

Atlantic County Opioid Task Force

Join Together Atlantic County

January 3, 2019 3:00pm – 5:00pm
Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office
4997 Unami Blvd, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Capt. Bruce DeShields, (Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office), Laurie Smith (JTAC/APR), Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Tom Douglass (EvangeShare), Dr. Brian Acunto & Dylan Wulderk (AtlantiCare), Dorothy Bowker (EHT Schools/Eagle Academy), Jen Pielhau (Atlantic County Alliance), Dasha Brown (Volunteers of America), Ptlm. Eddie Bertino (EHTPD), Robert Zlotnick (APR,JTAC), Chief Donna Higbee (Galloway TWP PD), Robert Widitz (Atlantic County Substance Abuse Services), Josiah Bunting (Bunting Family Pharmacy), Assemb. John Armato (NJ State Legislature), CWO Tim Reed (Atlantic County Sheriff's Department)

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

Minutes from last meeting were approved; Capt. DeShields 1st, Dorothy Bowker 2nd, Minutes Approved

Updates:

Grant Updates:

DFC- We are still waiting for the RFP and will apply as soon as it is available, we usually submit it the end of March.

CARA- We have the grant for three years, however we do have to submit a new action plan and budget each year, it is currently being done and will be submitted.

Partnership for Success grant- We are still waiting to be told the requirements of the grant. Previously it was prevention of prescription drug misuse and underage drinking, this will remain, but we believe there will be a focus on training specific agencies working with youth, it should be confirmed by the next meeting.

CAB Regional Coalition Grant- At the last coalition meeting I shared the prescription drug logic model which includes the ACES training for the school. We were told they would be reviewed and approved in the New Year by Rutgers, NJ State and NJPN. We will be called individually by county to review the logic models, I will give you an update at the next meeting.

Athlete Grant- We held the Opioid Athlete Prevention Breakfast on December 11th. We knew most coaches were also teachers and that we would not be able to have most of them attend. We did have most of the high school athletic directors in attendance. We also had 20 high school athletes from Mainland Regional HS, and the Superintendent from Buena School District, around 50 total in attendance. Attendees received a copy of the opioid athlete toolkit. Several attendees have contacted us since the event for some technical assistance, we will be reaching out to the rest of them to offer

assistance. We also will be contacting the schools that were not in attendance to share the toolkit with them and to partner with them for future assistance. I have not emailed the toolkit to all coalition members because the copy I had was specifically marked for the printer. Today, I received a copy without the printer marks and will be forwarding that out to all coalition members. The grant is in year two and the amount for the second year is \$12,500 so there are limited interventions for the grant. I did reach out to Glory Days magazine which is a local paper for athletes and their families, in the coming months maybe we can do some advertising and/or an article with them about opioids and athletes.

Naloxone/Overdose Rates: Capt. DeShields gave an update on the number of law enforcement deployments, this is the second year of the program requiring all law enforcement to have naloxone with them while on duty. In 2017 there were around 130 law enforcement reversals and in 2018 there were around 330 reversals, these numbers are not the final numbers, they do not include EMS. As you can see there was a big spike from 2017-2018, and one thing that is being seen a lot of the individuals that are being reversed are refusing medical treatment.

The Prosecutor's office is planning and will be starting the Atlantic County LEAD program, with a grant from the state. This program will allow individuals with 3rd degree drug offenses, to be offered treatment assistance. If the individual wishes to receive assistance, they will still be charged, the local police department will call the prosecutor's office, and if given approval, the person requesting treatment will be given a reporting time to meet with a screener and peer recovery coach for an evaluation and referral to treatment. As part of the program the complaint will be held in abeyance for six months and once the person completes the program, the charge will be dismissed and they can file for an expungement. It will be set up this way, so if a person does not complete the program the case will not be remanded, they will be indicted, and then have the opportunity to enter drug court.

The prosecutor's office is currently looking at the cases from the past couple of months to determine the number of cases that could have been able to utilize this protocol. Once everything is planned they will seek final approval from the Attorney General's office and the Prosecutor. Local law enforcement agencies will then be contacted to set up the program. It will be monitored for several months and a program assessment will be conducted for the results to be submitted to the state to see if it is viable program that can continue to run with support from the state. Treatment services will be needed to make this program a success. Around 19 counties are looking to do variations of this type of program, we need treatment services available for these cases.

It was questioned why they cannot be treated in jail, instead of holding the charge and sending them to a treatment program. Bail reform has taken this opportunity away, due to the way it is setup those with specific charges will not meet the requirements to be held in jail and will be released. It was questioned why the person can't request to remain in jail and receive treatment, this cannot be allowed due to costs at the county jail. There is a program already with John Brooks Recovery Center at the jail and if someone is really sick under the medical contract they will be transported to the hospital, this transport takes two officers which is added costs. The prosecutor's office is making a push for this type of program, the state is making a push and offering grant money to setup the program, they now need community partners to offer assistance with treatment services.

Bob Zlotnick referred to the numbers of naloxone reversals and Capt. DeShields explained it does not include EMS, nor does it include civilians who have administered the antidote. The state has modified their reporting system so if law enforcement or EMS responds to a scene where a civilian utilized

naloxone and the officer or EMS is made aware that it was used, it will be recorded to be tracked. Bob asked if these were successful reversals or just attempts, Capt. DeShields stated most of these numbers were successful reversals however the issue is that after the reversals, those receiving the antidote refuse to go to the hospital. Law enforcement and EMS are also now trying to keep track of how many previous reversals the same person has received. The state keeps modifying policies, but the longer the individual is asked questions the more likely they will refuse to go to the hospital. The law is written that we will make every attempt to get them to go to the hospital, but they cannot be forced to be taken to the hospital. All Atlantic County police departments have had Naloxone since January 1, 2017.

Bob Widitz stated the county municipal alliance Naloxone training program is still being worked on logistically, they are looking into funding sources and hope the program will be back up and running in the coming months.

As of right now Rutgers does offer free trainings for the community and the South jersey AIDS Alliance was conducting trainings on the Hope One vehicle. Bob W. stated there is an issue regarding people attending the training and getting Naloxone and then the Naloxone expires without being used and people attend the training again to get a new kit, or if the Naloxone was administered it is a cost to have the prescription refilled. The county still holds a prescription to be able to order Naloxone. Laurie questioned who was training the high schools since the state law was passed requiring them to have Naloxone in the schools, we are unsure how they are being trained and supplied. Previously, Charlie Kerley, former County Alliance Coordinator, had offered trainings that schools personnel had attended.

A discussion followed about the "almost expired" Naloxone and if there was some way to utilize it before it is expired. A pharmacy cannot dispense something that is "almost expired". The cost of Naloxone for pharmacies is nearly double the price that community partners pay to purchase the antidote. Bunting Family Pharmacy is the pharmacy for John Brooks Recovery Center so they utilize a large volume of Naloxone, dispensing it to those with substance use disorders as well as their family members.

Josiah Bunting spoke in November to the Mainland Regional HS junior class in small groups. He presented information about drug diversion as well as a demonstration on Naloxone. Each student received the patient leaflet of the antidote and were very attentive to the information.

Assemb. Armato discussed a bill has been drafted requiring any location with a defibrillator box, will also have to have Naloxone placed in the box. Laurie mentioned this will then require Atlantic Cape Community College to have Naloxone on campus. She suggested another bill to be proposed, requiring all higher education facilities to have Naloxone on campus.

A discussion followed about local high school students seeing an overdose and no one calling 911.

EMT's and police officers give out information on the scene of Naloxone reversals.

Josiah mentioned some doctors are now writing a script for Naloxone as a second prescription when dispensing an opioid pain medication. Very few patients are getting the script for naloxone filled.

A Philadelphia hospital gave information on opioids with their discharge instructions and other hospitals do not, this could be future legislation in New Jersey. Laurie will get a copy of the discharge paperwork

on opioids and will then forward them to local hospitals. Even without legislation local hospitals could have this added to discharge instructions as part of an organizational policy.

Permanent Prescription Drop Boxes/Syringe Disposal: Dylan sent Laurie the DEA contact information for a pharmacy to have a permanent drop box, she forwarded that information along to Josiah. Josiah had previously been trying to speak to the correct person at the DEA, and was not being directed to the correct department. He has now reached out and spoken with the needed department and has also been working with Village Pharmacy in Cape May County. Both pharmacies are working on the paperwork to have a permanent box in their stores. Laurie let Josiah know once the paperwork is completed and the reverse distribution license has been attained the coalition will pay for the box.

Dylan gave an update on the boxes located in AtlantiCare pharmacies. The Galloway box had recently around 30 lbs collected, and the other locations have already had large amounts collected as well. Laurie asked Dylan if they wanted to work out a joint press release with the information, he will contact his communications department about a press release.

Police departments may be seeing a decline in numbers, this is not a negative issue with the police department but most likely due to so many locations, including pharmacies, now collecting unused/unwanted/expired medications. There are also many locations that are distributing the coalition's Deterra bags for people to be able to dispose of medication in their home. It was also discussed there is greater awareness now, so many people have already cleaned out their medication and in the future the amounts disposed of will just be newer unused scripts.

Chief Higbee asked Laurie if JTAC had found a magnetic container or something similar to offer the bags next to the permanent drop boxes. Laurie stated Brian is researching a container.

Brian with JTAC also confirmed the locations that are taking syringes at the local hospitals. The information is on the JTAC and Atlantic County website. The programs within local hospitals may not be as efficient or well-advertised and these programs will be confirmed. Laurie mentioned after these programs are confirmed a sign could be made and placed at all drop box locations where syringes could be disposed. Chief Higbee said they have now posted information at their location that syringes cannot be placed in their box.

HOPE ONE is also now collecting syringes on their vehicle.

The Hammonton Police Department permanent disposal box has been removed. There was a safety issue with the box and they are going to try to find a solution to be able to collect unused medication. Stockton University and Hamilton Police Departments do not have boxes. Stockton University has a new Director of Public Safety, Brian will set up a meeting with them after the semester break about placing a permanent box in their department.

HOPE ONE Atlantic County: Things are going well, they have been having a lot of people come up to the vehicle and utilize their services. They have hired new personnel to help run the project. Family Court has also hired a person doing outreach recovery services and will be partnering with the Sheriff's Department for parents who has been court ordered to receive treatment, they can then be linked to work with the personnel on the HOPE One vehicle.

A discussion ensued about the advertising for the upcoming locations of the HOPE ONE vehicle. Local police departments could help advertise the locations in their town, information could be sent through their own social media outlets. With newly hired personnel, HOPE ONE advertising can be more forthcoming in the future besides just the JTAC and HOPE ONE website and Facebook pages. There were some recent issues with the vehicle needing repairs, they are looking into purchasing a larger vehicle in the future.

PSA's for movie theaters: The PSA's were put on hold when we found out that Tilton and Frank Theaters were filing bankruptcy. The Tilton movie theater was purchased by the company that is redoing the Ventnor movie theater and the one located by the Shore Mall is still open. Once the Tilton Theater is reopened and we see what happens with the location at the Shore Mall, we will then move forward with purchasing advertising space.

Physician Office Outreach Project: Ashley had previously visited about a dozen physician offices to distribute opioid information and our services for disposing of medication. She had previously done the project as part of her internship for Rutgers, and has now been hired by Atlantic Prevention Resources, and will continue with the project in the coming months. Several patients from the previously visited doctor offices have come into APR to receive a free locking medicine cabinet.

Veterinarian Outreach: Mo and Brian with APR, have visited almost all the veterinarian offices. Most of the offices have taken the information and have been very excited that they were partnering with us. They have since hung up the information about locking medicine cabinets and have been distributing the information to their patient's owners.

Stockton Service Learning Class: The group completed a video PSA, the sound was very hard to hear in the meeting room but it will be posted on the JTAC website. The group also disseminated information on campus, and further spread awareness about opioid misuse.

New Business:

Prescription bags: JTAC is going to be purchasing medication pharmacy bags to distribute to local pharmacies free of charge. Laurie showed the group the bags and asked them for suggestions on information that should be placed on the bag, right now they have listed Simple steps for medication safety and information on local drop box locations. There was discussion on utilizing red or bright coloring instead of black ink, and also making the print larger. It was also suggested adding the NJ Connect phone number for people who need help for a substance use disorder.

Bob W. suggested using funding to purchase reusable grocery bags. The coalition just purchased grocery bags, in the future the bags could have the same information printed on them.

Treatment Guide: There are many changes to the guide and staff will be calling treatment facilities to edit the brochure.

Adolescent Treatment: As of January 1st, the TRY-IT program will not be taking any more adolescents into their program, they will be closing due to funding cuts. Also, the Daytop adolescent inpatient facility in Pittsgrove is no longer taking adolescents and will just have adult inpatient only. Daytop, Mendham location, will be for adolescent inpatient. Ed Bertino mentioned that they do refer adolescents to receive an evaluation and possible treatment as part of their station house adjustment program. The police departments need to know alternatives to refer youth in their program. A list of referral resources for youth is being put together for the schools, Laurie will ask for this to be sent to the juvenile officers as well.

Atlantic County Drug and Alcohol program: Bob Widitz asked the group to fill out a short survey to help the county complete their drug and alcohol plan, the survey has been completed at many meetings to collect stakeholder's opinions. He will be submitting a draft plan to the state and a formal plan will begin in 2020. Members took a few minutes to fill out the survey and gave them to Bob. Laurie stated they could have them completed at next week's JTAC meeting as well.

Not Even Once Program: Patrolman Ed Bertino along with other officers from Egg Harbor Twp. Police Department will be presenting the six lesson, eight week, Not Even Once Program, in the coming months to all EHT High School Seniors. Ed brought the power point presentation to the meeting today to invite the task force members to make any edits or suggestions of the information within the presentation. Changes were made, and Laurie will forward the power point to the group within a few days so they could review the rest of the slides and make any other changes.

Upcoming Events/Announcements:

On Tuesday, January 8th, there will be a full coalition JTAC meeting

Next Meeting: March 7, 2019, a list of meeting dates was distributed.

Meeting Adjourned