



Join Together Atlantic County

Atlantic County Government Offices

101 S. Shore Rd, Shoreview Building

Northfield, NJ 08225

January 14, 2020

11:00am – 1pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Lindsey Komar & Scott Gras (Hope One, AC LEAD)

Govt Agency: Jen Pielhau (Atl. Cnty. Alliance), Frank Rosado (NJ DAS/DMHAS), Jake Stroughn (Atl. Cnty. Govt.)

School: Michael Levin (Stockton University)

Youth Service Org: John Roy (Care Management Org.)

Healthcare: Stephanie Weaver (Southern Jersey Family Medical Center), Dylan Wulderk (AtlantiCare FDTN)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Kelsie Custodio & Melissa Rodriguez (Recovery Centers of America), Chuck LaBarre (Enlightened Solutions)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org.: Carlo Favretto Jr. & Kim Burns (Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ), Lindsay Dragon (Legacy Treatment Services), Jodi Fernandez (Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative), Wynston Whitlow Sr. (Behavioral Crossroads), Sean Kolins (Seabrook)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Amber Cutano, Brian Wilson, Bob Zlotnick

Guest/Other: Charles Kerley & Rhonda Fitzgerald (Community Member)

Introductions/Sign-in, Review Minutes:

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

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting, 1st Carlo Favretto, Jr., 2nd John Roy, Minutes Approved

Laurie let everyone know that once approved minutes for the JTAC meeting and the Opioid Task Force Meetings are posted on our website.

Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:

Drug Free Communities (DFC) – We were awarded the DFC grant as of October 31st and we are currently working on updating the action plan and budget for year two. If you have any ideas of new interventions or outreach to specific populations please let Laurie know and it could be added to the new activity plan.

STOP ACT – This grant is a federal grant, focusing on underage drinking and ends on September 30th.

Opiate Athlete Grant – State grant focusing on athletes and the use of opiates.

CARA Grant – Federal ONDCP grant for opioid prevention, we are currently working on the year three activity plan which will begin July 1st.

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB):

Next meeting is at the Ocean City library on February 12th. This meeting is held twice a year, bringing together JTAC members with the Cape May County coalition members. Laurie sends the invitation to everyone, so please feel free to attend.

Resiliency Team Training (ACE's) – There was a three-day training last the summer that nineteen school districts from Atlantic County attended (121 attendees). There is a one-day follow up training for the schools who attended the summer training this coming Friday. There will be another three-day training this coming summer for schools who have not participated or for additional staff of the currently trained schools. After winter ends, we will be doing a training for community organizations and Laurie will provide this information to the members.

Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR):

Carlo updated everyone on SUAR, our student coalition and said everything is going great. Now that it is January and we are past the holidays, he is having a lot of school meetings. He was just at Buena High School where they were doing an activity for the Above the Influence campaign. They have their peers go onto the Above the Influence website and take the quizzes and then are have classes compete against each other for points for their Buena Games. They will post around the cafeteria ways that they are staying alcohol and drug free. Mainland is the newest high school to join and have been participating for about six months. The SUAR coordinators are looking to expand and get into other high schools and middle schools.

In addition to the individual school group meetings, there are County meetings where at least one SUAR student from each school attends. It is helpful having youth from different age groups and backgrounds in attendance.

Carlo and Amanda from APR are taking six high school students with them to attend the four-day CADCA training in February. The students will meet with their Congressman and Senators. This is the first time that APR has ever sent youth for this type of training. There will be about 500-600 youth in attendance

working together for the four-day training. The youth workshops are separate from the adult workshops. The students will be excused from school for the four days because they will be learning and doing workshops. They will be taking the train into Washington, D.C. and the training will be at the Gaylord in National Harbor, Maryland. They do dances and rallies at night with the kids, so it should be a great time. Hopefully, they will be able to present on this at the coalition retreat in the summer.

Opioid Task Force:

Naloxone Training – A schedule for the Urban Treatment trainings was provided. Jen Pielhau reported that Urban Treatment is looking to do additional trainings in Atlantic County. If your organization is interested, please reach out to her or Urban Treatment. The County has been really busy because about a month ago the Division of Gaming Enforcement sent down a requirement for all of the casinos to now have Narcan on site and have security staff trained on Narcan. She has been busy doing these trainings and hasn't been able to offer any additional community trainings. She plans on having all of the casinos trained by February and then she should be back to doing more community trainings. Besides the trainings listed, Urban Treatment can be contacted to come out and do additional trainings if needed. We are looking to do some of these trainings with faith-based organizations this year.

Hope One/AC LEAD - Scott Gras was unsure what they were doing with the Narcan trainings but did report that they do offer free Narcan trainings right on the bus and that there is access to Narcan as well. They are still really busy and have gotten about 530 individuals into treatment. They have two events coming up. The Point in Time event is a seven day national event that will start at midnight on January 29th and all of the homeless in Atlantic County will be counted. Then on January 30th from 10:00 a.m. until 2 p.m. Hope One and AC LEAD will be at the Salvation Army in Atlantic City handing out coats and clothes and giving people access to treatment. They are partnering with Jewish Family Services (JFS), Atlantic City Police Department (ACPD) and Tony Lukes for this event. Tony Lukes provides sandwiches and french fries and last year handed out over 200 sandwiches. This is done annually and is very much like the census. The data will then be available through Monarch. The new Hope One van is supposed to roll out at the end of the month. Scott reported that there is going to be a lot of stuff happening with Hope One. The schedule for Hope One is on the website and their Facebook page. The Facebook page will have the most up to date information.

Lindsey Komar reported that through the Sheriff's Foundation, they have put 24 people into sober living and sixteen of them are still in recovery and still living in the sober living house.

Lindsey explained that AC LEAD is a drug diversion program for people who are arrested with a third degree possession charge. The person would then be diverted to AC LEAD who would get them into some sort of inpatient/outpatient treatment and would then be followed for six months. If the person completes the program, their charges would be dismissed. They currently have four clients in the program and one who just successfully completed it. This is the first person to complete the program so they will be doing some type of interview and public press release with this person to promote the program.

Interventions/Updates:

Permanent Prescription Drop Box Totals – Brian informed the group there are eighteen drop boxes in Atlantic County and JTAC placed twelve of them. 2019 totals have been collected from seven of the twelve JTAC boxes. The seven boxes that were reported had 1,468 pounds collected and 7,557 pounds has been collected since they have been placed.

Locking Medicine Cabinets - In 2019, JTAC distributed 495 locking medicine cabinets.

Deterra Prescription Drug Disposal bags - 7,697 Deterra drug deactivation bags were distributed in 2019.

We have plenty of locking medicine cabinets and Deterra bags available so if anyone needs any, please contact Brian.

Tobacco Update:

Working Well Tobacco Free – Is an initiative where businesses can sign on to develop different types of tobacco policies. It can either be a completely new policy or updates and/or enforcement of old policies. Policies can be for employee assistance or regulating different things relating to tobacco use on the premises. They are currently partnered with three businesses in the southern region. Two of the businesses are in Atlantic County (Laguna Grille in Brigantine and Villa Fazzolari in Buena) and the other one is in Burlington County (Speed Raceway). There are plenty of slots for businesses to sign on. The tobacco team would go out to the business and review different policies with them and help them with updating their policy and these businesses could receive stipends from \$1,000 - \$3,000 to use however they would like (creating their policy, employee lunch, provide information for cessation resources, etc.). John Brooks Recovery Center just submitted an application to become one of the working well tobacco businesses. Just because a business signs on doesn't mean that they have to be 100% tobacco free. The tobacco team would work with them on a good tobacco policy. Some businesses currently have no policies in place as it relates to tobacco. Stipends can be offered for employers who employ a large youth population because the goal is to reach youth to offer them cessation options. We also want to help the businesses such as restaurants with vaping. If anyone knows any other businesses that would be interested, reach out to the tobacco team at APR.

New Jersey Quits Grant – This is a college/university initiative grant through the Department of Health and involves working with community colleges and universities to help them go 100% tobacco free on their campuses. Stockton is in the second year and will be doing different events and we are working with their wellness center. The quit center will be doing a student group in early February.

Atlantic Quit Center – They are currently seeing clients in individual and group settings. They have seen 134 clients since the beginning of the grant year (July). They are currently offering two closed groups (men/women) of about 10-15 people at John Brooks Recovery Center. There is an open group at Enlightened Café which is every other Saturday and it is a drop in/open group so even clients who are being seen individually can go to this group. There is another open group at AtlantiCare Life Center in Egg Harbor Township, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. They recently did a six week group with New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company in Hammonton and provided lunch for employees to come on their lunch hour and get cessation information. The group ran for six weeks and was pretty successful, four of the participants were able to quit. They had a small group at Enphront in Atlantic City and several of the guys have been successful up to this point. They are going to be going back to recovery court and hoping to start another group as well. There is currently a job opening for a tobacco cessation counselor.

Regional Tobacco Collaborative Meetings – Atlantic and Cape May counties work together and meet quarterly. Everyone is invited to attend and Kim distributed a schedule for these meetings. The next meeting will be held on January 16th from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Ocean City library.

Youth Tobacco Action Groups/Incorruptible Us – Carlo covered the social media contacts/pages which are on the back of his business cards. Federally as of December 20th you must be 21 years old to purchase tobacco products throughout the United States. In addition, there was legislation that passed both the House and Senate nationally to ban flavored cartridge products. So anything flavored outside of tobacco or menthol will be banned. This is supposed to take effect in February and last night there was a vote to ban all flavored vaping products in New Jersey and it passed both the house and senate. The bill is now just awaiting the Governor's signature, which he will likely sign since he advocated for the legislative process in the first place.

New Business:

Intervention List – JTAC currently has six grants. Laurie handed out a list of all of the interventions for these grants for everyone to review. The three main focus points are underage drinking, marijuana use and opioids with the link to heroin. We are a prevention coalition, while we work with many treatment centers as part of our representation, our focus is on prevention and almost all activities are prevention related. We do a lot of education and trainings. The federal government is now going to allow opioid grants to help with prevention and treatment programs for cocaine and methamphetamines. Our CARA grant is geared towards opioids or meth depending upon where grantees are located, most of the west coast recipients focused on meth and the east coast recipients focused on heroin issues. Laurie attended a presentation in Cape May in the middle of last year by Joe Landis with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and it showed that the arrests for methamphetamines have significantly increased in the last couple of years on the east coast. So while there may be a decrease in opioids, police departments are showing an increase in methamphetamines. Due to this increase, instead of just covering opioids with the CARA grant JTAC has added methamphetamines as well. JTAC purchased some materials on meth to be distributed and as this progresses we should keep apprised and communicate so we can do more outreach in this area if needed. In redoing the action plan for the CARA grant, we will be looking at adding in some community education in this area as well and Laurie will be scheduling a meth presentation for the coalition.

The first page and a half of interventions are non-drug specific and are mostly administrative interventions. JTAC has to do needs assessments and reports for all grants and are constantly collecting data and working with other groups to secure that data and then present the findings. They use the Strategic Prevention Framework for these findings and have different groups that work on their interventions such as this group, the Opioid Task Force and the Stand Up And Rebel (SUAR) youth coalition. We are looking to revamp the faith-based group this year. The next page and a half is focused on everything JTAC works on as it relates to underage drinking and alcohol. While alcohol is an issue as it relates to adults, the requirements of four of the grants is that underage drinking prevention is focus. The third list is for just prescription drugs, opioids and heroin and the last list is for marijuana.

Marijuana is unique to work on right now, because of where it is at in legislation, we have to keep ourselves informed in this area. If marijuana were to be legalized recreationally, JTAC would change the way they target that drug and would move to focusing on it the way they focus on underage drinking. As of right now, it is still illegal recreationally. This past year Laurie attended a webinar that covered changes of the laws for medical marijuana use and will provide some of that information to everyone. JTAC will continue with education and awareness information as they have and coalition staff has to be mindful that if we are at an event representing JTAC we cannot cross lines when it comes to lobbying versus advocacy.

In the next couple of months, JTAC will be sending out municipal ordinance packets of about eight new ordinances for municipalities to review. These will be sent out to every municipality in Atlantic County and if towns are interested in enacting an ordinance they can contact JTAC. If that happens, it is important to have community support from people who live in that municipality. JTAC sent out information to about 40 bars and restaurants asking them to do 100% proofing to card everyone. Even if a person is 81 they would still be carded in that bar/restaurant. There are only a couple of places in the state that already do this and some places may have company policies in place but it is unclear if they follow those policies. One bar/restaurant reached out and signed the policy agreement to do the 100% proofing. They are the first to do this in Atlantic County besides Buffalo Wild Wings who, we have been told has 100% proofing as an organizational policy. JTAC will be doing an ad in the Press of Atlantic City to congratulate and promote businesses that sign on to this policy.

JTAC also did a mailing to realtors and funeral homes and had quite a few realtors get back to them about instituting organizational policies to have people clean out medicine cabinets for open houses. Realtors and funeral homes will be providing information to their clients. JTAC has been working on these things for several years and are finally getting some buy-in from the agencies.

Communication – Laurie showed appreciation for everyone helping with these interventions and asked everyone to review the interventions and let her know if there was anything we could partner on. Some partnering examples were with Seabrook House and AtlantiCare for the medical professional days with doctors and nurses and collaborating with Michael Levin at Stockton with their peer educators doing Jeopardy presentations at local high schools. JTAC has partnered with other treatment centers and they always show support at town hall meetings with tabling and information. Laurie might do a google form with the intervention information and have anyone who is interested in any specific area fill in their organizations information so JTAC can partner with them for that intervention.

There were discussions about partnering up to have a training for EMT's. A discussion about youth friendly support group meetings took place and Scott Gras is going to look into a few support groups, specifically one in Ocean City. We will also reach out to Jesse Dariano at John Brooks Recovery Center to see if they have anything specifically for youth and Jesse will be getting us information about activities and events that are youth friendly. JTAC will be working in-house on a schedule/calendar for these types of events and will distribute them to everyone.

The group then did a communication/team building activity and everyone was split into two groups and received a card with a picture on it. They were told to not show their picture to anyone and the groups had to try to put the pictures in order using just the descriptions from the other group members. Both groups then lined up in the order they believed was correct and everyone showed the entire group their picture and described it. This revealed whether or not they were close to the correct storyline.

This activity showed how we need to all join together to help Atlantic County solve all of these issues and that each agency/person has different/unique perspectives and can help each other in different ways. Our meetings give us the opportunity to communicate with each other and put into place different things to help each other and we should take advantage of that. Laurie wants to work on a formal communication plan but she will not share personal contact information unless she has authorization from the person whose contact information is being requested.

Southern Family Medical Center is in the process of getting their calendar/schedule posted online and they might be able to add/share events for other organizations on this calendar. JTAC also has a google

calendar on their website where they share events for different organizations and if anyone is interested in adding an event just let Laurie/Brian/Amber know. Laurie thanked everyone for all of their hard work and attending JTAC meetings over the years.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

2020 meeting dates were distributed.

Recovery Centers of America (RCA) – They opened their Raritan Bay facility about a month ago in Sayreville. Kelsey will send out an email about the free CEU training they are having next Wednesday the 22nd at 8:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Networking will be 8:30 – 9 and a small continental breakfast will be provided. This is a three credit CEU training. If you register by email or online the CEU certificate will be there and ready for you instead of having to wait for it. Contact Kelsey or Melissa if you are interested.

AtlantiCare – On January 29th from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. and another date hopefully in March, the New Jersey Hospital Association will be coming to the Mainland Campus in Pomona to discuss alternatives to opioids and pain management and also medication assisted treatment. There will be CEU's offered for doctors, nurses and pharmacists. Though CEU's are only offered for medical professionals anyone can attend because it is very informative. Dylan will send the flyer to Laurie to share with everyone.

HopeOne/A.C.L.E.A.D. – They are doing a coat drive (November – February) so if anyone has any extra coats, please contact Scott or Lindsey, their information is listed on their website.

Legacy – As mentioned in last meeting, they got vouchers for housing 25 individuals with opioid use disorder. This has been a slow process but staff has been identified and are in the training process right now so they are hoping to get this moving along and started in the next week or so. This is specifically for individuals diagnosed with opioid use disorder. If an individual has a mental illness they will be precluded from this program because there are other programs offered already such as, PATH or supportive housing.

Next meeting: March 10, 2020

Motion to adjourn meeting 1st Carlo Favretto 2nd Rhonda Fitzgerald, Meeting Adjourned