS announced this week that if a licensed agency has a physician on staff prescribing Suboxone there is no limit to the number of people they can serve. When ACBC begins their ambulatory detox program they may use Suboxone.
- The wait time for treatment services is better. People in an emergency situation are getting in immediately and non-emergencies within a week.
- OASAS prepared a video for parents on how to choose a treatment agency with a list of questions to ask.
- Carol Kuklis is providing a lot of education in the community about substance use disorders and heroin and where to go for help. They will present a morning and afternoon Trauma Informed Care training program on May 25.
- There is a Spring Fling dance at the YWCA on May 21, 5:30-10:00 to get people involved.
- Broome County Mental Health Department staff is working on their Mental Hygiene Local Services Plan. A draft of their priority outcomes is complete; the first section is about BOAC.
- Two Smart Recovery groups meet at the Urban League as an alternative to the twelve-step programs.
- The Addiction Center of Broome County is interviewing for the Family Navigator and Peer Advocate positions.
- Since the beginning of 2015 STAP has trained over 2,000 people in the community on Naloxone administration. There were 150 reversals that they know of because people came back for a second kit.
- There are now 8 beds available at the YWCA for women in recovery with opioid addicted babies.

Education of Medical Professionals Committee:

- Tom Morellino reported on what he is finding in physician practices. He is finding that doctors and nurses need more information and guidance. Dr. Holland asked if Dr. Ryan could present to the Broome County Medical Society. Dr. Ryan said he would be happy to but there is low attendance at their meetings and he would not reach a lot of doctors through that avenue. Tom has seen 25 physicians, 2 or 3 nurse practitioners, and 2 physician assistants in five days. The feedback is positive – the literature and message is short, concise and to the point.
- Dr. Ryan has been in touch with the epidemiologist at the NYSDOH Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement to see if we can access I-STOP data for our county. He has not been able to access that data yet. Carole said she has a contact there and will try to assist with getting that data.
- Public Health Live through the Albany School of Public Health created a segment to be broadcast to all local health departments in the state. Katie Cusano and Sean Britton were interviewed and there will be footage of Tom Morellino conducting academic detailing with Dr. Ryan at the Health Department Clinic. Katie will send the link to BOAC members for the May 19 broadcast. We can put this on the BOAC website and they will provide it in Facebook format as well.
- Dr. Ryan provided a report on pre-hospital use of Naloxone in the Susquehanna Emergency Medical Services Region, as an indicator of opioid overdose. The previous high was in the summer of 2015 and numbers have continued to increase with an all-time high in March of 2016 at 13.5 per 1,000 EMS calls (about two per day). We seem to be finding more patients at the severe end of the overdose spectrum which is of concern.

- Ray is continuing to pursue the issue of follow-up care after an overdose reversal. The REMAX Advisory Committee that oversees the EMS system does not want to compel patients to go to the hospital and are unlikely to change that stance. Clinically there is a similar situation with patients who are in a hyperglycemic coma that have been reversed in the field by EMS personnel who often refuse to go to the hospital for follow-up care. There is a simple standard in their current protocol that if a person refuses to be transported to the hospital, EMS personnel have to contact the Emergency Department physician and explain the circumstances and have the physician concur that the person can be released. That brings a higher level of medical judgment to the situation. If a person refuses transport to the hospital following an overdose reversal with Narcan, we should provide information on the Sheriff's Assisted Recovery Initiative.

The retreat is scheduled for June 3, 9:00-3:00, at the Health Department; email Carole any agenda items you would like to discuss. The next meeting is July 1, 2016 in Conference Room A at the Broome County Health Department.