



## Broome Opioid Awareness Council

December 3, 2021 | 10am  
Virtual Zoom Meeting • Broome County Health Department

### Agenda

**Zoom info:** <https://broome.zoom.us/j/85214601548>

**If you call in with no computer option call 1.646.558.8656**  
Meeting ID-852 1460 1548

**\*\*Password 2021 \*\***

**Present:** Ray Serowik (Broome County Office of Emergency Services), Kurt Zumbach (Broome County Probation), Erica Robinson (Helio Health), Tina Survilla (Broome County Social Services), Mike Korchak (District Attorney's Office), Jillian Beloch (Broome County Mental Health/ NIDA HEALING Communities), Sidney Graham (Lourdes Youth Services), Kristin Russell (Broome County Health Department), Marissa Knapp (Broome County Health Department), Mary McFadden (Broome County Health Department), Jared Gunderson (Binghamton University, MPH Program), Leigh Stevens (Two Rivers Church), Maria Fabrizi (Prevention Coalition), Hans Jequinto (Binghamton University, MPH Program), Courtney Cashman (Broome County Office for Aging), Jill Alford Hammitt (Lourdes Youth Services)

**Call to Order:** Marissa Knapp- Opioid Overdose Prevention Coordinator

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions-

#### 2. Updates & reports from partners –

- BCHD:
  - Safe syringe disposal:
    - We have been discussing a syringe issue in the community. We noticed this

- starting before the take back day with community members reaching out to Marissa and Maria with the Prevention Coalition about where to dispose of syringes in the community.
  - There seems to be a need for community education on where to safely dispose of syringes.
  - There is also a need in the community for syringe disposal. The Broome County Health Department, NY/NJ HIIDA rep, and SOR staff are going to have a meeting with NYSDOH Office of Drug User Health to learn more information.
  - On the peer response call, there was great discussion with law enforcement on where there is issues in the community. Police is very supportive on working with us on this.
  - There may be options for disposal units.
  - Every other car that came to the take back day, there were people with syringes. We feel this shows there is a need for education in the community on this topic.
  - We informed people of where they could safely dispose of syringes, and the responses showed some places were not accepting them, despite needing to.
  - We are trying to clear the confusion and end stigma.
- Recreational Drugs & Fentanyl:
  - We are hearing from our community and others about cocaine being laced with fentanyl.
  - On peer response there was discussion about suspected ODs linked to the BU from those using cocaine
  - BCHD reached out to the head of Greek Life to see if they do anything with Narcan
  - We think this is a underserved population
  - There has been discussions on a PSA targeting the recreational drug users. Marissa and Mike Baker are working on this.
- PSA- Partnership with the United Way:
  - BCHD applied to present this at a conference to the NYSDOH. More to come on this
- Work with local pharmacies:
  - The Prevention Coalition received SOR 2 funds, with a strong focus on opioids. During the first SOR, PCBC focused on distributing Detera bags and lock boxes to encourage and educate on safe disposal of medications in the home. This was popular and successful.
  - Want to push further and work with providers and pharmacies for SOR 2.
  - We want to normalize Narcan and proper medication disposal in the home.
  - We think addressing this at the point in which the medication is dispensed will help with this and provide necessary education.
- COVID update:
  - We are hiring Case Investigators and Contact Tracers. This is a great opportunity, 35 hours a week, but must be flexible to work weekends.
  - Our call center is getting inundated, we are a few days behind. We ask the community to be kind and understand we are doing the best we can to get to everyone timely.
- Office of Emergency Services:
  - COVID Testing Site
    - We have a tested site at BCHD, but staffing is limited
    - We requested assistance from NYSDOH for staff, and NYSDOH will be sending 7

- FT (3 nurses, 4 personnel) staff members starting next week (12/6/21). Starting 12/8/21, will start doubling the amount of testing.
        - Last year, we were doing about 300 a day. With this new staff, we are working toward getting to this number of tests a day.
        - We can allow walk ins from our partner agencies for programmatic necessities, but there is no work flow for general public walk ups
      - COVID Vaccines
        - Vaccination campaign continues. BCHD has their booster campaigns located at the Health Department
        - The Homebound vaccination program has continued going, vaccinating the people who are homebound. We are seeing people who were initially vaccinated in the spring are requesting boosters. We also are seeing some initial vaccine requests as well. We have been able to get to those in a week. The OFA has been helping with the intake.
      - November OD Data:
        - Calls to 9-1-1 about Cardiac Arrest and overdoses are down in Nov. compared to Oct.
        - OD Map data shows ODs were down slightly from October
        - Law enforcement number is manually reported by police and excludes NYS Police. Because of this, the numbers lag a little. Staying steady through Nov.
        - EMS number is accurate because it comes from Medical Records, EMS is up a little in Nov.
        - This current year has more suspected overdoses than pervious years.
        - Marissa mentioned suspected fatal overdoses also have increased compared to the past years. Hopefully our work with help to decrease this
  - Office for Aging:
    - Working on getting participants vaccinated with their boosters. Many people have been able to figure out signing up themselves. Many participants of the homebound vaccine programs have been calling very appreciative of the services.
    - Senior Centers are still running, but not encouraging any big events. Holiday luncheons are drive thru events. Veteran's Day is typically a big day but did a drive thru event to reduce exposure there.
    - Hearing here and there, about substance use increasing. Some of the clients may be misusing prescriptions.
    - The first quarter of the year we did 8,000, typically only do 3,000, vaccination referrals. Thankfully now is much more manageable.
  - Lourdes Youth Services:
    - Lourdes ACES Program:
      - Lourdes ACES program gave out over 110 hot thanksgiving meals on November 12<sup>th</sup> to program participants and community members.
      - Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at the Noma Community Center will have a laundry support event. Giving out art supplies and poster board for families to depict what the Holidays mean to them. Giving out family games as well
    - Spike Alert Question:
      - Is there any feedback from the Spike Alert meeting?
      - A monthly message is sent out to Marissa and Jim Hawley about feedback. November's feedback was to include 2-1-1 on the text messaging.
      - If there is something any agencies want, we can let them know. They also send a monthly educational message.

- SAP:
  - In the Schools, they are plugging right along. Program numbers have surpassed last year's numbers.
  - Schools are overwhelmed with substance use numbers. Students are vaping, seeing concern around students who are smelling like marijuana when they come to school. Not a lot of talk with students being caught with marijuana.
  - Not a lot out there for adolescents for recovery
  - Many students who are enrolled in Teen Intervene
  - Currently in 6 school districts: JC, Chenango Valley, WP, Windsor, Seton, and Binghamton
- Prevention Coalition of Broome County:
  - SOR 2 is up and running and DFC is up and running for years 6-10.
  - Smoke Free Grounds Policies:
    - Working with Tobacco Free Broome and Tioga on Smoke Free Grounds policies.
    - They are not allowed to work on adding cannabis language to existing policies but can work on adding it to new policies.
    - The Coalition is going to help with work on existing policies.
- Social Services: No updates
- District Attorney's Office:
  - Drug Court:
    - Continuing to work closely with Public Defender's office and Mike Baker and private bar on getting people into Drug Court.
    - There is also veteran's court, domestic violence court, and Inter-domestic violence court. Many of these intertwine and revolves around substance use and mental health.
    - If someone is in treatment, they are less likely committing offenses is the goal
    - Will have more numbers to share with after the year ends, and we are doing the best we can.
    - If anyone feels like there is someone who should be in a specialty court, please reach out to the DA's office.
  - Is it possible for someone to present on Drug Court at a meeting? Marissa will follow up with Gary.
- Two Rivers Church:
  - Hope Foundation is the non-profit section of the church. This is currently on pause, but it typically has a men's 12 step program. This is typically 9-12 months and free to the participants. The idea is to obtain a sober living feeling, develop life skills, help with challenges.
  - Currently, Two Rivers is renovating the convent in Johnson City to open a 12 bed woman's recovery ward to open in March or April.
- Probation's Office: No Updates, but we continue to work in the same courts as the DA.
- NIDA/ HEALing Communities:
  - Will have more information in Jan.
  - OFT:
    - Mentioned interest in Opioid Fatality Review Team. Sarah King shared information from Jim Hawley on an Opioid Rx program in NYC (OFR).
    - Jillian would love to do some research on this and share with BOAC on the information gathered.
    - BCHD has looked into this, this is in our OD2A workplan through NYS. Marissa

and the Public Health Director of the time visited a conference on this. With the pandemic it was put to the side.

- Kristin and Jillian both talking about this would be helpful.
- We have a successful Child Fatality Review time in Broome, so we can use lessons learned from them.
- Helio Health:
  - Programs are open and taking patients.
  - Would love to be apart of Drug Court. We had met with them last year, but is an ongoing project. Marissa will share Gary's email address with Erica. Tim Thane is another contact.

### **3. Other Announcements/Business –**

- See Updates above, under Broome County Health Department.

**Next Meeting: January 7,2022**