



Join Together Atlantic County

Atlantic County Government Offices
101 S. Shore Rd, Shoreview Building
Northfield, NJ 08225
November 12, 2019
11:00am – 1:00pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Lindsey Komar & Scott Gras (HOPE ONE, AC LEAD),

Govt Agency: Jen Pielhau (Atl. Cnty. Alliance), Sofia Noncent-Johnson (Division of Children and Families-CSOC)

School:

Youth Service Org: Kathryn Saxton-Granato (Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council), John Roy (Care Management Org)

Healthcare: Lisa Celebre (AtantiCare), Danielle Bartsche (Poison Control Center)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Kelsie Custodio (Recovery Centers of America),

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org.: Carlo Favretto Jr. & Ashley Hulek (Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ), Ken Litwak (Council on Compulsive Gambling of NJ), Jodi Fernandez (Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative), Lindsay Dragon (Legacy Treatment Services), Sean Kolins (Seabrook)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Brian Wilson, Bob Zlotnick, Ashley Rhea

Guest/Other: Alaina Pattillo (Heart & Soul-Northfield)

Introductions/Sign-in, Review Minutes:

Opened with ice breaker

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting, with one edit – 1st John Roy 2nd Kathryn Saxton-Granato

Laurie announced that there are JTAC grocery bags available for anyone who would like one. This meeting will be the last meeting of 2019 and Laurie appreciates everyone volunteering throughout the year.

Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:

Drug Free Communities (DFC) - Bob reported that APR applied for the DFC grant and was notified on October 30th that they received the grant which is for the next five years. DFC is a grant funded by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and is administered through SAMHSA. They had the DFC grant for five years and applied for it last year but unfortunately did not receive it. They should be good for the next five years assuming that the federal budget stays intact. After year ten, funding will end and JTAC will possibly be funded through other coalition grants or through their sustainability plan.

There is a full-time (35 hour) coalition assistant position being posted internally for ten days. If it is not filled internally, it will be sent out to coalition members and the general public. The salary range is \$30,000-\$35,000, plus benefits. Bob doesn't envision anyone internally applying for the position so a job announcement most likely will be sent out within the next two weeks.

STOP-ACT- This is our federal underage drinking grant. Laurie reported that the PSA poster contest is a message to parents from kids about underage drinking that is held every year. With the STOP-ACT funding we are able to turn the contest winner's poster into a billboard. The winner from this year's contest is currently being displayed on the Whitehorse Pike for the next three months. Brian has posted pictures of the billboard on the JTAC website and Facebook account.

Opiate Athlete Grant- This is one of our State funded grants. For Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day we reached out to athletic directors and shared information with them. Laurie also attended a football game at Buena Regional High School and the campaign activities were tied in with Red Ribbon Week. There were a lot of activities surrounding this week and during the game they made announcements about opioid awareness and had several informational tables set up as well. The athletes all wore Knock Out Opioid Abuse stickers on their helmets and had stickers on their water bottles. The cheerleaders also had information and wore their hair up in red ribbons. This event was a great way to reach parents and student athletes.

Laurie is waiting to hear from the NJSIAA to pick counties to have a high school participate in a program for parents, coaches and athletes. One was completed at Williamstown High School and one other one was done across the State. They are picking eight more schools this year and they will do the rest of the counties the following year. She does not know if we are going to be selected but if we are, it will fall under the Opiate Athlete Grant which is about \$12,000. Otherwise, JTAC will do a breakfast similar to the previous one we held in 2018. We are also reaching out to Galloway Twp. and Egg Harbor Twp. Recreation Departments so we reach middle school athletes and their parents as well.

CARA Grant- CARA is a Federal Opioid grant, we just started year two and are continuing with interventions.

Partnership for Success- PFS is a State grant in which we are partnering with the Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council to provide support and substance use disorder information to the CIACC and its member organizations. Kathy McFadden and Laurie were trained as Nurtured Heart Approach trainers. Laurie is on a committee with NJPN to create a presentation for all CIACC's on the Strategic Prevention Framework.

Committee/Work Group Updates:

Laurie reported between now and January some of the committees will be meeting and they are now looking for a new chairperson. The chairperson will assist in running the meetings. The agenda would already be set up and JTAC would take care of the minutes. The chairperson would be used when JTAC is applying for grants and have formal documents that need to be signed. If you are a member who is interested in becoming a chairperson, please reach out to Laurie. This would only be for year 2020 due to JTAC trying to keep the chairperson position on a one year term.

Stand Up and Rebel:

Carlo reported that Stand Up and Rebel has been doing very well since the start of the new school year. Even though they lost twelve seniors from the County group at the end of the last school year, they have rallied back and increased the number of youth involvement by recruiting new students to attend County meetings. Some new attendees included students from schools that we don't currently have school groups with such as Davies Middle School and Atlantic City High School. They are talking with administration to bring SUAR to those schools.

Opioid Task Force:

Naloxone Training - Jen Pielhau reported that Atlantic County Alliance had some funding to do county-wide Narcan trainings. They have been doing these programs for the last couple of years but briefly stopped because the previous coordinator retired. In addition to the Atlantic County Alliance, Urban Treatment has reached out to Jen to come in and do more Narcan trainings throughout the county. Urban Treatment has a larger capacity to fund and give out Narcan kits to the community. If anyone has any groups that would be interested in Narcan training, please reach out to Jen.

ACLEAD/ HOPE ONE - Lindsey Komar reported that ACLEAD has started to take off with seven participants currently. ACLEAD is a drug diversion program, if someone is arrested with a 3rd degree possession charge, they are referred to the program. After an evaluation, they will then get the person into inpatient/outpatient treatment and the person would be part of the program for six months. As long as they follow the rules of the program, the charges against them would be dropped.

Scott Gras reported Hope One is doing well and staying busy. So far they have over 500 people receiving services through the program. They provide free Narcan training to family members, friends, and people who are suffering from a substance use disorder. They are anticipating to roll out a new Hope One van in January. They did receive a new grant but he is not sure how it will be broken down. Hope One has an event coming up on December 10th that will be held at the corner of Tennessee and Pacific Avenues in Atlantic City where they believe there is a high presence of people who are in need of help. Fusion church, If Not for Grace, and Cape May and Cumberland Counties and will be attending the December 10th event. If Not for Grace is an organization that offers showers, and distributes clothes, snacks, and toiletries. Currently they are done for the season for the showers but they will still be out with Hope One to support the event. Scott ordered a case of emergency blankets and has offered JTAC members a few to place in their cars to hand out in the community to people who may be in need.

Refusing Treatment Brochure- Laurie reported that a refusal for treatment brochure was requested by Chief Bruce Deshields so that there was a resource/warning they could give to anyone that has refused treatment after they have over dosed. They are seeing the same people being revived by Narcan. They are developing a rack card saying you have refused to get treatment and here is what could happen. This brochure would include information on how to contact Hope One. Scott is going to follow-up on getting approval on listing Hope One as a main contact.

Deterra Container for Drop Boxes - Brian reported that there are currently eighteen permanent prescription drop boxes throughout Atlantic County, ten of them were placed by JTAC. At the end of each year Brian requests the weight of prescription drugs collected from each of the ten drop boxes. As of December 2018, there has been over 6,000 pounds collected from the boxes. Some issues have arose with residents disposing of liquids in the boxes. The drop boxes are only for pills and patches. Brian explained that JTAC is now offering holders to attach to the side of drop boxes which will hold Deterra drug deactivation bags for residents to dispose of liquids. Hopefully, this will help deter residents from disposing of liquids in the drop boxes. Another issue that the police have encountered are people depositing of sharps in the boxes. There are talks about how to address this issue, and what we can do to deter this from happening. Galloway Police Department's drop box has a warning on the box for illegal dumping and lists the penalty for placing anything in the box that is not allowed.

Interventions/Updates:

Senior Presentations - Brian reported that he has gone to nine senior centers to present on the importance of properly securing and disposing of medication. He discussed the drop box locations that are located throughout the county and what is/is not allowed in the boxes. He also demonstrated how to use the medicine lock boxes and the Deterra drug deactivation bags. Additional information was provided including rack cards, magnets, JTAC brochure, Treatment Resource Guides, and Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day brochures. This project has been going really well and he has a few more visits scheduled to do in the upcoming months.

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day - Ashley reported that we had volunteers distribute and/or hang doorknockers around the community on Sunday, October 6, 2019 to raise awareness of the opioid epidemic impacting New Jersey. Some of these volunteers were from different organizations that participated in this initiative. A Stockton group hung the doorknockers on all dorms on the Galloway and Atlantic City campuses. Ashley reported that she had reached out to local municipalities in Atlantic County to see if they would sign a proclamation to declare October 6th Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day. She was able to successfully get nine municipalities to sign a proclamation. Carlo also took two SUAR students to speak about Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day at an Atlantic County Freeholder's Meeting and had a resolution signed.

Laurie was able to share the physician packets with Matt Piskin from Shore Medical Center and Dylan Wulderk from AtlantiCare so they can email the information to their prescribers. There is a toolkit specifically for the faith based community available and it was emailed out to all of the faith based organizations. Laurie reported that she did have a few faith based leaders reach out and one of them wanted to make sure it was ok to share the toolkit.

Peer Ed Jeopardy - Every semester at Stockton University, Brian and Laurie have a class of service learning students who do projects for JTAC. The students who attend that class are eligible to become paid peer educators on Stockton's campus. A group of them put together a Jeopardy presentation to be

presented in local high schools. Topics included Stockton trivia, alcohol, marijuana, nicotine/vaping, opioids, and additional resources. They have attended several schools and are already back into the schools to present. They will be attending Eagle Academy in Egg Harbor Township at the end of December and Buena in the spring.

Stranger Project - Brian reported that this was originally one of the projects that the service learning groups worked on at Stockton. The students went out and did tabling at different events and collected anonymous thoughts, opinions and stories on addiction from people and later displayed them on campus for others to read. JTAC has now taken the stories outside of Stockton and into the community by displaying them at libraries throughout Atlantic County. In September for recovery month, JTAC had the Stranger Project displayed at the Mays Landing Library. In addition to the stories, there was a table with drug and alcohol information and resources. This month the Stranger Project is displayed in the Galloway Township library. We have received a lot of positive feedback and have had people reach out to JTAC for additional resources and presentations.

Stockton Service Learning Groups-

Opioid Prevention Group - This group is doing an opioid prevention campaign on campus. They created an info graph with information about college students and opioids with a lot of information from different national surveys. We are planning on having these info graphs printed.

Tobacco Group - Stockton will be going completely tobacco free 2020 or 2021. This group interviewed the Dean of Students, Stephan Davis, about this new policy. They have done a lot of articles and distributed different materials around campus to the students, staff and faculty. This will be tied into the APR Quit Center so that students and faculty have the proper resources to help them quit smoking/vaping.

Prom and Graduation - Working on campaign materials for high school students and parents. All of the material is about underage drinking prevention for the night of prom and graduation. These are the two nights out of the year that are known to be heavy party nights for high school students.

ATI Group - Above the Influence Campaign is a national campaign to help encourage youth to make healthy and responsible choices. It is also to help educate and spread awareness about substance misuse. This group is utilizing social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to spread positive messages, facts and statistics.

StoryCorps Group - This group is interviewing people who have been directly or indirectly affected by substance misuse. They then are uploading and sharing these interviews on the StoryCorps app and will also be archived in the Library of Congress. The goal is to help spread awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding addiction/recovery.

Back to School Nights - Laurie thanked everyone that helped. Each year schools have "Back to School Nights" where parents come out and meet teachers and visit the classes their children attend. We participate by setting up tables with information, resources and giveaways for the parents and students. We ended up completing twenty one Back to School Nights this year in middle schools and high schools. We noticed that the high school parents were less engaged with the table than the middle school parents. The plan for next year is to concentrate on the middle schools for back to school nights.

Tobacco Update:

Ashley Hulek reported they recently completed their site visit with the Department of Health. They are currently in the 5th year of the CDC grant. Focus is still on supporting municipalities as they pass stronger ordinances covering municipal properties and they are also providing signage to municipalities in support of the Smoke Free Air Act that covers parks and beaches.

Point of Sale initiative - The tobacco team has been working with municipalities that want to pass ordinances that address the vaping epidemic. This can include licensing of vape stores, zoning/restricting locations of vape stores, density and flavoring.

Smoke-Free Housing - Ashley Hulek has taken over working on the Smoke-Free housing grant. Ashley has been reaching out to Housing Authorities to see how we can continue to support them in their transition to smoke-free and has a meeting with the Atlantic City Housing Authority. She has offered to provide GASO event posters to them to advertise the event.

Working Well Tobacco Free - Ashley is working on both the Department of Health grant and CDC grant for Tobacco Free Worksites. Ashley has reached out to multiple businesses and attended various Chamber events, which has allowed her to network. Currently she is working with Laguna Grill on their new tobacco policy and is working towards signing up more businesses. Each "Young Adult" worksite receives a stipend for signing on and creating a new policy.

Youth Tobacco Action Groups / Incorruptible Us Update - Carlos reported the Incorruptible Us Campaign officially launched mid-August. We have a strong social media presence on Instagram and Facebook, with counter advertisements on Snapchat, YouTube, Spotify, Xbox Live, Instagram, and on our Incorruptible Us website. Youth Advisory Board calls happen through Zoom once to twice a month and the students are really involved. Carlo and Kim attended Governor Murphy's Electronic Smoking Device Task Force hearing in Trenton a little over a month ago together with Incorruptible Us youth from Mercer County. The youth testified on behalf of their campaign and Carlo spoke as a representative of APR/prevention agencies and as a school board member to bring to light the issues happening in our schools as a result of the vaping epidemic. Testifying worked and the youth were invited by Governor Murphy to attend his press conference just two weeks later. Carlo took youth from Buena Regional High School and joined youth from all around the State. They were interviewed by the media following the press conference and the Governor spoke with them for a good twenty minutes after his press conference ended. It was a great day for the youth to put their power into action and have their voices heard. Currently, Carlo is meeting with school districts throughout the southern region to help them address school policy change and bring them onboard to using the Aspire program. After attending the New Jersey School Boards Association conference in Atlantic City, it is clear that all districts statewide are struggling with this issue and after presenting to the superintendents at the round table meeting on September 20th, all administrators are reaching out.

School presentations for students, staff, and community are at an all-time high. Don't Get Vaped In trainings are happening monthly statewide and other big presentations are coming in the next few months. They include an event sponsored by the New Jersey School Boards Association at Oakcrest in December and a professional development seminar at the Carriage House in January hosted by AtlantiCare.

Quit Center - Ashley Hulek reported that Chris Zellers is the Quit Center Coordinator. They have added Allie Piscionari as a full time counselor and they are seeing clients individually and in groups. Since July,

they have seen 106 clients. Closed groups are currently running at John Brooks Recovery Center, both for men and women, and Recovery Court. They have also added open groups at Enlightened Café on Saturdays and AtlantiCare Life Center on Wednesdays. They just finished a closed group at New Jersey Manufacturers for employees and will begin another one there soon. Tomorrow the tobacco team will start a closed group with veterans at Ephron in Atlantic City and are exploring starting one at Jewish Family Services.

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB):

CAB is one of JTAC's state grants that is combined with Cape May County. They meet twice a year to work on projects. In August, they had School Resiliency Training which was a three day training that was held to build resiliency teams in schools to help children affected by trauma. There were 121 attendees, eighteen Atlantic County school districts (including charter schools) and one from Cape May County. They are also creating a toolkit for schools. After the schools have completed the three day training, there will be a follow-up training in January 2020. There will be a specific meeting set up with school administrators and they will be given a toolkit to use. Each team is required to have at least one administrator to ensure this information is going back into the schools. There will be a day of training available for community organizations and CIACC members hopefully in early spring. Michael McKnight with the Department of Education will be the presenter and Dr. Laurie Desaultels will do the school training.

Prevention Unification/Municipal Alliances - Jen Pielhau reported that they are currently working on their strategic plans for July 2020 which are due in December. This will be the start of a five year cycle. Laurie and Jen have been meeting with municipal alliance coordinators about the Strategic Prevention Framework and how they can develop and fit a program within their community.

Cross County Underage Prevention Group - Started about a year ago. During prom and graduation, many high school students from Salem, Cumberland, and Gloucester Counties come down to our shore towns for graduation and senior week to drink and party. The Cross County Underage Prevention Group consists of Southwest Council, Cape Assist and JTAC and are working on a campaign to help prevent/educate people about these issues. If anyone is interested in reaching out to tuxedo shops, nail salons, and florists, please let Laurie know.

New Business:

Egg Harbor Township EMT Chief's Meeting - Laurie attended the meeting and discussed what the coalition does and how the two groups can work together. One of the issues they are facing due to HIPPA is when they administer Narcan and an individual refuses treatment, the EMT's are not able to refer them to a peer recovery specialist. They are also seeing an increase of people overdosing in public places so that people can quickly find them and seek medical help. We will plan on reaching out to local businesses to provide them with some information and even offer them Narcan training.

Intervention List - With the new DFC grant they have over 100 interventions. Laurie will let the coalition know when the website is updated so anyone can look to see what projects they would like to work on.

Glory Days Ad for Athletes - The Glory Days Magazine is an online magazine for athletes. Now that they have the opioid athlete grant they would like to do an advertisement and an article for parents, athletic directors and coaches.

Stockton Recovery Housing Grant - Laurie helped Stockton with a grant that they were writing a couple of weeks ago. This grant would be used to support recovery housing and the rest of the campus. They are planning on working with community resources to bring them on campus to provide more services. Currently, Stockton has two students in the recovery housing program.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

2020 meeting dates have been approved and will remain at this location/times.

P.I.T.C.H - Ken stated that this is a counselor support group that is completely free. Meetings are held at Enlightened Solutions. This meeting is an outlet that allows counselors to have someone to talk to since they can't go home and talk about their clients.

Council on Compulsive Gambling - Ken stated that he is not against gambling, but for a small percentage of people it can be a serious problem. It has one of the highest suicide rates of any addiction which is around the same rate as the opioid epidemic. Gambling is growing exponentially. It's huge in Atlantic County and one of the biggest internet gambling companies is located right here in Egg Harbor Township. Ken is available to come out and speak to any group for free that is interested in learning more about gambling.

Legacy Treatment - Lindsay Dragon reported that they have a new program to house 25 individuals with an opioid use disorder. The idea is to do a harm reduction model with individuals with an opioid use disorder. Legacy can get them independent housing and help them be successful in the community. Sobriety is not mandatory the goal is to stabilize them.

Hope One - Scott reported that Hope One has a monthly newsletter. If you are not already receiving them and wish to, please leave us your email and we will make sure you get on the list.

AtlantiCare - Lisa reported that AtlantiCare has an opioid overdose recovery program for Atlantic County. For any opioid overdoses that have been reversed with Narcan in any emergency department in Atlantic County, a recovery specialist will respond within an hour. If the individual accepts services, they will remain with the recovery specialist up to eight weeks. AtlantiCare also has a support team for additional recovery or for the STAR team. STAR participants can remain in the program for up to a year.

Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative - Jodi reported that with their prenatal addiction program, they are available to come out to do education/training on substance abuse during pregnancy. With the Embrace program, they cover all of the seven lower counties to provide for pregnant women that have a current or past opioid use disorder. The women will be assigned a case manager and a recovery specialist to follow them throughout their pregnancy and after the baby is born as well.

Recovery Centers of America - Kelsey reported that they have a new facility in Raritan Bay that is about to open its doors. It is going to be a good opportunity for people with geographical restrictions and for couples that want to come in together and be kept in the State together. They have new tracks which is going to include a faith-based track.

Northfield Heart and Soul - Helena reported that Northfield was selected to write an application for a \$100,000 grant to help bring the community together. The funding would not go towards a current project but for a new project decided by the community. Eight counties were selected to apply for this grant which would be a 2 year program. The deadline is December 6, 2019. The project they would

consider would be something similar to a dog park or community garden.

John Armato - March 1, 2020 will be the roll out for the secondary labeling for opioid prescriptions. It has been a very long and hard battle.

APR - Bob reported that they have a new trailer at the agency and they are going to be using it for health fairs and community events where it can be parked and used for promotional advertising. The goal is to have the trailer wrapped with sponsor logos. The price range of the logo will only be a few hundred dollars and will be similar to the HopeOne van. They have a commitment with John Brooks Recovery Center and their Atlantic City location.

Next meeting: January 14, 2020

Motion to adjourn meeting 1st Carlo Favretto 2nd Jen Pielhau, Meeting Adjourned