



Wednesday, March 19, 2025 | 2:00pm-3:30pm

Broome County Health Department, Conference Rooms A & B

225 Front Street Binghamton, NY 13905

Virtual Option: <https://broome.zoom.us/j/85031762374> (Meeting ID: 850 3176 2374)

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1. Welcome and Call to Order

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2. Moment of Silence, Meeting Expectations, Introductions

In Person: John Barry (Southern Tier AIDS Program), Courtney Rowley (Addiction Center of Broome County), Kristin Russell (Tioga County Public Health), Alexis Savidge (Family Planning of South Central New York), Maria Fabrizi (Broome County Mental Health-Prevention Coalition), Katie Medinosky (Broome County Department of Social Services), Paul Battisti (Broome County District Attorney), Michael O'Brien (Broome County Probation), Josias Bartram (Broome County Public Library), Carmela Pirich (Addiction Center of Broome County), Leigh Stevens (Hope Foundation of Binghamton), Julianne Lee (Rural Health Network of SCNY), Jill Beloch (Community Member), Amber Coyne (Binghamton University), Kathy Staples (Truth Pharm), Cal Brown (United Health Services), Rachel Leri (Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network), Amanda Parker (Addiction Center of Broome County), Wendy Antalek (Broome Tioga BOCES), Lynette Bellmore (Broome County Health Department), Mike Bender (Broome County Health Department), Mackenzie Squair (Broome County Health Department Intern), Marissa Knapp (Broome County Health Department Overdose Prevention Program) Jules Cole (Broome County Health Department Overdose Prevention Program), Michelle Bertoni (Broome County Health Department Overdose Prevention Program), Scott Spicer (Broome County Health Department Overdose Prevention Program), Abby Kaiser (Broome County Health Department Overdose Prevention Program)

Virtual: Erica Robinson (Helio Health), Kristin Beylo (Broome County Family Violence Prevention Council), Kylie Holochak (Tioga County Public Health & Tioga ASAP), Rasheema Wright (Binghamton University), Jules Denning (NCADD RA Finger Lakes Prevention Resource Center), Martie Ritz (MATTERS), Patti Townsend (Hope's Closet/FVPC), Kristin Oliver (SUNY Broome), Jim Hawley (NY/NJ

HIDTA ORS), Lena Meyer (Helio Health), Katie DeVries (United States Attorney's Office), Hannah Driskell (Broome County Sheriff's Office), Stephanie Aeppli (USGNY-Bridgewater, Absolute), Jack Augenstein (Bridgewater Ctr.), David Brennan (Donna Lupardo's Office), Colleen Wagner (Broome County Deputy Executive), Cara Fraser(United Health Services), Alicia Detrick (Broome County Office For Aging), Sarah King (Broome County Mental Health).

*Acknowledgement that although many people have changed organizations/roles/titles, they are still attending BOAC because of their commitment to the cause.

3. Presentations by:

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- Addiction Center of Broome County, Carmela Pirich, Executive Director, LCSW, MBA
 - 140+ employees serving 1600 clients through a variety of services including assessments, referral, outpatient clinic services, health homes, SEP, play therapy at Endicott and Norwich.
 - Purchased 15 Charles St. with a plan for storage, showers, laundry, outpatient clinic, SEP, care management, transitional living, and inpatient care
 - 2016-2021 Opioid Use Disorder were primary cause for admissions
 - Methamphetamine Use Disorder has increased as primary reason-35%
 - Number of clients who are unhoused has increased
 - OSF Project: increase medical staff to prescribe for MOUD, more time for in-community inductions/wound care/syringe service enrollment, screening for co-occurring disorders
 - Annually call 12 primary care locations to learn who is truly offering MAT services with mixed results. Cornerstone can do inductions within the week.
 - NP served 266 individuals between 7/12/23 and 6/28/24. Team approach with peer, to offer wound care, increase access to psych services, facilitated 9.45 and collaborated with LGU. 549 med management visits, 122 induction visits, 55 in-community services.
- Q&A
 - Marissa Knapp-Q: When calling offices for information on MAT, who is answering the question? A: Receptionists. MK: Working with providers is part of OD2A work, so education with office staff is a goal.
 - Josias Bartram-Q: Is 9.45 an involuntary psych hold? A: For assessment. JB: you mentioned push-back, is that an area for reform? A: Opportunities for collaboration, working with a stigmatized population and systems might not be prepared for the changes. John Barry: The 9.45 adds a layer of documentation to the release process.
 - Maria Fabrizi-Q: Can ACBC continue this work? A: Hoping to hold on to

providers, but population has experienced a lot of stigma, so providers can't see 4 people/hour-need to balance what people need and what can be billed. Money is lost with medical providers and kids, 10% of last year's admissions were kids so always looking for grants that will cover those services.

- John Barry: similar experience with drug user health hub, many have not seen a physician in years/decades, so when they reach a level of comfort with provider, it can open Pandora's Box. CP: when we talk about unhoused people, the need for podiatry/foot is overwhelming. JB: the wounds are due to veterinary drugs in the illicit supply which cause gaping wounds that are deep & challenging to care for. Josias Bartram: a lot of people doing self-wound care in the library. Marissa: wound care supplies available and maybe could be like a period pantry at BCPL. Josias: we could have that, or it could be in the vending machine?
- Marissa-Q : what does HCP outreach look like? Amanda Parker: it's very peer driven—they make referrals to provider. Peers are trained as community health workers to do low level wound care and wound assessment. Success in peers being trusted by provider to recognize when it is serious concern. Courtney: he's very available so when called with concern, will ask a few follow-up questions and assess if he can help or if an ambulance needs to be called.
- Marissa-Q: is telehealth an option? Carmela: hope for more, but this provider wants to physically see the person.
- John Barry: STAP staff also struggling with current situation-have been told they shouldn't be doing wound care, but instead give supplies and direction. Q: Is there a way to do a training in the county around street medicine? Maybe a medic training that might allow them to do the hands-on stuff with lower liability concerns? Michael Bender: Might be something to look into, once you get certified, then there are different standards of documentation etc., so it might be simpler as a civilian. Wendy Antalek: as a civilian, you'll be covered under the Good Samaritan Law, but would staff be willing to be First Aid trained? JB: possible, but they are encountering more severe wounds. WA: it would be very basic level of training to make a dressing. MK: Have you researched other communities that have a model? JB: will be reaching out to Chicago to learn how they are training people to do street medicine. MB: could start with simple foot washing and sock provision. JB: our mobile harm reduction is out providing socks, sweatshirts, tents, etc., but wounds are still.
- Martie Ritz: grateful for ACBC great work.

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- Kristin Beylo: Amazing work! Family practice is likely a first step for children presenting with misuse. Courtney Rowley: A lot of referrals come from pediatricians for adolescents, with schools ranking as second referral source.
- Hope Foundation of Binghamton, Leigh Stevens, Executive Director, Psy.D, NCSP
 - Non-profit arm of Two Rivers Church with offices and homes in Johnson City.
 - Men's home reopened in November and the beds are full.
 - Serve people with needs including addiction, recent incarceration, homelessness, or trafficking. Accept residents on parole or probation.
 - Accept people who are 18 are over, choosing to come on their own, 30 days from last use
 - Hope Home: 12 recovery housing with a family environment with goal of wellness- goals set by individual: could be social, physical, or financial.
 - Homes are peer run with expectation of abstinence. MAT and other prescriptions are allowed but self-administered.
 - Expectation to contribute, volunteer, financially contribute, and participate in running the household.
 - Operates with social model with peer support, resident choices, meetings.
 - Certified by National Alliance for Recovery Residences.
 - Refer out to community agencies for services.
 - Cannot accommodate pregnant or nursing people or children, those with intensive psychiatric or medical needs, or those who cannot perform activities of daily living.
 - Women's Home: level 2.5 10 bed
 - Men's Home: Level 1-more comparable to halfway or Oxford House, 6 bed, peer run. 30-day probation period for adjustment, then must have 30+hours of work/week unless full time student or full-time treatment and pay rent.
 - Both: single family residence with house rules and meetings, self-help meetings encouraged, drug screening, and access services in the community.
 - Funding: grants, donors, fundraising, TANF/SSI, sponsorships, major gifts
 - Settlement funds covered personnel and rent in the convent August 23-Feb 24.
 - As of 3/19 discontinuing paid staff and space in the convent. Women's home residents will move to a smaller home across town to a level one home and it will be structured more like men's home.
 - Men's home has a waiting list so convent will transition to second men's home.
 - Will be applying to OASAS recovery home certification
 - Sarah King shared link to regulations:

- Staff working toward CRPA or CASAC
- Q&A
 - John Berry-Q: Will applying to OASAS allow you to access some of their funds?
A: Yes, it will open up some opportunities (\$75K/house) and anticipate being certified through their newly released certification. OASAS recognition will build clout as well.
 - Marissa Knapp: Not sure if you're connected to Kristin Oliver, but SUNY Broome is covering tuition for CASAC, so maybe Leigh and Kristin can connect.
 - Paul Battisti-Q: How many women are in the house that you need to find new housing for? A: they will be moving to the smaller rental in one month, so those five do not need to find new housing. PB: Have those women been in the program for a while? LS: One just hit her seventh month with us, so we hope she makes the transition with us.

4. Broome County Health Department Overdose Prevention Program Updates

- a. *The Next Generation: Breaking Fentanyl's Grip* will be airing. If anyone watches, please provide feedback.
 - i. See the trailer here: <https://vimeo.com/1060972083/55dffe2740?share=copy>
 - ii. Wednesday 3/26/25, 10-11pm, WIVT-ABC
 - iii. Thursday 3/27/25, 7-8pm, WBGH-NBC
- b. Have selected a Public Safety Public Health Liaison to help advance public safety and public health collaboration as a part of OD2A, awaiting federal approval for contract to be put in place.
- c. Will re-issue Evaluator Request for Proposals, please share with your networks.
- d. April 26 is DEA Drug Take Back Day, we are happy to share/promote any events you have happening.
- e. Wound Care and Wellness Supplies are available.
 - i. Q: Jules Lee asked if it is possible to get a supply to keep at the office. A: Yes! Let Overdose Prevention know if you are interested.
- f. County Naloxbox Update: 2 have been placed at DSS, 10 will be going to BC Parks in April. Office for Aging and Transit are next.
 - i. Broome County Probation expressed interest in a Naloxbox at their office.
- g. Opioid Settlement Funded Projects: currently 9 are funded 6 will end 7/31/25. Look for the next round on the website.
- h. Spike Alert Text Program has changed numbers, see updated information on the

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website

- i. BOAC website has been updated, send any suggestions and we will do our best to incorporate them: <https://broomecountyny.gov/boac>

5. Agency/group announcements/program updates

- a. **SUNY Broome:** we ended up with 46 students that were funded this semester with the settlement funds. We have reached out and asked for more funds so we can keep this going! (Kristin Oliver).
- b. **FVPC:** Come and Play Day is the Thursday of Spring Break, table with activities for kids! Erica Robinson had a lot of success with family interaction for Narcan last year! Form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxfvJdFcOX_uVyLMovbjfEgfhSPZNAoGBqDvlQiSBlvfZQ/viewform?usp=sharing (Kristin Beylo).
- c. **BCCC @ BU:** B-Healthy is hosting annual Health Fair-all are welcome to attend, even if not tabling, there will be a juice bar and networking. Prescription for Sustainability with focus on environmental importance of safe drug disposal April 23, 11-1:30 (Rasheema Wright).
- d. **NY/NJ HIDTA:** Data collected of overdoses in Broome County collected in Broome County through ODMAPS when law enforcement responds to 9-11 calls is zero for the month. Meetings Friday and next Tuesday to investigate a breakdown in data collection as this information is what triggers spike alerts. (Jim Hawley).
 - i. Kathy Staples reported submitting two Naloxone usage forms to the state today.
- e. **BCPL:** Active peer support at the library through Catholic Charities and other organizations. Harm Reduction Vending Machine at the library is days away from being active. Will share information about press conference as available. (Josias Bartram).
- f. **Truth Pharm:** Comfort Club with an art activity Thursday night (3/20). Tuesday, 3-7 will be community art hours, all are welcome (Kathy Staples).
- g. **ACBC:** Family Navigation is getting a peer to help with tabling and family referrals. Peers are continuing to work with law enforcement (Courtney Rowley & Amanda Parker).
- h. **STAP:** Received a 5-year housing grant at \$1.2 million/year available to people on Medicaid and home health eligible-people with 3 inpatient visits or 5 ER visits in the past 12 months. Timing is not yet clear from the state level (John Barry).
 - i. Marissa Knapp asked if they would be building or using existing structures. The program will work through stipends for apartments.
- i. **Jill Beloch:** Private practice is open for virtual and in-person appointments on Main St. in Endicott along the bus line, and is accepting Medicaid.
- j. **Prevention Coalition:** BOCES is funding two districts to implement a comprehensive

prevention plan starting in third grade using data and building a plan. Through staff trainings, they are helping teachers see the bigger picture of adolescent substance use (Maria Fabrizi).

- k. **BU:** Connecting employers to students who are looking for internships (Amber Coyne).
- l. **Broome County DA:** travelled to Florida with Jim Hawley to learn about PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative). Will be further investigating implementing diversion programs in Broome County (Paul Battisti).
- m. **UHS:** Taking new patients at Johnson City Primary Care, including new Suboxone patients. Residents would benefit from experience with patients with substance use. Will share data presented by ACBC about front line staff knowledge of services (Cal Brown).

6. Surveys:

- a. Broome Drop-In Center Survey (from *Broome County Mental Health Department*)
 - i. Looking for larger sample size and extending to April; hoping to get people who access or want to access services.
 - ii. <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/39cdb49f6d2449598933174bf7aecbf9>
- b. BOAC Meeting Evaluation
 - i. <https://forms.office.com/g/L3Yd5PAgF0>

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Meeting Adjourned

Next BOAC Meeting: Thursday, May 8, 2025, 9:00am-10:30am