

# Atlantic County Opioid Task Force

## Join Together Atlantic County

September 5, 2019 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office

4997 Unami Blvd, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

### Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Chief Bruce DeShields (Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office), Laurie Smith (JTAC/APR), Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Tom Douglass (EvangeShare), Dorothy Bowker (EHT Schools/Eagle Academy), Dylan Wulderk (AtlantiCare), Ptlm Ed Bertino (EHT PD), Jennifer Pielhau (Atl Cnty Alliance), Jesse Dariano (JBRC), Matt Piskun (Shore Medical Center), Scott Gras (Hope One Atl Cnty).

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

Minutes from last meeting were approved; Dylan Wulderk 1<sup>st</sup>, Dorothy Bowker 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minutes Approved

### **Updates:**

#### **Grant Updates:**

DFC- We applied for the grant and we are waiting for the announcement. The grant, if received will start October 31<sup>st</sup>.

CARA- This grant is the one we have specifically for opioid prevention. We just started year two of the grant and the interventions for year two are mostly the same as year one and include things such as the physician outreach.

Partnership for Success grant- We are moving forward with interventions and working with the Atlantic County CIACC and its member agencies. Our Associate Director and I are attending the five day Nurtured Heart Approach Training later in September which is a requirement of the grant.

CAB Regional Coalition Grant- This is the grant we share with Cape May County, Laurie stated she appreciates the members of the group who filled out the Rutgers survey evaluation that was emailed. We held a three day training for school staff in August building resilience teams in schools to work with children who have experienced trauma. We had 18 school districts in attendance, 17 Atlantic County and one from Cape May County, 117 school staff total. We will be having a one day follow up training for those teams in January.

Athlete Grant- We continue to offer technical assistance for athletic directors. We will be reaching out to them with information pertaining to KnockOut Opioid Abuse Day. NJSIAA are doing programs within high schools on opioids and athletes and they will contact us when they are ready to do a presentation in Atlantic County, the NJSIAA does the presentation and the coalition will do follow-up with the schools.

Naloxone- Robin Keyack shared an article that was distributed to the group regarding a study done by Stockton University. Jen Pielhau is available to train groups within the county with Naloxone. Scott Gras reported Hope One has completed about 25 Naloxone trainings in the past few weeks, they usually are being done with small groups at events.

AC LEAD Program- Chief DeShields gave an update on the AC LEAD Program. It is up and running and starting to grow. At the next police in-service Scott will be attending and explaining the program. People who have requested to participate in the program have been attending. Some changes were made to their state grant to be able to expand the program and fund salaries.

HOPE One Vehicle-Scott Gras requested more Detera and treatment guides for the HOPE ONE vehicle. They are receiving more calls transferred to them through dispatch, not just working with residents who are walking up off the street. Hope One is having their one year anniversary celebration on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 11-2 at Lenape Park in Mays Landing.

Pharmacy Outreach- Throughout the month of August Brian, Ashley and Mo worked on the pharmacy project. This project consisted of visiting pharmacies and discussing proper drug disposal methods with the pharmacist. They supplied each pharmacy with drug disposal material to hand out to their customers. The material included rack cards, stickers, magnets and posters. Prescription bags with safety and disposal information was also distributed to the smaller pharmacies. Each pharmacy was asked to sign a pledge form acknowledging that they support the project, received the material and will do their part in helping to educate their customers about properly disposing their medications. Between the three of them they visited 51 pharmacies out of 56. We still have the 5 AtlantiCare pharmacies to complete, Laurie asked Dylan if he could distribute the information to them, he agreed to do so, Brian will get the materials delivered to him. The majority of the pharmacies signed the pledge, however there were a handful that did not but still agreed to distribute the material. This is the third year that we have completed this project. Many of the pharmacies already had our material displayed (posters/rack cards).

Physician Outreach- Ashley at APR visited 20 physicians this past summer and all 20 of them received a "5-10 min visit" about opioids and proper security and disposal of medications. Four physicians signed a pledge form and took 100 disposal information cards, 100 Detera bags, and 2-6 lockbox posters. For the physicians' offices that did not take the material or those who needed further approval of someone who was not there, she left a sample of Detera and a letter explaining about the project and JTAC. I also reached back out to 10 of the offices who did not participate in the physician outreach project and left messages for the office managers to contact me. Overall everyone Ashley spoke to thought this project was a great idea but unfortunately because some of these physician offices are owned by large corporate companies, it is hard to get in contact with the person that has the ability to make the final decision for their office. This project is making an impact in Atlantic County due to the influx of calls we are receiving for residents coming in for locking medicine cabinets after seeing the signs in their doctor's office.

Treatment Guides- The updated guides have been printed, a case was brought to the meeting so anyone can take them to distribute within their organizations. Nicotine cessation programs have been added to the guide.

Senior Presentations- Over the past few months Brian has been giving brief presentations pertaining to properly securing and disposing of medication to senior centers throughout the county. He spoke to them about the importance of properly securing medication in their homes and offered them free locking medicine cabinets. He distributed around 106 locking medicine cabinets during these presentations. He also spoke to the seniors about properly disposing of their medication either at one of the permanent prescription drop box locations or by using one of the Detera drug deactivation bags.

Hundreds of bags of Deterra have been distributed throughout these senior center groups along with rack cards and magnets, to date he has visited 8 different senior center locations.

Syringe Disposal- Several police departments have had issues with residents needing a place to dispose of needles they use for medications, since they cannot be placed in the permanent medication drop boxes. Several organizations within the county have met and are looking into some possible locations for medication syringe disposal. A meeting with a company that handles disposal will be held later this month.

Movie Theater Advertisements- The Northfield movie theater has reopened. Laurie and Brian are once again working on getting the opioid PSA's in the theater if the cost for advertisements is similar to the previous owners. It was decided to use the 24 hour HOPE ONE contact information for the PSA's if allowed, Scott will check. Ed Bertino inquired about utilizing the PSA's at EHT high school and Laurie will send him the link and more information.

School Resiliency Teams- A three day training was held in August for school staff on ACES and working with children who have experienced trauma. Those who experience trauma have a higher risk of health problems as well as having a substance use disorder. There were 118 school personnel in attendance, 20 school districts from Atlantic County and 1 district from Cape May County. A follow up training will be held for them in January.

Deterra containers for permanent drop boxes- Galloway Police Department has Deterra attached to their permanent medication drop box for residents who need to dispose of liquids and/or wish to take home a disposal bag for future use. Brian is looking into a box that can be attached to the sides of the permanent boxes in all the departments to offer Deterra.

Not Even Once Program- Ed Bertino reported the program went well last year and they will be continuing it again this school year. There are adding 2-3 more lessons, with an additional person with a substance use disorder from EHT as well as a parent who has/had a child with an SUD. Youth who participate in the program seem to receive better understanding and knowledge from the speakers who have experienced addiction themselves or in their family.

Laurie let Ed know she was in a meeting with another department who was interested in presenting the program at another high school, Laurie will email them and Ed so they can setup a meeting. Ed asked Laurie to email him the link for the truth.org opioid PSA's.

### **New business:**

Stranger Project- The project which encourages people to express their thoughts on addiction as well as spreads information on alcohol, tobacco and other drugs and helps reduce stigma has been setup at the Mays Landing library. The display will be there through the month of September (Recovery Month) and the plan is then to move the display to different libraries throughout the county in the coming year.

Brochure for reversals- Chief DeShields requested a brochure be made to leave with people after they have been revived with Nalxone and then refuse treatment. The brochure is only for this situation and would not be distributed at health fairs or other events. A document with possible information that could go in the brochure was distributed and the group discussed the information be on a two-sided rack card, not a brochure and what information to include.

Knockout Opioid Abuse Day (KOOAD) Oct 6- Ashley at APR is coordinating volunteers to distribute doorknockers throughout the county. She is also coordinating with municipalities to do proclamations for the October 6<sup>th</sup> date. Prescriber booklets are available and will be distributed, Laurie will email the online PDF prescriber document to Matt and Dylan to forward to prescribers in their respective healthcare facilities. A faith-based toolkit and sample sermons are also available and will be emailed to organizations throughout the county. Lastly, a packet is being sent to school athletic directors and student assistance counselors regarding materials available regarding opioids and athletes.

Back to School Nights- Ed Bertino offered to disseminate information at the EHT HS Back to School Night. Dorothy Bowker requested JTAC to have a table at the Eagle Academy Back to School Night on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm.

**Upcoming Events/Announcements:**

September 20<sup>th</sup> NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services Opioid Summit  
September 21<sup>st</sup> BoardWalk for Recover, Brighton Park, Atlantic City  
Sean Kolins informed the group Seabrook is having an Open House on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> 10-4pm.

Jesse Dariano from John Brooks Recovery Center presented information on the Recovery Community Center. They are currently running groups on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays and are currently reaching out to connect with other local organizations.

Matt Piskun informed the group on a pain stewardship initiative Shore Medical Center has begun.

**Next Meeting:**

Opioid Task Force Meeting November 7<sup>th</sup>

**Motion to adjourn the meeting:** Pastor Tom Douglass 1<sup>st</sup>, Chief DeShields 2<sup>nd</sup>, Meeting Adjourned