

# Atlantic County Opioid Task Force

Join Together Atlantic County

January 9, 2020 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office

4997 Unami Blvd, Mays Landing, NJ 08330

## Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Chief Bruce DeShields, Charles DeFebbo (Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office), Laurie Smith, Bob Zlotnick (JTAC/APR), Edward Bertino (EHTPD), Jesse Dariano, Keelin McGee (JBRC), Dorothy Bowker (EHT Schools/Eagle Academy), Jennifer Pielhau (Atl Cnty Alliance), Tim Reed (Atlantic County Sheriff's Office), Tom Douglas (EvangeShare).

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

Minutes from last meeting were approved; Jennifer Pielhau 1<sup>st</sup>, Tim Reed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Minutes Approved

### **Updates:**

#### **Grant Updates:**

**DFC:** We were awarded the DFC grant as of October 31<sup>st</sup> and we are currently working on updating action plan and budget for year two.

**CARA:** Federal ONDCP grant for opioid prevention. We are currently working on the year three, activity plan which will begin July 1, so we will discuss opioid interventions and if there is a need to add to or change any of them.

**AC LEAD Program:** Tim Reed reported they had their first graduate of the program and they are working on a media release of the graduate and their success.

**Hope One Program:** They had a meeting yesterday and are in final stages of having the second HopeOne vehicle wrapped. It should be completed and delivered roughly in the next two weeks. They are collaborating with Enlightened Solutions, AtlantiCare and the Sheriff's Office. The truck will have a schedule of events it is attending as well as other locations it will be setup. All agencies are welcome to be on the truck at any point in time. They have been able to provide all different types of services including chaplains, mental health and/or treatment centers. There is a third vehicle in their possession, which is a 38-foot mobile medical truck with about 18,000 miles on it. This will be setup around the county just like the other one and it has state of the art workstations, a conference room and a kitchen. Scott and Lindsay will be working on the truck and they are hiring two additional people with the grant they received. Chief DeShields authorized another two part-time people who will be hired from an additional grant. They are still having a good response to the community utilizing the vehicle. They probably connected about 600 people (not an exact number) to treatment in a year's time. They are hoping to get more people connected and expand this number.

All Rowan medical students are going to be required to flow through and intern on the truck once it's operational. They will look at more people being diverted to Hope One once the grant/educational

program is up and running with Narcan. If the program with Rowan is successful, Laurie suggested looking into nursing programs at Stockton and ACCC for more local involvement. Dr. Jermyn at Rowan wants students to have a better understanding of what it is really like out in the community.

**Senior Presentations:** Brian at APR continues to present at senior nutrition sites, there are more of them in the county than we initially realized. He goes over information with the seniors about properly securing medications, which is especially important if they have people living with them or visiting them. He brings the locking medicine cabinets and drug disposal bags with him and shows them how they are both used. He also distributes information on the permanent drop box locations and gives them informational brochures. He gets requests to present regularly despite not advertising anymore. His next presentation is at Rittenberg Manor in Egg Harbor City. We are still working to find an Atlantic County contact for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren. Our counterpart in Cape May County, Cape Assist, is doing something with them in Cape May so we are hoping to find out who the contact person is for Atlantic County. If anyone has any contact information for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, please let Laurie know. Laurie is going to reach out to Cape Assist because they had an article on their Facebook page last week.

**Narcan Training/Deployment:** Laurie provided the schedule that Jen sent her a couple weeks ago for the Urban Treatment Associates free Narcan trainings that are held at the ETTC building at Stockton. The trainings are held once a month, and Urban Treatment can also schedule a training for a community organization. Jen has been overwhelmed with trainings because the Division of Gaming Enforcement has been requiring that all of the casinos get Narcan training and have Narcan on their site. Because of this, she hasn't scheduled any community Narcan trainings. If Jen is unavailable to train an organization Urban Treatment will almost always do it, they are looking for more Atlantic County locations to train for their grant.

At Jen's last countywide alliance meeting, she encouraged alliances to set up Narcan trainings. The alliances are in the process of setting up their new fiscal plans so they may not be able to start setting them up until spring. The teacher at Stockton who did the community opioid display had a student who needed Narcan training. Laurie referred her to the Urban Treatment schedule, Jen and Hope One. The teacher is going to give the information of the Urban Treatment Assoc. trainings at the ETTC building at Stockton to the Wellness Center and see about the Wellness Center advertising the trainings for students and staff.

Tim reported the plan with the program between Hope One and Rowan is to start a train the trainer program so that outside agencies won't be needed to do Narcan trainings. The goal is to train police, fire, EMT's, casino security, and hospital security. The idea is that people should be able to walk right into police departments, fire departments, etc. and be trained on Narcan. Hope One/Rowan is currently building an online training system so the trainers will be given a user name and password along with an app for their phone where they can capture data for each individual person trained. The biggest problem they are facing with the online system is that so many people are still accustomed to using pen and paper, Excel spreadsheets and fax machines. To help with this, Hope One is using it almost like a survey company so that they can individualize it and capture the information/data that they need. This would then go back to a database system at Rowan. Rowan will have a training analyst and training coordinator working on this. Laurie asked if there would be a Spanish version for more outreach to the Hispanic population. Tim said yes, they are subcontracting out to get Spanish versions of the trainings. Materials will be created for the officers who are doing the Narcan trainings to distribute, the materials will have information on how to use Narcan, and Hope One. The person will then contact Hope One, to

find treatment or links to other services. There will also be a 72 hour response team for those who overdose and then refuse to go to the hospital. The response team works with creating relationships and following up with people so they can divert people into treatment. Laurie mentioned HIPAA violations might occur if they are receiving information from medical EMT services. Tim stated they have lawyers looking into it right now and trying to figure out the issues. Pastor Tom asked how long the training is, and Tim said theirs is being developed right now, Jen said the county alliance training is about 45 minutes long which includes rescue breathing, it varies on who is doing the training. Hope One focuses on communicating with the family members and giving them information to divert those who overdose so they can do some follow up with them. The approach they use is to provide trainings/information so that family members are trained in Narcan and can administer it so that firefighters/EMT's/police officers won't have to deal with HIPAA.

**Parent Outreach:** Pastor Tom asked if there are any parent programs being done in the community. Atlantic Prevention Resources, the fiscal agency for JTAC, runs the Strengthening Families Program. The program usually takes place in a school setting, or faith based organization. Families come together for the program and APR provides a full dinner, transportation and babysitting for younger siblings. Parents meet with a parent facilitator and youth meet with youth facilitator for about an hour. They then come back together for about 45 minutes to do a family activity. Depending upon the age group it is a seven to twelve week program. There is one week of just specific drug and alcohol information but the rest of the lessons are on topics such as communication, family activities, family time, discipline, etc. This is all for prevention for parents and the entire family. This program is for all different ages. The age groups are from 3-5, 6-11, 10-14 and there is also a high school curriculum. There are currently two groups being done, one at Slaybaugh in Egg Harbor Township and the other one is at a school in Brigantine. There are also parenting prevention programs at the high schools but it is hard to get parents to come out to these events. Tabling at Back to School Nights were pretty successful in the middle schools but we did not receive the same participation at the tables in high schools. Unfortunately, parents don't seem to get involved with the prevention programs until their child has a problem. Nurtured Heart Approach is another program for parents.

Eddie Bertino offered JTAC use of the media room/equipment at Egg Harbor Township High School for any recordings and/or advertisement videos. The police department has two interns that could work on these types of projects to help get the word out to parents. The interns could help us put a link up on our website for parents to play the video recordings as opposed to having to go to a meeting. This seems to be the easiest way to get to parents who don't really have a lot of extra time to attend meetings. This approach also works better because the parents who are participating are anonymous so there won't be any stigma surrounding why they are attending the meeting.

**Deterra Container for Permanent Drop Boxes:** We are now placing bins on the side of the permanent drop boxes. Galloway Township Police Department did this first. These bins will contain Deterra medication disposal bags to hopefully eliminate the issue of people dropping liquids in the drop boxes. The Deterra bags can be used to dispose of the medications or be taken home. A number of police departments have contacted Brian and received these bins. Ed requested that Brian get him a bin for Egg Harbor Township's drop box and he will attach it. Ed has already informed the Chief that a bin was going to be attached.

**2019 Total Pounds of Medications in Drop Boxes:** Laurie went over totals that were collected in 2019. JTAC doesn't have all of the boxes in Atlantic County but they have placed twelve of the drop boxes. Numbers have been collected from all but five of the JTAC boxes. The seven boxes that were reported

had 1,468 pounds collected. Since they have been placed, 7,557 pounds has been collected. This amount doesn't include the 2019 amount from the five boxes that have not been reported yet. This amount is just for the boxes that JTAC oversees. There are additional drop boxes that are run by the Attorney General's Office. At this point, almost all of the police departments either have their own boxes or at least have one close by. We are now working on having boxes put at different pharmacy locations. There is even more work involved in having boxes placed at pharmacies. It has taken at least a year to get the DEA contact for who handles drop boxes at pharmacies.

**2019 Totals for Locking Medicine Cabinets and Drug Deactivation Disposal Bags:** In 2019, JTAC distributed 495 locking medicine cabinets. This number does not include ones that were handed out at fairs but only the ones that were picked up at the office. Posters were placed on doctor offices as well as information distributed to foster families and others through the Children's System of Care. There were 7,697 Deterra drug deactivation bags distributed in 2019. This number may not include all the bags distributed at health fairs but it is very close to that number.

**Brochure for Narcan Reversals:** Laurie will be meeting with Scott Gras and Chief DeSheilds sometime next week to finalize the brochure.

**Stranger's Project:** JTAC has been collecting people's thoughts and stories about addiction and substance use disorders through the service learning class at Stockton for several years. We have been displaying those stories at the County libraries, beginning last September (Recovery Month). We also set up an informational table with brochures and a box for community members to add their thoughts and stories as well. The first one was displayed in the Mays Landing library, then moved to Galloway and is now displayed in Egg Harbor Township. It will be in Egg Harbor Township for about a month and then will be moved to another location. It seems as though a good amount of information has been taken, whenever we go to check on the display, we always have to replenish the materials.

**Not Even Once Program (NEO):** Ed Bertino reported, year two just started for this program at the Egg Harbor Township High School. This year's program is very similar to last years but some curriculum and stats have been updated and an additional lesson was added. Additional guest speakers have been added as well and most of them are Egg Harbor Township graduates. These guest speakers come in and tell their story. From the feedback they received last year, it seemed that the personal stories were more impactful to the students. This program is done just for seniors and the feedback has all been positive. Because of the positive feedback that has been received, the physical education department is going to go into their mental health program as soon as NEO ends. This program will be the same format as the NEO program. Some local towns have showed interest in being trained to start a similar program in their town.

### **New Business:**

**2020 Interventions:** Laurie passed out a list that included all of JTAC's interventions that relate to prescription drugs, opioids and heroin. There are three state grants and three federal grants. Three full time staff members are working on the coalition interventions. One grant covers only underage drinking so the interventions for that grant were not included in the list that Laurie passed out. Laurie went over some interventions and what we are doing for each of them, she requested if anyone is interested in working with the coalition on any of these things to please reach out to her.

- We will be focusing on working with faith-based organizations and will be doing another Narcan training with them this year.
- School based resiliency teams (ACE's)-we had a three-day training last summer with nineteen school districts present, including charter schools (121 attendees). We will be having a follow up meeting on Friday, January 17 with Dr. Laurie Desautels from Butler University. Laurie let Dorothy know the location is being moved to the Stockton Atlantic City campus because there are too many attendees for the ETTC building. Laurie will send out the updated information to the schools. Dorothy will be attending the follow up training next Friday. Next summer, there will be another three-day training done for any schools that did not have it or if schools have additional individuals that they would like to have trained.
- Laurie is going to send out the information for Tim McMahon who is a DEA agent who does the Hidden in Plain Sight presentations to anyone who is interested. This presentation includes a power point, he sets up a mock bedroom and vaping is included as well. This presentation is at least an hour long. This is done at Oakcrest High School around prom and the number of attendees doubled the second year it was done. There were discussions on whether or not this program could be purchased or if some type of train the trainer was available.
- JTAC and Opioid Task Force meetings are held bi-monthly. There is also a full coalition retreat that everyone is invited to over the summer.
- There are many different things being done in education and we are still currently working on the movie theater ads.
- Safe disposal includes education and presentations of the how to use Detera bags.
- Drop off locations are pretty much accomplished at police departments and we are looking into organizations like pharmacies.
- The opioid initiative to prevent misuse among youth athletes is a \$12, 000 grant and under this we do presentations and offer technical assistance. NJSIAA has a program but they are only selecting eight counties each year and we are not sure if Atlantic County will be selected. If not, we will do a breakfast event and invite all coaches and athletic directors like we have done in the past. We are distributing toolkits that we created and doing a media campaign through Glory Days magazine. We have been in contact with Deena at the Egg Harbor Township Recreation Department as well as Galloway's Recreation Department for coaches that are involved with their youth athletics. Egg Harbor Township has a meeting where they send people from every sport club (hockey, football, baseball, soccer, etc.) to one meeting and we will then attend this meeting.
- For ACE's community and police training we will be offering a one day training by Michael McKnight from the Department of Education to any organization in Atlantic County. This will be done in the spring.

- We are trying to find people who can translate our materials into Spanish so that we can distribute/communicate information to the Hispanic population.
- We post things on our website and share information regarding the ONDCP Drugged Driving Toolkit.
- We will be doing a Town Hall Meeting/Conference on prescription drug use. Let Laurie know if your town is interested.
- Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day is October 6<sup>th</sup> every year. We covered these projects in the last meeting.
- We will be having a symposium again for medical professionals. We work with Seabrook and AtlantiCare on this. We usually do two of these for physicians and one for nurses. This year we are looking at EMT's and anyone working with first responders and providing medical information. Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey already has a program set up for that audience.
- We will be advocating physicians to adopt office policies, regarding informing patients of safely securing and proper disposal of medication, as we have in the past. We have about 350 physicians on our list.
- Every summer we provide pharmacies with all of the information we have on proper disposal and they provide the information to patients and hang up the posters.
- We contacted all funeral homes and realtors in Atlantic County. We gave realtors information to give to clients about removing medications and cleaning out medicine cabinets during their open houses. We gave funeral homes information to give to people about what to do with medications when someone passes away. We have about eight more realtors who signed up and a couple more funeral homes.
- Participate in DEA and AMCC Take Back Days.
- After all new city council and mayors are sworn into office, we will be sending out municipal ordinance packets providing information on policies regarding drug prevention. We are looking at having new construction of homes or renovations include locking medicine cabinets. Our research hasn't disclosed this being done anywhere else in the country. Some police officers in the past have suggested this ordinance.
- Atlantic County doesn't have NA/AA meetings just for youth so we are looking to help connect younger people with groups that are more youth friendly. Stockton does have the SMART recovery group where youth may feel more comfortable. We are looking to get a list of these types of groups together.
- Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) in schools most likely will be removed because we need active consent in New Jersey, which makes this a difficult intervention to complete.

- Peer educators visited Eagle Academy and did Jeopardy presentations they will be continuing the presentations in other high schools.
- We did several employer newsletters last year. If anyone has a newsletter, we can put in information about safe medication storage and disposal. We should look into doing this in school parent newsletters as well.
- We do Botvin's Life Skills Training in many schools in Atlantic County and we have added an additional Opioid Module for the middle schools curriculums.
- High school Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR) students have been/will be trained on the Life Skills module.
- We continue to give information to hospice agencies on disposal and removal of medications after someone passes away.

### **Announcements:**

**2020 Meeting Dates** were distributed at the last meeting and were available at this meeting as well.

**RX Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit:** The summit is April 13-16 in Tennessee. This falls on the same week as Easter. Invitation is based on most active members through meeting attendance. Usually one or two people are selected to go. Laurie passed out the information for anyone who would be interested in going and whose agency would pay for them to go. Last year there were about fifteen different tracks and each track has about four or five workshops each day. They run Monday through Thursday and will be held at the Gaylord Opryland in Nashville this year. Laurie will be sending out an email about this in the next couple of weeks. Last year and previous years the President or former Presidents attend and addressed the attendees, last year President Trump didn't just speak but also brought people with him to speak. The days are long and can run from about 8:00 a.m. until 7:30/8:00 p.m.

Dorothy (Eagle Academy) requested Officer Bertino to come back to her school to speak to the students.

Jesse Dariano informed the group the John Brooks Recovery Center is making progress at its new location. They have groups going and are setting up individual times as well. They will be running many different events. They are using a people helping people approach. There will be a sober house as well. They are closing Pacific Ave location and the new location in Mays Landing will have 125 beds of which 24 will be for detox. They will have short term and long term residential care.

Hope One schedule is on website/Facebook page under events.

Pastor Tom explained a little bit about his mission trip and suggested that if anyone in the medical field has any interest or knows someone who might have an interest in going to reach out to him.

### **Next Meeting:**

March 5, 2020

**Motion to adjourn the meeting:** Edward Bertino 1<sup>st</sup>, Dorothy Bowker 2<sup>nd</sup>, Meeting Adjourned