



## Join Together Atlantic County

Atlantic County Government Offices  
101 S. Shore Rd, Shoreview Building

Northfield, NJ 08225

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

11:00am – 1:00pm

### **Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:**

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Capt. Bruce DeShields (ACPO)

Govt Agency: Robert Widitz (Atl. Cnty Substance Abuse Services), Jennifer Pielhau (Atl. Cnty Alliance), Assemb. John Armato (NJ State Legislature)

School: Loretta Grisi-Dicker (Atlantic Cape Community College)

Youth Service Org: Kathryn Saxton-Granato (CIACC), John Roy (Cape Atlantic Inc.)

Healthcare: Lisa Celebre, Dylan Wulderk, Siobhan Lopez (AtlantiCare), Robin Keyack, Christine Bracey (Shore Medical Center), Amanda Wachter (Atlantic County Public Health), Katie Gallagher (SNJPC)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Victoria Reigle (Helping Hands), Lindsay Dragon (Legacy Treatment Services),

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: Mohammed Ullah (AmeriCorps VISTA), Dasha Brown (Volunteers of America)

Other Org.: Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Joe Faldetta, Ashley Sullivan, Nikki Nichols (Cape Assist), Kathy Harvey (APR Treatment), Christine Zellers, Carlo Favretto, Kim Burns (APR Nicotine Grants)

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

Guest/Other: Kurt Ohlson (CODI), Ken Litwak (800Gambler), Rhonda Fitzgerald, Charles Kerley (Community Members)

### **Introductions/Sign-in, Ice Breaker, Review Minutes:**

Introduction/Ice breaker

Minutes were reviewed from the previous meeting. Motion to approve minutes 1<sup>st</sup> by Dylan Wulderk 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Faldetta.

### **Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:**

DFC- We are waiting for the application to come out for the DFC grant and we will then apply. A few changes will be made from last year's application.

AmeriCorps- Laurie and Stockton will be reaching out to Saul who is with the State AmeriCorps VISTAs program to reapply for this grant since it is ending. The grant is being redone/changed, the next grant will have the AmeriCorps Volunteers working on specific topics or audiences, and one will be misuse of opioids.

STOP ACT/CARA Grant – STOP ACT is the underage drinking grant and CARA is the opioid grant. Laurie reported that we have both grants but each year we update the budget and action plan, this will be done and submitted over the next couple of weeks.

Opiate Athlete Grant- The Tackling Opioids for Athletes through Prevention Breakfast was held on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the Mays Landing Country Club. We invited superintendents, coaches, recreational directors, athletic directors, school nurses etc. We had about 50 total in attendance. At first the registration was low and Mainland Regional High School called and asked if they could bring 20 of their student athletes, we checked with the presenters and allowed them to attend. Athletic directors were the primary target audience, we had 8 in attendance. Physical copies of the toolkit were distributed. Laurie received the digital copy last week from NJPN and will be sending that out shortly. The toolkit is mainly for those who are working with youth athletes, but it also gives a lot of different resources.

PFS-Bob stated APR still does not have a contract or anything stating what the requirements will be for this grant.

Website Updates- At the last meeting it was mentioned that Brian updates the website. The membership section needed to be updated and Brian had asked everyone to check and make sure their information was correct. And if you were not listed and would like to be, to contact him but he had not heard from anyone. A piece of paper was passed around for members to write their name, title, and organization if they were not on the membership list or if it needed to be updated.

### **Committee/Work Group Updates:**

Laurie reported that she has an email ready to be sent to active coalition members to select representation on a committee or work group. At the November JTAC meeting we worked on the marijuana position paper, a group of interested members will work on editing that paper.

Laurie mentioned that with the new tobacco grants Atlantic Prevention Resources recently hired 6 new employees that started last week. Some of them are here today to learn about the coalition and to get to know everyone.

Youth Engagement Grant-Kim reported that they were given this regional grant covering 7 counties. Each Regional Coalition was given a \$20,000 grant to do tobacco activities with youth coalitions. Carlo will be working with NJPN on creating a Youth Engagement Model. Each group will do a designated number of Vaping/Tobacco Campaigns, this will also involve vaping presentations and working with schools on new policies. There is also a computer program that we will be encouraging schools to use, ASPIRE, that looks a lot like a video game. It can be used in schools as an educational tool. or as an alternative to suspension.

Stand Up And Rebel (SUAR) - As Kim previously reported, there is a large focus on vaping, but each month they focus on a specific drug or topic. These school groups meet at Buena, EHT, Oakcrest and Pleasantville HS, plus a county group meets monthly at the Mays Landing library. Carlo reported that the Buena group will be doing an Above the Influence Campaign on Thursday (1/10/19) during the lunch period. Students, who are considered leaders at their school, have been given information and resources that hopefully can be disseminated throughout the school.

#### **Opiate Task Force:**

Laurie reported that the next meeting will be Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Naloxone Update- Capt. DeShields reported that there were 333 law enforcement reversals this year. That number increased by 196 compared to last year. We had over 137 drug-related overdose deaths in Atlantic County. Because of this, we have initiated a new program that we just got funding for and are in the very early stages of starting called AC Leads (Atlantic County Law Enforcement Advanced Diversion Program). The purpose of the program is to provide treatment for non-violent drug offenders. Those non-violent offenders who choose to receive treatment will be monitors during a six month program. For those who complete the program successfully they will then have their charges dismissed. Capt. DeShields stated that Atlantic County has the highest fentanyl submissions in New Jersey. However, in New Jersey last year there were nearly a million less pain killer prescriptions given out, the number of overdoses are still increasing. Capt. Deshields is working on a project with Stockton University. Phase one of the project was collecting all of the opioid infomortaion and creating a database. Phase two they are going to set up a focus group with drug court participants and try and find the root cause of the drug problem in Atlantic County. Capt. DeShields also stated that crystal meth is on the rise in Atlantic County. Capt. DeShields stated the meth that they are encountering in pure Mexican meth. Laurie reported that the CARA grant is to focus on opioids or meth and said since we are currently working on the action plan and budget for this grant we could include something more on meth.

Bob Widitz stated that the Atlantic County Alliance Coordinator, Charlie Kerley was the Narcan trainer for the county, but retired last year. Since that time Atlantic County has stopped the

Narcan trainings. Jen Pielhau is the new Atlantic County Alliance Coordinator, and hopes to get the program back up and running. One of the concerns Bob wanted everyone to understand is the cost of the Narcan. It's easy to train people but to be able to continually supply the Narcan is an entirely separate issue. He said that they get the Narcan for a good price compared to others.

HOPE ONE- HOPE ONE is a project ran by the Atlantic County Sherriff's Office, which is a mobile outreach unit that goes out twice a week to communities to offer resources and to connect the community with services. They are currently working on getting a new vehicle because the current one has had some mechanical issues. More information can be found on their website, [hopeoneac.com](http://hopeoneac.com) or on their social media pages.

PSA- Laurie reported that the Opiate Task Force was set to have commercials at the movie theaters, until the news came out that the theaters filed for bankruptcy and shutdown. Fortunately, the new owners of the Towne 16 movie theaters will keep it as a theater and will just remodel it. They will be contacted in the future once the remodeling process is done. Another theater in the area is extremely expensive for their advertisements which is why we are not pursuing advertising with them.

Syringe Disposal- An issue brought up at the Opiate Task Force meeting was that needles were being placed in the drop boxes. Brian had done the research and found multiple locations to take needles. Brian updated the JTAC website and added locations in Atlantic County where needles can be disposed. Although the information is correct and these places take back needles there are still some flaws in the systems. Sean Kolins stated that the HOPE ONE van also accept needles, but does not exchange them.

Prescription Bags – Laurie stated that they will be ordering prescription bags that list information about properly securing and disposing of medications. These bags will then be given out to the smaller pharmacies throughout Atlantic County for them to place prescriptions in for their customers.

Not Even Once Program – Egg Harbor Township High School and the Egg Harbor Township Police Department is implementing a program that focuses on preventing opioid misuse. The Manchester Police Department created this program but focused mainly on heroin. This program is very new and some minor changes will be made such as making the focus more on prescription medication misuse. The program will focus on high school seniors for now, but hopefully in the future it will include younger students.

#### **Interventions/Updates:**

Prescription Drop boxes- Brian reported that the prescription drop boxes have been very successful over the past three years since JTAC started placing their boxes. In that time JTAC has placed 12 drop boxes throughout the county. These drop boxes kept a significant amount of prescription medications off the streets and out of the wrong hands and also helped to protect the environment.

2016 total = 1513 lbs.

2017 total = 1757 lbs.

2018 total = 2819 lbs.

Total for 3 years = 6089

Brian plans on meeting with Stockton University's Public Safety Director at the end of this month to discuss possibly placing a drop box on campus. Hammonton Police Department has decided to permanently suspend their drop box due to officer safety.

Stockton Recovery Housing – Mo reported that the semester will be starting next week. He will focus on improving mental health within the community and providing resources and workshops pertaining to the subject.

Service Learning Classes – Laurie reported that last semester was a very successful semester in terms with completion of all projects. With the semester starting next week, JTAC will get a new group of students to work with. The Hotel Policies group went to nearby hotels and met with managers to speak about policies regarding underage drinking/partying. The opioid campaign group created a video PSA that will be utilized. Brian reported that his Above the Influence group posted positive messages on social media and had a white board campaign where they asked students to write their natural high. They interviewed the Dean of Students on underage drinking on campus and created a radio PSA for the Stockton Radio channel. Mo reported that the Strangers Project group created a display of thoughts written/drawn out by Stockton students about addiction. The display was right in front of the Stockton library. Next semester, he will focus on having a display brought to the Atlantic County Library and getting participation from the municipality. For StoryCorps, Mo reported that all students uploaded their interviews on the StoryCorps website. Students were asked to interview either someone in recovery, a person who lost a loved one to an addiction, or a family member of someone who has an addiction.

Physician 5-minute visits – Ashley Rhea explained that she did 5-minute visits to physicians' offices throughout Atlantic County. Ashley explained that these visits are a play-off of pharmaceutical representative visits, except we are providing free information about properly securing and disposal of prescription medication. Detera bags, rack cards and lockbox posters were provided. Ashley reported that 3 physicians so far have agreed to offer Detera bags to anyone who is prescribed an opioid. John Armato reported that he is trying to draft a bill that requires anyone who is discharged from surgery, will be given information about opioids and painkillers.

Veterinarian Outreach Project – Brian reported that he and Mo worked on this project over the past few weeks. The goal was to supply veterinarians with materials and information to help educate their clients/pet owners about the importance of securing prescriptions drugs and proper disposal. We targeted 19 different veterinarian offices throughout Atlantic County. We supplied them with rack cards, Detera, and medicine lock box posters with instruction on how to receive a free locking medicine cabinet. Veterinarian offices signed a pledge form that simply

stated that they received the materials and support our efforts with this project. Overall this project was a success and all offices were very supportive.

Treatment guides – Laurie reported that these guides were last updated in September of 2017. There has been a lot of changes since then. Treatment centers have closed or opened in different locations. Other treatment agencies have changed some of their services placing them into a different category on the guide. An email will be sent in case anyone has new information.

Ordinance Packets – Laurie reported that she will be working on ordinance packets in the near future, where a packet about new ordinances with substance misuse will be emailed out to new leaderships in municipalities.

### **Tobacco Update**

Kim reported that as of January 16<sup>th</sup>, a statewide law has passed which will make all New Jersey parks and beaches smoke-free. This will also include vaping. If any municipalities do not have signs, Atlantic Prevention Resources can provide them.

Current CDC Grants - Grant 1 (ORO and Point of Sale Grant) Kim will remain and stay the same. Kim reported that she has been working on audits on places that sell tobacco. Coincidentally, it was reported that the police have investigated some of the same places and found that they do provide tobacco to people under the age of 21. She reported that municipalities will also try to regulate vape sales and any sort of tobacco sales by issuing a fee to any who has a license to sell tobacco.

Smoke Free Housing and Workplace Grant-Kim reported that another person was hired (Oanh) to work on housing and workplace smoking.

Regional Grant-7 Counties-Oanh Ngo-Will focus on workplaces where young adults, 19-29 are employed, there is an incentive for workplaces, \$3,000. Working with them to make sure they are complying with Smoke-Free Air Law, providing information to employees about cessation. Atlantic County QuitCenter-Chris Zellers-Written as “mobile” but will be doing groups at the APR Treatment Center in Pleasantville on Mondays and Fridays. FREE counseling and NRT. Please contact Chris Zellers if you are interested in setting up groups/individual counseling. Kim also reported that they did receive a small piece of the Tobacco Free College Grant where they will be working with Stockton to become a tobacco free campus.

### **CAB (Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition)**

This coalition is where Cape May County and Atlantic County come together to discuss different intervention that we do together and in our own counties. Our next meeting will be February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Ocean City Library.

Logic models – Laurie brought them today, they are for underage drinking, prescription medication misuse and marijuana. We met with Cape May and created the new logic models but they have not yet been approved from the State, Rutgers or NJPN.

Cross County Underage Drinking – Due to the amount of students getting shore houses during prom weekend and graduation time in the southern counties or Jersey shore, Southwest Council approached us to work together on a cross-county campaign to combat underage drinking. Southwest Council is a prevention agency that looks over Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem County.

**New Business:**

April 10<sup>th</sup> Youth Summit at Stockton University – We typically have between 6 to 8 high schools with around 250 students in attendance. This year we are anticipating additional students since two additional high schools have reached out and expressed interest.

Parent Teacher Conferences – Laurie reported that they would like to provide outreach to parents at school conferences, where they hand out Deterra bags and other resources.

Outreach to senior nutrition sites – This outreach will provide information regarding proper disposal and securing of medication to senior citizens throughout Atlantic County at multiple locations.

Employee newsletters – Laurie will reach out to companies who have newsletters to include information about projects the coalition is working on such as proper medication disposal.

PRIDE Surveys – This is done among 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, graders. Laurie will set up a superintendents meeting soon. The goal is to increase participation among schools this year. These surveys are completed every two years.

Middle School PSA Contest – This will be done again with the topic of underage drinking. The first year, the winning drawings were made into stickers for pizza boxes. Since pizza stores did not cooperate with putting the stickers on boxes, the stickers will be put on brown paper bags at the MLK Day of Service at Stockton University, which will be donated to liquor stores. The second year, the winner had their drawing displayed on a billboard on Main Street in Pleasantville, which will most likely happen again this year. The PSA contest is for middle school students.

Town Hall Meetings (3) – Under the grants, 1 will be on prescription drugs or marijuana, and 2 on underage drinking. These town hall meetings will be on a municipal level vs. county wide. The Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey and HBCBS held the KOOAD town hall meeting previously at Stockton and had around 100 in attendance. The Partnership is now focusing on municipal level town hall meetings and we will be one of the first counties to participate. We will work very closely with the Partnership on these town hall meetings and have a few

municipalities in mind where we already have a good working relationship with the police department.

Parent Presentations - If any members know a parent group within the county that would like to set up a presentation let Laurie know.

Municipal Prosecutor outreach – An outreach will be done to advertise a .5 level early intervention education program for juveniles who have an underage drinking or other drug related offense.

Pediatricians- will be supplied with the CRAFFT screening tool.

### **Upcoming Events/ Announcements/ Information**

SBIRT youth training – Rutgers was given a grant to host webinars about SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment) and adolescents. This training is to help schools screen and question students who may have a substance use disorder.

Loretta Dicker from ACCC- This Sunday will be a Recovery Mass. This is for anyone suffering from any addiction, whether its drugs, alcohol, nicotine, food, gambling etc. Anyone is welcome to come.

2019 NJPN Conference – May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Ken Litwak from 800-Gambler – 800-Gambler is a referral source that has funding for treatment and can pay for anyone with a gambling addiction. Treatment has been increased since the last meeting. There are many free training with CEUs offered by 800 Gambler. Contact Ken at [Ken@800gambler.org](mailto:Ken@800gambler.org) if you are interested.

Lisa Celebre from AtlantiCare – Lisa reported an opening for a full-time recovery specialist. That role requires a high school diploma and preferred lived experience. AtlantiCare STEPs program located in Atlantic City is a medical stabilization program not detox. However if you have referrals for people who need help with alcohol or opioid withdrawal who also have medical issues that may make it difficult to be treated in a traditional detox setting this would likely be a great place to start.

Bob Widitz explained that the county survey which was provided takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete. The county is in the process of completing a drug and alcohol plan, has to be done every 4 years. It's about getting as many stakeholder as possible involved and getting your thoughts and opinions to help direct Atlantic County efforts/plans. Please complete the survey and leave it on the back table. Bob thanks all who helped out by taking this survey.

Assembly John Armato reports that the legalization of marijuana in New Jersey is on a fast track. He predicts that it will happen within the next couple of months. He urges everyone to speak out to their assemblymen. He also encourages everyone to reach out and ask their



representatives in the senate about the status of the bill that would include additional warning labels on opioids and why it hasn't been passed yet. Also Ancora takes any homeless veteran.

Amanda Wachter from the Atlantic County Public Health Department is having walk-in clinics for flu shots. They are open Monday through Friday from 9-12 and every Tuesday in Hammonton from 10-12. Residents 18 and older are charged 15 dollars and free for Medicare part B. It is free for anyone who qualifies for Medicare part B.

TRY-IT-Program: Kathi Saxton-Granato announced that the Try-It program has been discontinued. At meetings, Jake Straughn would often share his concern that youth no longer faced mandates requiring assessments or drug and alcohol services and referrals had been declining. Kathi, who is the staff person for the Children Inter-Agency Coordinating Council or CIACC, explained that the CIACC's primary purpose is to look at the continuum care of children and young adults in the county regarding behavioral health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities. In addition to the end of the Try-It program, adolescent residential beds that were at Daytop in Pittsgrove are no longer open to youth. She explained that Atlantic County has not had the complete continuum of services for adolescents for the past couple years, a few IOP attempts have folded and residential treatment in the county ended when The Lighthouse closed.

Joe Faldetta, the outgoing Substance Use Navigator, indicated that any youth that would need residential drug/alcohol/substance misuse treatment would have to go to Daytop Mendham Township which is located in Morris County, NJ or to New Hope in Marlboro, Monmouth County. Kathi agreed those beds are available there, but transportation is a challenge for families within this county and that is quite a distance if a goal is to preserve family relationships with youth.

Bob Widitz added that he does not believe that it is only Atlantic County who has a similar issue. He believes that it is state-wide problem. Bob stated that Atlantic County did try to provide services to adolescents, but there was not enough capacity to sustain the programs. Joe linked the JDAI program to the decrease in adolescents entering treatment at Daytop. He used Cape May as an example: Cape May County had about 60 youth and adolescents for that level of treatment before JDAI. Now there are 10 or 12 children in that county who are seeking help at residential treatment centers. He cautioned that, in Atlantic County, even the few adolescents who might seek treatment don't have that option anymore.

A member thought that Legacy outpatient would be providing adolescent SU counseling moving forward. Joe challenged the coalition to find a way to motivate youth into treatment. Ken Litwak also adds in that his organization does not have any funding to target gambling within the youth (for example video games). A possible solution is that this problem should be looked at in a different, fresh perspective. Strategies to engage youth and their parents and families might need to be utilized.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Motion to adjourn Bob Widitz 1<sup>st</sup> Bruce 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Approved