

# Atlantic County Opiate Task Force

## Join Together Atlantic County

September 20, 2018 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office

4997 Unami Blvd, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

### Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Capt. Bruce DeShields, (Atlantic Cnty Prosecutor's Office), Laurie Smith & Bob Zlotnick (JTAC/APR), Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Tom Douglass (EvangeShare), Dylan Wulderk (AtlantiCare), Joe Bunting (Bunting Family Pharmacy), Donna Higbee (Galloway Twp PD), Dorothy Bowker (EHT Schools/Eagle Academy), Assemb John Armato (NJ Legislature)

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

Minutes from last meeting were approved; Capt. DeShields 1<sup>st</sup>, Dylan 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minutes Approved

#### Updates:

**DFC/CARA/Regional Grants:** Bob reported to the group that we did not get the Drug Free Communities Grant this year. We will have a gap year in funding and will reapply next Spring for Year 6. We have not received our score yet. Some interventions will be scaled back with the reduction of funding. Laurie reported the CARA grant was received specifically for opioids and we are also currently redoing the regional grant logic models and prescription misuse interventions are listed in that grant as well. Of all years to have a gap in funding with the other grants there will not be too much of a hit on our opioid interventions. The loss of the DFC grant this year will not affect us working with schools and other partners. The first year we applied for the grant we did not receive it, we then reapplied the following year and received the grant. The state also received the Partnership for Success grant again and that funding will come to us directly for interventions, not going through the regional coalition and contracting with Cape Assist this time. Assemb. Armato mentioned an article in the paper of the President signing one billion in funding for aid with opioids, he does not know the breakdown of the funding by state yet, he believes the funding will be going for treatment and recovery. John will get more information for the group.

Discussion was held about all the different drug trends that change over time. Laurie mentioned hearing recently at a meeting that peer recovery specialists should be for all drugs not just opioids.

**Athlete Grant:** NJPN has completed the toolkit they were working on this past year, Laurie has received a copy and is participating in an upcoming conference call to discuss the toolkit and how it will be utilized. We will be sending it out to all school administrations, athletic directors, coaches, recreational departments etc. We will be hosting a workshop for them at MLCC in the coming months for the same audience.

**Faith Based Meetings:** A survey will be sent to the faith based leaders who have been involved with JTAC, to gauge their interest in topics for future training. Laurie mentioned a previous grant that APR

had that offered a five hour Congregational Assistance Program on addiction, this may be something they are interested in attending.

**Permanent Prescription Drop Boxes:** Brigantine was the last one placed, it is ran by the Sheriff's Department and is in Brigantine town hall. Brian will be getting the report for the pounds collected Laurie will have to see if the pounds are separated between the different Sheriff's Department boxes. Laurie needs to send Joe Bunting the DEA contact to work with the pharmacies. Dylan reported AtlantiCare recently got three boxes in their pharmacies, one in the Healthplex in AC, one in Manahawkin and at the outpatient pharmacy in Galloway across from the hospital. They are all up and running and are distributing Deterra out of their pharmacies. The boxes are regular business hours and open on Saturday for half the day. They will be added to our list online of all the boxes in the county.

A local pharmacy that had been placing medication in a local box for disposal, had been previously contacted to stop utilizing the permanent box. It was confirmed the pharmacy had been putting in samples from pharmaceutical reps not any type of controlled substances, this issue has been resolved.

**Nursing Symposium:** AtlantiCare, Seabrook, and JTAC are sponsoring a nursing conference called Understanding Addiction: Navigating the Opioid Epidemic for Nurses on Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 8:30-4:00pm at Tropicana Casino. The Atlantic County Prosecutor, Joe Bunting of Bunting Family Pharmacy, and DEA will also be in attendance and presenting. Postcards were mailed to all physician offices, and school nurses throughout the county as well as several statewide nursing organizations. Please share the information with any nurses you know, Pastor Tom had mentioned passing the information to a friend but they had already taken a similar class. Joe confirmed the length of his presentation and he has already emailed his PowerPoint. Laurie will put his PowerPoint in the bags with the other handouts. Pastor Tom will share a contact that would like to attend events in the future.

A discussion ensued about teens who stop taking medication without consulting their physicians. Joe said all drugs are different, they have different lengths to remain in your system, when it comes to withdrawal symptoms they are all different and some can even be life threatening. It is best to consult the doctor, before stopping any medications on your own.

**Hospice Project:** APR had Denise interning with us over the summer, she created a list of all hospice organizations in the county. Seven of the nine organizations agreed to distribute Deterra and other disposal information to their patient's families. We had a follow up call from one of the organizations requesting more Deterra. We will contact them in the future to see if they need more supplies.

**Blue Heart Program:** This program is for a person who shows up to a partnering police department who is seeking help for a substance use disorder. In Ocean County, the police then transport the person to the hospital to meet with a Recovery Specialist. The program is not 24/7, there are set times, and may run in conjunction with the HOPE ONE program. Capt. DeShields and Bob went to Ocean County to meet with the Prosecutor's Office to discuss the project and they then came here for a meeting. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office is not paying for everything with forfeiture money, a lot of their

partners are volunteering treatment beds. Capt. DeShields said he will be reaching out to our partners about treatment availability in Atlantic County. The program is a large endeavor, it also includes tracking for clients who are using services. Some of the people could possibly be able to utilize Recovery Court, ours is one of the largest in the state. The Ocean County recovery specialists are hired by other facilities, the different certifications between the different programs are still being determined by the state, and there is an ethics class that has to be completed as well. Enlightened Solutions is doing the training for CARES, Recovery Force and City of Angels is sponsoring the CCAR training out of Connecticut. NJPN sponsors the ethics class and the local OORP program can hire someone who has had either training as long as they have had the ethics class.

**DEA 360 Strategy:** They are still planning a three day youth training and were looking into having the event at Cumberland County College during the school week, this may be held possibly in October. Laurie will let everyone know as soon as the information is shared.

**HOPE ONE Atlantic County:** Laurie gave an update on the locations that the vehicle has setup and some information of types of services that are being utilized. Upcoming locations include the AC bus station, and Galloway in the area of the WHP and Pomona Rd. Chief Higbee asked if the municipality would be notified ahead of time, she will contact the Sheriff's Office, it is scheduled to be in Galloway November 8<sup>th</sup>. Chief Higbee asked how it is being advertised, Galloway could put it on their Facebook to help advertise. HOPE ONE is contacting locations ahead of time asking if they are allowed to setup, if they are not welcome in one location they will look for some place nearby.

**Pleasantville Housing Authority drug takeback event:** The Prosecutor's Office along with JTAC and Assemblyman Armato's office did a takeback day at the Pleasantville Housing Authority location and the Village of St Peter's in Pleasantville, 15lbs were collected that day from residents. Deterra was distributed to residents as well as left with the office for the complex.

**Movie Theater PSA's:** Laurie reminded the group they had previously discussed placing PSA's throughout the county about the opioid epidemic. Truth.org has produced four opioid video PSA's that could be placed in front of movies at local theaters. We are allowed to use those PSA's and to put the JTAC logo at the end. The group needed to determine a helpline to place along with the JTAC logo. Tonia Ahearn had suggested NJ Connect 855.652.3737, she said that number will also help a person navigate a treatment location based upon their insurance. Laurie will reach out to Truth to get the type of video setup that the movie may need as well as any formal request that needs to be made, the cost for an entire year of theater advertisement was not too expensive. We can request the videos to be showed just during movies that are PG13 and up and the theaters will include the one in Northfield and the one located by the old Shore Mall.

**Legislation:** Assemb. Armato informed the group the Governor signed the bill to have Narcan in every high school. His opioid labeling bill is being revised and should go to committee and then through the next voting session. Changes were made based on the color of the label and it needed to be determined

where the label would be placed. Cost of the label to the pharmacies was also an issue that needed to be finalized.

**Naloxone:** Charley Kerley who had been the Atlantic County Alliance Coordinator and also did many Naloxone trainings throughout the county has retired. His position has not been filled yet and even when it is, we are unsure whether the new person will be doing the training. This was a project that Charley took on and not a requirement of his position. It is unsure who will be doing the Naloxone training for the schools that have not had it before the legislation. Charley did plan on still doing some training on a volunteer basis.

Laurie received an email from one of the members asking if there was any need for short dated or outdated Narcan vials, so many are expired before they are used. There could be a liability if outdated Narcan were to be used but short dated could mean expiring in a year. Joe will reach out to the other member about the issue. Capt. DeShields asked which milliliter is being used, Laurie will check and let him know.

**New Business:**

**Physician Office Outreach:** An intervention that was listed in the CARA grant will be to visit physician offices with a tray of cookies or pretzels etc., and speak to the physician, nurse or other prescribers about the dangers of opioids, disposal information and locking medicine cabinets, similar to the types of visits the pharmaceutical companies make to offices. Joe mentioned partnering with a DEA agent to visit the office with staff. Sean said physicians see so many patients in one day it will be difficult to see them, he suggested hosting a dinner education event with some of the associations such as Medical Society of NJ or Osteopathic Physicians, Sean can get us contacts for those organizations.

**Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day:** October 6<sup>th</sup> is once again KOOAD day, Mo our new AmeriCorps VISTA is coordinating the event for Atlantic County. Door knockers will be distributed throughout the county, if anyone would like to participate let Laurie know and she will get them the material. Joe said he will be working that day at Bunting Family Pharmacy and they will participate, Laurie will let Mo know and get the materials over to him. Assemb. Armato helps coordinate getting materials to students at Buena HS, other local agencies do participate. If the information is not distributed on the specific day that is okay as long as the material is distributed close to the date. There are also packets for prescribers, this information has been distributed at the last two physician symposiums and will be distributed at this year's nursing symposium. Dorothy mentioned the Interact Club at the high school and asked if they could participate, Laurie said yes anyone who would like to hang the doorknockers on doors or distribute them to businesses is greatly appreciated.

**Upcoming Events/Announcements:**

John Brooks Recovery Center previously has been bringing a bus with a doctor and nurse to the jail to dispense Methadone to inmates. It was announced recently at another meeting they will be getting several offices in the Atlantic County Jail to be able to dispense Methadone right there on site, instead of having to bring a bus each time.

Chief Higbee said they still are having a problem of people disposing of syringes in the permanent disposal boxes and it is dangerous when emptying them, there is no place to dispose of syringes in the county. She has reached out to Kathy Birkenstock and Samantha Kiley of AtlantiCare about the issue and it needs to be addressed. Laurie mentioned Shore Medical Center can take syringes, it is on the JTAC website, she will have Brian reach out to the Chief directly with information. Bob mentioned bathrooms in the parkway rest stops and the OASIS program does needle exchange so maybe they will know. On the JTAC website there is information on disposal of syringes from the Atlantic County Health Department that list the following locations for syringe disposal programs: AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City as well as Mainland Division, Shore Medical Center and the AtlantiCare Health Park in Hammonton. Chief Higbee said none of those places are taking them. Laurie also mentioned there is information on how to dispose of them in regular trash as well. Chief Higbee said that individual sharps disposal boxes are very expensive. AtlantiCare is looking into the programs, they may have been ended, and Laurie will check with Brian and the information that is listed on the JTAC website.

Chief Higbee also suggested a container that could be attached to the side of the permanent drop boxes that could have Deterra for people to take and use to dispose of liquids. The police department could then restock the holders.

Sean invited the group to the annual Seabrook Living Proof Breakfast being held on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. The event raises awareness about substance use and addiction as well as their services.

Atlantic Prevention Resources annual bocce fundraiser is October 6<sup>th</sup>, if anyone would like to enter a team please contact Bob.

**Next Meeting:** November 15th

**Meeting Adjourned:** Capt. DeShields 1<sup>st</sup>, Chief Higbee 2<sup>nd</sup>, meeting adjourned