



Tuesday January 28, 2025 | 10:00am -11:30am

Broome County Health Department, Conference Rooms A, B, C

225 Front Street Binghamton, NY 13905

Virtual Option: <https://broome.zoom.us/j/87138124623> (Meeting ID: 871 3812 4623) 4623)

10:04 AM

1. Welcome and Call to Order- Marissa Knapp

2. Moment of Silence, Meeting Expectations, Introductions

Present: Alexis Savidge (FPSCNY) Hannah Driskell (BCSO), Martie Ritz (MATTERS), Josias Bartram (BCPL), Katie Medinosky (BC DSS), Kathy Staples (Truth Pharm), Mikayla Kuhlman (SUNY Broome), Billy Jo Roberto (SUNY Broome) Amanda Florance (BC Parks), Rachel Leri (MBPN), Scott Pauley (BCDA), Wendy Antalek (BOCES), Megan Olmstead (BCMh), Cole Margarites (BCHD Intern), Mackenzie Squair (BCHD Intern), Michael Bender (BCHD), Marissa Knapp (BCHD OPP), Juliet Cole (BCHD OPP) Michelle Bertoni (BCHD OPP), Scott Spicer (BCHD OPP), Abby Kaiser (BCHD OPP)

Virtual: Kristin Oliver (SUNY Broome), Lena Meyer (Helio), Tonya Ridgway (Helio) David Brennan (Assemblywoman Lupardo's Office) Lynette Bellmore (BCHD), Madelyn Shantillo (CoB-Mayor Kraham's Office), Sarah King (BCMh), Erica Robinson (Helio), Jo Ann Moore (Guthrie Lourdes Pop Health), Jules Denning (Finger Lakes Prevention), Katie deVries (US Attorney), April Stoeckel (Salvation Army), Ben Harting (BCSO), Cortney Rowley (ACBC), Tairla Ackley (UW 211 BC), Dustin Ross (Guthrie Lourdes ED), Holly Germaine (Guthrie Lourdes ED), Jack Augenstein (Bridgewater Center for Nursing), Emily Juozitis (BU OEM) Laci Daniels (Guthrie Lourdes), Kurt Zumbach (Probation), Alexis Pleus (Truth Pharm), Angela Romano (FCCS), Emily Jackson (ST Connects), Kristin Beylo (FVPC)

10:17 AM

3. Presentations:

**Helio Health: Opioid Settlement Fund Project: Lena Meyer (LCSW, Master CASAC) and Tonya Ridgway (CRPA-P),**

- Funding received in March 2024, hired Tonya in May, she started working with clients in June. Goal for the peer is to reduce number of clients leaving against medical advice (LAMA).
- First Helio Health peer (Binghamton, Syracuse, or Rochester), working with detox and rehab care. After the effectiveness seen here, hoping to expand to other sites.
- “Teatime with Tonya” evenings before meds, read inspirational cards, sense of community, not required, creates a feeling of human rather than patient. She holds CBT and mindfulness groups as well.
- In February, Teatime with Tonya will be starting at VOICES on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the Month.
- The program has been very successful. Patients from other sites arrive asking for Tonya. She is valued by patients. There has been an increase in patient satisfaction. This has provided a forum where patients are comfortable talking to someone.
- Overall, there are more admissions to rehab than detox, people are detoxing at home or hospital before coming to Helio.
- LAMA Dropped from 24% to 19% in second half of 2024 after Tonya started
- Q: (Alexis): You said “unfortunately some are detoxing in hospital” can you say more about that?

A: (Lena) Seeing many more medically complex patients, including psychiatric needs, so they are coming from the hospital after addressing medical concerns and also 5-7 days of detox.

Q: (Joann): does data include patients who LAMA prior to program entry?

A: (Lena) No, lots of medically and psychiatrically complex patients are being referred from the hospital. Encourage clients to be medically cleared by hospital before coming to Helio b/c they cannot provide health services. That clearance can be a barrier but ensures they are able to participate in program at Helio.

Q: Is Tonya’s role close to CRPA?

A (Lena) She has completed most of the training, only needs 2 more hours to be CRPA!

Q: (Sarah King): What are the main reasons that people are continuing to LAMA, what can we do in the community?

A: (Tonya): Biggest reason is they are not ready to make the changes, e.g. if they have been mandated. Tonya believes more peers could help.

A: (Lena): Patients that leave LAMA, still have created a rapport with Tonya and know that the doors are always open, and they can return without judgment. They are provided with Narcan and phone numbers of resources.

Sarah: great to see community connection at VOICES.

Q: (Marissa) Can you provide transportation? Can you meet people out in community?

A: (Tonya) I am based on site at Helio, but I can help with arranging transportation.

Q: (Marissa) Are you connected after people leave?

A: (Tonya) I'm currently focused on people here, but people can call Helio and reach Tonya, and patients who have been discharged know they can reach out to her.

Jules Denning: has information about peer training for NYS. Contact:

[jdanning@depaul.org](mailto:jdanning@depaul.org)

Lena contact: [hmeyer@helio.health](mailto:hmeyer@helio.health)

Tonya contact: [tridgway@helio.health](mailto:tridgway@helio.health)

10:37 AM

### **Broome County Health Department Overdose Prevention Program**

- 2024: 40% decrease in suspected fatal overdoses, 52% decrease in suspected non-fatal overdoses since 2021.
- "Suspected" is used because it captures overdoses that involve emergency calls, with the understanding that there are many more overdoses not captured by this data because of civilian use of naloxone.
- 2024 Naloxone Survey
  - FCCS newly added to bring OOPP count to 9
  - OOPPs get naloxone from NYS
  - Many offer self-report, e.g. google form,
    - Not robust data, but allows some information of naloxone usage in Broome County
  - 3,087 individuals trained in Naloxone, 60% increase from 2021
  - 20,068 doses of Naloxone distributed, 1128% increase from 2021

- Acknowledge BCMH that laid the groundwork with Healing Communities Study
- Data may include gap from 2 agencies not reporting and in 2021 might have referred more to the NCAP program.
- Efforts in response to meet populations indicated in 2022 response. (rural, jail, BIPOC, general public)
- Innovative distribution ideas implemented (Naloxboxes, leave behind, High risk location trainings, school district trainings)
- Naloxboxes/HRVM at libraries, hospitals, county, city buildings)
- Areas of Improvement
  - Partnerships with public safety (EMS, fire, law)
    - Leave behind kits
  - Healthcare, hospitals, EDs
  - Hard to reach population
    - Aging- medication safety/education
    - Rural (Windsor, Deposit, Harpursville, Whitney Point)
      - Looking for connections to businesses or even residents who would host a box in their lawn.
    - Young adults/college students (18-24)
    - Improved interagency collaboration.
- Goals
  - Currently out: 2 RFPS-public health public safety liaison, evaluator
    - 1 later this week for media related to stigma/harm reduction
    - Next round of OSF RFPs in Spring
  - Expanding Naloxboxes/Naloxone access
  - Improvement of BOAC website, increased media
    - Success in educating local media to use educational rather than stigmatized information. Have trained reporters, some have shared it's quick and easy to be trained.
  - Increased collaboration with healthcare and public safety
    - Goal to have subject matter experts to train their peers
  - BOAC / Subgroups
    - Will be meeting ad-hoc

- Full BOAC Meeting every other month being held on a variety of days and time Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, mornings and afternoon to be most inclusive.
- What age group specifically are the “aging population”? (Sarah King)
  - Over 55. Have seen both fatal and non-fatal overdoses in that age group.
  - Will be putting Naloxboxes at senior centers
  - Ensure education about drug safety understanding
- Does each OOPP create their own Naloxone use survey? Mikayla (Broome)
  - Counselor at UHS MAT clinic as well, UHS has a 25 question survey, patients report use, but they are not willing to fill out whole paper.
  - Agencies might want data, but BCHD OPP would also value getting anecdotal reports to channel our efforts, e.g. education, training, media.
  - Kathy Staples talked to NYS about changes to be made, but better to have some info than none, so there is evidence of use.
    - Priorities gender, zip code,
- Concerns about losing federal funding? (Josias Bartram)
  - Settlement funds are not related to gov’t.
  - Concerns in public health in general, but funding future is unknown
- Alexis:
  - Naloxone usage form—state would rather know kit is used than know nothing, all questions are optional. Report whatever information we have, even if just last week, female. Reporting to the state that a life was saved is important.
  - Concerns of school’s willingness to be trained in Naloxone for staff and students.
    - (Marissa) BCHD OPP is working to get our foot in the door, starting with administration and training staff to carrying as civilian, rather than job requirement. Presented at school nurse training in the fall and will be attending Superintendent’s Day in March.
  - Also concerned that priorities aren’t reflective of the strategic plan.
    - The goals shared are BCHD OPP goals, but next on the agenda is BOAC goals.

4. 2025 BOAC goals and discussion: could be as general as “more naloxone in the community” or

specific to wanting Naloxbox at my place of work

- Everyone at BOAC should be a Narcan trainer (Kathy Staples)
- 20 million test strips in NY, grow that number (Martie Ritz) We've heard that people are LAMA because they're not ready, so continuing focus on peers and harm reduction so we are truly meeting people where they are at, helping move the community to understanding anyone could have SUD and co-occurring disorders/ people have value if they continue drug use.
- What happened to the report that was created in strategic plan? Good for "hot takes of the moment", but not ideal to focus for 2025 (Alexis)
  - Hospitals providing Bupe and warm hand-offs
  - Hospitals working to reduce AMA rates, e.g.
  - Social services issues—being unable to access and housing services
  - Remain concerned and confused about loss of focus from 2022
- Hannah- Lack of access to services and basic needs being met—in new role at BCSO, a lot of barriers to accessing, especially those being released from jail. Services that can't start until release make it difficult to bridge the gap
- Jules Denning-starting to see Harm Reduction Vending Machines (HRVM) in Steuben county, one at fire department in Addison, NY with test strips & Narcan.  
<https://www.weny.com/story/52173052/steuben-county-public-health-introduces-harm-reduction-vending-machine>
- NY has a free program for peers to go through CRPA training and cert if anyone is interested in that information I can connect you with them just email me and I will do a warm handoff!! [jdenning@depaul.org](mailto:jdenning@depaul.org)
- Martie—still has 25 vending machines available for sites (Share Martie's email) low barrier, 24 hours, number to access telemedicine.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> in Tioga at Waverly Red Door Mission
  - [mrutz@mattersnetwork.org](mailto:mrutz@mattersnetwork.org)
- Share any information, opportunities, events, in BOAC newsletter. Agencies can send items to include to [OverdosePrevention@broomecountyny.gov](mailto:OverdosePrevention@broomecountyny.gov).
- Do people want to go back to having 2-hour BOAC meetings? Please share that in the survey. Give us honest feedback.

5. Agency/group announcements/program updates:

- a. Kristen Oliver: SUNY Broome, one of the schools in higher ed to get OSF, started Fall of '24, the week before classes. Typically 10 students in the spring semester, but this semester 34 students starting in SUNY Broome program, with 30 OSF funded. 58 on their way to being CASACs locally with plans to stay in the community.
- b. Scott Pauly: D.A. close to implementing a mental health court to help those suffering with mental health diagnosis. Have judge and support staff, looking for treatment providers to match them with.
- c. Martie Ritz: new pending partners waiting on MATTERS new platform off of Health Commerce System, is currently in live testing,
- d. Josias Bartram: very very close to having HRVM in library rotunda through BCHD and ACBC. When library is open will have access to Naloxone and information as well as sexual health supplies.
- e. Kathy Staples: Truth Pharm is working to expand Naloxboxes, Naloxbox now at the Lisle Free library.

11:33 AM

Meeting Adjourned

**Next BOAC Meeting: Wednesday March 19, 2025, 2:00pm-3:30pm**

