

## January 11, 2024 BOAC Minutes

**Call to Order:** Kristin Russell, Broome County Health Department

**Welcome:** Mary McFadden & Kristin Russell, Broome County Health Department

- Kicking off 2024 with renewed energy and spirit, we will continue to see great things being done around this important work.
- 2023 saw a 20% reduction in fatal overdoses and a 27% reduction in non-fatal overdoses
- Policy, system, and environmental changes to come in the lives of those living with SUD and their families.
- Overdose prevention team is striving to meet the needs of those in the room, please let one of them know if you need any accommodations to make you more comfortable.
- Every person in the room brings value and we appreciate you being here. Please know that you are heard and valued.
- While everyone carries a history with them, keep in mind that the North Star guiding our work is reducing the number of overdoses in Broome County.

### Moment of Silence

#### Statement from Marissa Knapp

- Sorry she's unable to be here today due to her son's unexpected surgery.
- Thanks to the County Executive's office and Public Health Director, Mary McFadden in supporting what she considers to be the most significant public health crisis of our lifetime.
- Thanks to BOAC members for all they do to make an impact and save lives.

### Introductions

Alicia Detrick, Amanda Florance, Ben Harting, Brian Norris, Brianna Murphy, Cal Brown, Christie Finch, Colleen Wagner, Dorian Feltner, Gabriel Arauz, Hannah Driskell, Jason Garnar, Jessica Akshar, Jillian Beloch, John Barry, Kathy Staples, Katie DeVries, Kinya Middleton, Kurt Zumbach, Maria Fabrizi, Miranda Bennett, Paul Battisti, Rasheema Wright, Stacey Rodzinka, Stephanie Snyder, Susan Wheeler, Thomas Wheeler, Tina Survilla, Mary McFadden, Michelle Bertoni, Juliet Cole, Abby Kaiser, Kristin Russell

#### **Brief Overview & Refresher of BOAC Strategic plan and CDC grant:** Kristin Russell & Abby Kaiser

- Overview of BOAC:
  - BOAC has evolved over many years to adjust to the needs of the community. In 2018, County Executive Garnar expanded the efforts to decrease overdoses by adding staff dedicated specifically to coordinate county-wide efforts. The same year, BOAC changed the name from "Broome Opioid Abuse Council" to "Broome Opioid Awareness Council".
  - In 2022, the Health Department recognized the need for a Strategic Plan and restructuring of BOAC to meet the needs of the community. The Health Department hired a Strategic Planning Consultant, who worked with staff to create and conduct a survey, and to facilitate the Strategic Planning session. The

survey identified the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as they pertained to BOAC and the community needs. The Strategic Planning session had over 50 partners in attendance, and resulted with 3 main goals the collective group wished to achieve. The goals were: 1) Improve Access to Basic Needs; 2) Improve Interagency Collaboration; and 3) Advocate for Policy and Systems Changes. The group also voted to change the name to “Broome Overdose Action Collaborative”.

- Since the Strategic Planning session in 2023, the Health Department continued to build upon the successes of the day, working towards restructuring BOAC to achieve these 3 goals. In August 2023, the Health Department was awarded the CDC’s Overdose Data to Action: Limiting Overdose through Collaborative Actions in Localities (OD2A: LOCAL), providing the county with additional resources. The Health Department has worked towards the integration of the 3 BOAC goals and the CDC grant workplan.
- Review the OD2A Data to Action Framework: Reducing Overdoses and Health Disparities
  - Prevention Strategies
    - Linkage and Retention to Care
    - Harm Reduction
    - Stigma Reduction
    - Clinician and Health Systems Best Practices
  - Surveillance Activities
    - Spike Alert Protocol
    - Data Dashboard

**BOAC Structure and Subgroups Discussion:** (see attachment) Juliet Cole and Michelle Bertoni

- People Who Use Drugs
- Provider Education
- Data and Trends
- Linkage and Retention to Care (Connections to Services)
- Harm Reduction and Stigma Reduction
- Glossary of Terms
- Person-Centered Language

**Subgroup Sign-ups**

- If you were unable to be at the meeting in person, please see the e-mail for how to sign-up for one of the subgroups.
- Watch for scheduling of the sub-groups in your e-mail.

**Questions and Time for agency/group announcements**

- Flu, COVID, and RSV season is upon us. Since the federal emergency has ended, free tests are not as available as before, but the health department continues to submit requests for them.
  - <https://special.usps.com/testkits> still has free test kits available to be mailed to your home.
- AIDR (Accidental Injury and Death Review) Team

- This is one of our most important tools, but it comes with legal issues.
  - It is not as easily implemented because there is not a New York State statute behind it.
  - NYSACHO is working to push proposed legislation
- April 27, 2024 will be the next DEA Drug Takeback Day
- Jillian Beloch, Abby Kaiser, Marissa Knapp, Erica Robinson, and Kristin Russell visited OnPoint overdose prevention center (OPC) in October and shared some reflections
  - OnPoint hosts the OPC, but it was community lifted and driven through NYC Public Health, NYPD, and neighbors. The community makes it happen by everyone working together all at once.
  - John Berry reminded everyone that syringe exchange programs were thought to be crazy at one time as well. The data illustrates the success through 48,000 uses of the center, an ambulance has only been called 23 times. Even if people are not supportive of saving lives, OPCs also save money.
- Rasheema Wright (BU) shared that the B-Healthy initiative will host a Health Fair in the Mandela Room and Old Union Hall on March 29, 10 am-2 pm. Vendors are welcome! If anyone is interested in being added to the vendor list, reach out to Rasheema Wright at [rwright6@binghamton.edu](mailto:rwright6@binghamton.edu) or Dan Matos at [dmatos@binghamton.edu](mailto:dmatos@binghamton.edu). A flyer with more information will be forthcoming.
- Kathy Staples (Truth Pharm) shared that Family Support Group, Comfort Club and Clearing the Confusion programs are all starting. See Me, Hear Me, Treat Me training was done December 4, 2023 and has resulted in 4 linkages. More trainings are being scheduled for January, February, and March if you know of any providers that would be interested. There will also be a training at Broome County Mental Health that will be open to other providers.

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:06pm**