

Atlantic County Opioid Task Force

Join Together Atlantic County

March 5, 2020 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office

4997 Unami Blvd, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Chief Bruce DeShields, Captain Charles DeFebbo (Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office), Susan Iacovone-Long (Hope One), Dorothy Bowker (EHT Schools/Eagle Academy), Robert Widitz (Atlantic County Substance Abuse Services), John Armato (NJ Assemblyman), Joe Bunting (Bunting Family Pharmacy), Andrea Mazzini (Emergent BioSolutions), and Rachel Campbell (South Jersey AIDS Alliance), Laurie Smith, Bob Zlotnick, Amber Cutano & Brian Wilson (JTAC/APR).

Laurie opened the meeting, welcoming the attendees and introductions were made.

Minutes from last meeting were approved; Dorothy Bowker 1st, Brian Wilson 2nd, Minutes Approved

Updates:

Grant Updates:

Drug Free Communities (DFC): The due date for year seven renewal will now be in April, we were notified of an earlier due date, but it is April 2020. If anyone has any ideas or thoughts to add to the renewal plan, let Laurie know.

CARA: Federal opioid grant - year three activity plan was submitted with changes that were discussed in the previous meeting. One of the changes was removing the Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) surveys in schools because in New Jersey it requires active parental consent which makes this screening difficult for schools. We added some things like the annual veterinarian outreach because it was not written into any of our grants previously.

AC LEAD Program: Chief DeShields updated the group on the program. The first graduate from AC Lead completed her six-month program and was issued a certificate and her charges were dismissed. They were having some issues with the courts because cases were coming up on a 60-day list but they were holding them in abeyance, so they are working with the judges to get this fixed. They are having issues keeping people in the program because they realize if it goes back to municipal court the fines are minimal and if they don't pay the fines, they will not be put in jail. They are focusing on the benefits of the program and will be doing a full story about the program with their first graduate about how it changed her life. Interest does seem to be spreading but keeping people in the program has been the problem so far. Referrals are through the county courts, so they met with the presiding municipal court judges, but the municipal courts already have a similar program with about 70 people enrolled and most don't complete their program either. They are promoting the program and giving incentives to motivate individuals as much as they can. The county has other programs to get people into treatment for almost free but for them to be successful, the person must want to make the effort.

The last couple years they have been working with Stockton to do focus groups but were awaiting approval to do the research which has now been granted. The prosecutor's office has a lot of things in

the works and have come a long way but there is still a lot of work to do to get individuals to realize that they are on a time clock and need to make changes now. The difference between this program (AC Lead) and the recovery court program is that this program was designed to get the people who were falling through the cracks. Recovery Court has people who have been indicted, this program is for individuals whose cases are remanded because there are so many.

Hope One: New vehicle will be coming soon. They are planning an event in early April at AtlantiCare Healthplex in Atlantic City.

Narcan Deployments/Trainings/Information:

Deployments - Since January, there were 33 non-fatal, single-dose Narcan deployments in Atlantic County. Egg Harbor Township had the highest number of deployments with 9, Pleasantville had 5, Hammonton and Galloway both had 4. There was one single-dose fatal in Buena and there were 39 non-fatal multiple-doses, Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic City and Ventnor all had 6, Hamilton Twp and Hammonton both had 4, Pleasantville-3 and the rest were scattered throughout the county. These are startling numbers and do include law enforcement and medical services deployments.

A copy of the drug monitoring analysis was passed around and Capt. DeFebbo pointed out that from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019 there were 467 recipients of Narcan in Atlantic County. He also pointed out that out the 467 recipients, about 3% were repeat recipients, and this appears to be staying about the same throughout the county. Capt. DeFebbo also passed around the Drug Environment Report which showed that most of Atlantic County seizures of heroin were street heroin or street heroin with street fentanyl. There was one seizure that was heroin, fentanyl and Butylone. Butylone is a recreational street drug that is an amphetamine derivative. Amphetamines seem to be increasing in this area and trends seem to show that meth is increasing on east coast. Joe Bunting discussed prescribing practices in our area and the demographics of patients. Capt. DeFebbo will keep the group informed if there are more cases with Butylone, he said he also noticed there was a case with Ketamine mixed in with another drug. Joe said this may increase due to physicians utilizing Ketamine more often for different medical reasons.

There was discussion about whether overdose death rates are actually down or if the increase in community distribution of Narcan has lowered these rates. Partnership for Drug-Free New Jersey sent out an email about death rates and a recent study showed that opioid related death rates may be 28% higher than what was originally reported.

Discussion took place about prescribing issues of Narcan when a treatment center holds a family day and wants not just the person in treatment to be given Narcan but also their family members in case it is needed. The Narcan is prescribed to the patient but given to the family member. Also, when a patient is prescribed an opioid for pain the physician may write a script for Narcan however if there is an additional copy for the Narcan a lot of times the patient refuses the Narcan.

Trainings – Robert Widitz reported all the security staff at the casinos have now been trained, there is a Narcan kit in each of their AED boxes. It is the casino's responsibility to replenish the Narcan, so they are working with distributors but are having some issues getting CSI numbers so they can purchase them at the reduced rate.

Jen is now working with the municipal alliances to get more trainings done. Urban Treatment will continue to do trainings, they are still offering monthly trainings at the Stockton ETTC building on Jimmie

Leeds Road and if you would like a training at your organization, they are available. Funding available for Narcan from the alliance grant will end June 30th, the new grant cycle will not allow for any expenditure on Narcan. There is funding in the Chapter 51 grant, LACADA voted to double the funding for trainings. Assemb. Armato told the group sometime in April there will be another pharmacy giveaway, the date is TBD.

Bob Zlotnick has been asked by several people on how to dispose of expired or used Narcan. Andrea Mazzini said there are no set recommendations for used Narcan disposal at this time, there is no needle, so after it is dispensed (sprayed) it can be thrown away. If it is unused, you should follow county guidelines for medication disposal.

There is still no legislation requiring community colleges to train their security personnel, even though middle and high schools must have someone trained. Other community colleges across the state do have Narcan on their campuses. Andrea could get free Narcan for a community college, her counterparts have done so at other community colleges. Discussion ensued about the convention center and concert venues having staff trained with Narcan. Other concerts, such as beach concerts, must pay for police and medical personnel to be on standby and they have Narcan.

Emergent BioSolutions: Andrea Mazzini is the Director of Community Health Solutions in New York and New Jersey for Emergent BioSolutions, the distributors of Narcan. She has a background in addiction treatment and previously developed a suboxone treatment program. She works with first responders and community organizations in New York and New Jersey to get them the public interest price (40% discount). She can also help pharmacies who are purchasing for certain businesses and get them the reduced rate as well. She is trying to meet with as many as people as possible to help everyone make connections and share successes to make things easier for everyone. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to her and if she doesn't have the answer, she will get it for you. Laurie will email Andrea's contact information to everyone.

Brochure for Narcan Reversals: At the end of January, Laurie met with Chief DeShields, Scott Gras (Hope One) and Lindsay Cirillo (AC Lead) and they made some changes, removed pictures, etc. The changes were made, and Laurie emailed them the brochure for a final review. The brochure should be completed and distributed shortly.

RX Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit: National RX Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit is Monday, April 13th through Thursday, April 16th. Laurie, Kathy McFadden, Chief DeShields and Jen Pielhau will be attending. They will bring back and communicate information from the summit and discuss it at the next meeting. There are eighteen different workshops going on at any given time each day so they should have a lot of information to bring back. Laurie has been sending out emails with different articles from the summit's website and suggested that everyone sign up on their website because there is a lot of good information.

New Business:

Opioid Town Hall is Monday, March 16, 7:00 pm at Greate Bay Country Club, everyone is welcome and registration is requested but not mandatory. Laurie and Tim Reed, from Hope One will be on the panel. We, along with Shore Medical Center and The Current are sponsoring the event, The Current will be doing multiple advertisements and articles about the event. Shore Medical Center also planned another event regarding athletes and concussions and pain management will be a part of that workshop. We will

co-sponsor that event as well and contact the coaches and athletic directors about the event as part of the Opiate Athlete Grant. The event is likely to be in May at the Egg Harbor Township Community Center but that has not been confirmed yet.

Charlie's Law - A Deterra rep came in and met with Laurie, Brian and Amber and informed them about Charlie's Law and showed them new Deterra start up kits for pharmacies. Charlie's Law will go into effect in April and requires that pharmacies provide patients being prescribed opioids and other Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) written information on dangers of unsafe medication disposal, proper disposal methods and an onsite disposal method (drop box or deactivation products) for free or purchase. A lot of the bigger pharmacies, Walgreens, CVS, etc. have started to install their own drop boxes. The problem for smaller family pharmacies is that they have had difficulty getting answers on the disposal and licenses needed to do this. This law also requires hospice workers to provide the same written information as pharmacies and have deactivation products available. Another portion of the bill allows hospice nurses to properly dispose of any unused medication when a patient passes away.

Buena Pre-Prom Parent Presentations - Buena High School requires that any student attending prom must have their parent attend a drug and alcohol prevention workshop. There will be two workshops that parents can attend one in the morning and one in the evening on March 19th. There will be presentations on vaping, opioids, marijuana, underage drinking, current trends, etc. There will probably be over 700 parents in attendance so if anyone is interested in coming and setting something up, please let Laurie know.

Youth Summit – April 7th at Stockton most of the high schools that have attended in the past are coming. Every year there is a presentation throughout the day of the Botvin Life Skills opioid module so all the 225-250 students will see an opioid presentation that day.

Announcements:

Peer Recovery Support Summit: Free event in Atlantic City on Thursday, April 30th for peer recovery specialists more information and registration is on NJPN.org.

NJPN Annual Addiction Conference: Friday, May 1st at Atlantic City Convention Center, cost is \$100 until March 15th, price then increases to \$125 and will be \$150 the day of. Breakfast and lunch are included, and scholarships may be provided by some municipal alliances, highway traffic safety, coalitions or other organizations.

Laurie will be meeting with Bill Lynskey of Glory Days magazine next week to discuss doing some articles and informational advertisements for student athletes and their parents.

Outreach – Every summer we do outreach to pharmacies, physicians, veterinarians and hospice agencies about proper drug disposal. We go over proper drug disposal, drop box locations, free locking medicine cabinets and Deterra drug deactivation bags. The outreach is well received, and we get a good amount of feedback each year when we do this.

Eagle Academy has started prom/graduation preparations and had Officer Ed Bertino do a presentation for their students.

South Jersey Aids Alliance– Rachael Campbell works in the office for the Oasis Program in Atlantic City, they have the needle exchange program and now offer a Suboxone Program. In the beginning of January, they partnered with Yogi Pharmacy in Atlantic City so patients can come in and see nurses and drug treatment specialist's onsite for assessments and scripts. They started with about 40 people on the program and still have about 30 who come in weekly to check in. They have an arch nurse who offers Narcan kits to all clients and they offer HIV and STD testing. They have a needle exchange program as well as career programs for HIV positive patients. May 3rd is their annual HIV/AIDS walk on the AC boardwalk. Registration is at 11 am by the Hard Rock and the turnout is usually pretty good. This is a statewide event that occurs in 5 locations (Ridgewood, Asbury Park, Newark, Morristown and Atlantic City). Rachel will email flyer to Laurie for her to send out.

Free Narcan available for all high schools, colleges, YMCA's and libraries so if anyone knows of any that need Narcan, let Andrea know.

Assemb. Armato informed the group about a bill he has sponsored to make patient brokering for treatment centers a crime for both the patient and the broker. Patient brokering is when someone (broker) goes out to known drug hangouts/areas and gives people (patient) incentives/kickbacks to enroll at a treatment center to bill their insurance. The broker doesn't care if the person stays or not, they just want the insurance kickback. Some brokers even pay individuals to relapse.

He is sponsoring another bill requiring higher education institutions to do mental health screenings on campuses during orientation. There will be social media sites, a website and an app relating to this and posts will be increased during times of high stress for college students like mid-terms and finals.

Next Meeting:

May 7, 2020

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Assemb. John Armato 1st, Bob Zlotnick 2nd, Meeting Adjourned