



## Join Together Atlantic County

Atlantic County Government Offices  
101 S. Shore Rd, Shoreview Building  
Northfield, NJ 08225

March 13, 2018

11:00am – 1:00pm

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

Youth:

Parents: Priscilla Rodriguez

Law Enforcement: Capt. Bruce DeShields (Atl. Cnty. Pros. Ofc), Chief Warrant Officer Tim Reed (Atl. Cnty Sheriff's Dpt)

Govt Agency: Charlies Kerley (Atl. Cnty. Alliance), Crystal Metzger (National Guard)

School:

Youth Service Org: Michael Byck (FSA, EHTHS Teen Center), Jake Straughn (Atl. Cnty TRYIT), Kathryn Saxton-Granato (Atlantic County CIACC), Cynthia Overs & Sarah Roorda (Big Brothers Big Sisters),

Healthcare: Dylan Wulderk, Lisa Celebre & Joanne Arnold-Velcheck (AtlantiCare), Matt Piskun & Robin Keyack (Shore Medical Center)

Religious/Fraternal Org.: Rev Gwen Conedy (Mount Zion Baptist Church)

Business: Alyssa Fountain (Summit Behavioral Health), Christina Smith (Elements Behavioral Health), Victoria Reigle (Helping Hand Behavioral Health)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: Liz Alexander (AmeriCorps VISTA)

Other Org.: Nick Geissler (Surfside Recovery Services), Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Katie Faldetta, Joe Faldetta & Kathryn Gibson (Cape Assist), Bob Catalano (Recovery Force), Ana Rojas (Central Jersey Family Health Consortium)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Bob Zlotnick, Kathy McFadden, Brian Wilson

Community Members/Other: Rhonda Fitzgerald & Stephen Katzen (Community Members), Denise Mulbah (Rutgers Student)

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

Minutes were then reviewed from the previous meeting. Motion to approve the minutes 1<sup>st</sup> Charlie Kerley 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain Bruce Deshields.

### **Internal Coalition Business:**

DFC Grant- Bob Zlotnick reported on the DFC grant, the FOA was released in January. We are currently halfway through year 5 of our grant, we are eligible to reapply for competing continuation for years 6-10. The DFC grant is the main source of funding for JTAC. Mainly because of Laurie we got the DFC grant. Four years ago Laurie, Kathy, and I wrote it together and it looked like 3 had written it, so this time Laurie wrote it herself. It is due on March 29<sup>th</sup>, the target date is to submit it a week earlier because it's a complicated submission. We are building on what we have done in the last 4 1/2 years. In 2012 we got a 92 and we were not funded, no one in NJ was funded that year. The next year we were funded and we got a 93 or a 94. Coalition members that are representing one of the sectors will be signing sector representative forms, one per sector. Alyssa will sign on behalf of the coalition.

AmeriCorps- The 1<sup>st</sup> year of the grant there were over 20 VISTA's, this year there were 15. We were just notified that the number for next year is 6 across the state, but our application was approved. Stockton pays roughly \$8000 match for the grant, provide housing, and a food stipend. There was a \$2000 increase for the match, (President) Dr. Kesselman emailed Daniel Tome, Director of Service Learning, Stockton has approved to fund the full \$10000 dollars. We will have another AmeriCorps VISTA starting in late August/early September; when Liz's service ends. Interviews will be held over the next couple of months.

STOP ACT- Kathy McFadden reported they are working on a pre-prom program at Oakcrest High School, on April 26<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Hidden in Plain Sight demonstration and an underage drinking panel of experts. We hope to get a lot of parents, if anyone is from that area and would like some flyers please let Kathy know.

Opiate Athlete Grant- Bob Zlotnick reported that there is no contract as of right now. Laurie has been working with NJPN as a part of small work group to come up with a toolkit. It's a modest grant of about \$19,000 the first year, and about \$12,000 for years two-four. The goal of the grant is to educate and raise awareness about opiate use for injuries among youth who either play high school sports or are in local community leagues.

Laurie spoke about the toolkit being done by NJPN, there is going to be specific sections for athletic director/ coaches, school administration, school nurses, and parents. It's also going to provide information for recreational leagues. It will be given to every recreation department across the state, as well as every school district, middle or high school that has a sports program. The grant started February 1<sup>st</sup>.

CADCA National Leadership Forum- Laurie Smith, Sean Kolins, and Christina Smith went down to DC for the CADCA National Leadership Forum. Sean stated that the CADCA conference is an educational 4-day event, they have different educational activities throughout each day. They also bring in a lot of hi-profile speakers like Richard Baum who is the acting director from the

Office of National Drug Control Policy. They also brought in Dr. Bertha Madras, who talked about addiction and the opioid crisis, and General Dean who is the chairman and CEO of CADCA. Christina reported that she learned that JTAC is ahead of most coalitions, a lot of coalitions don't have the amount of people, the funding, and are still very much in the beginning stages and trying to figure out what they need to do. Some things that she learned was that trends show that use of tobacco and underage drinking have gone down. It takes about 20 years to see the effects of what is going on, so they were looking at data from 1997-2017. We want to keep going with alcohol and tobacco, but really focus in on the marijuana and opiates, especially now that marijuana may be legalized in New Jersey. They also learned the marijuana now is not the pot from the 60's. We need to focus on educating ourselves about marijuana, which we did do with the Marijuana symposium. We went to Capitol Hill but we didn't meet with LoBiondo, which is okay because he is not running for re-election. Christina talked to people in California and Washington where it has been legalized, and parents are using it in the home so kids are hearing that it's okay. She also got information about prevention week, which is May 13<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>. Sean reported on some of the challenges coalitions are facing: daily marijuana use now exceeds daily cigarette use among 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Marijuana and e-cigarettes are more popular than regular tobacco cigarettes. High school seniors in states with medical marijuana laws are more likely to have vaped or consumed marijuana edibles than their counterpart's in states without legalization. Vaping was the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common form of substance uses among high school seniors and 10<sup>th</sup> graders, after alcohol and marijuana and the second most common among 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Despite its cost effectiveness federal funding for substance use and misuse prevention has been cut by 33% from fiscal years 2009-2017. And that is one of the things we talked to LoBiondo's staff about was that 33% drop in funding, so hopefully we see some change there. With every 1 dollar invested in prevention between 2-20 dollars is saved in treatment and other health care costs. Christina also mentioned that she was in REBEL while she was in Egg Harbor Township High School so she is a direct product of what prevention money funded.

PRIDE Survey- Laurie reported that the surveys were evaluated in January and they came back to us right before leaving for CADCA. We have had many events in the past few weeks, so we haven't had a chance to go through the surveys. We updated the 8<sup>th</sup> grade 2017 information so you can compare it to each year. I will mention for 2017 that was the 1<sup>st</sup> time we did the survey for 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade so that is why you only have 2017 on there. But for 8<sup>th</sup> grade the county did it in 2010, and we did it in 2015 and then this past year in 2017. So we're able to start collecting the data on a continuous basis. For the grant we have to collect it every 2 years. So we will be doing 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade in the spring of next year and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall. It was good to see that in all areas past 30 day use was down. Also perception of moderate or great risk was increasing, although marijuana didn't change much. The perception of risk for e-cigarettes, e-cigars, and e-hookahs is in the executive 250-page report, we got the rest of this from the shorter executive report, so we haven't had a chance to pull it out yet. Parent's disapproval and friend's disapproval stayed the same. Availability had a large decrease especially for tobacco and alcohol. There was an increase in availability for marijuana, we know that is probably directly related to medical marijuana in the past few years. In 2015 we surveyed 764 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and in 2017, 726 students. So it's only a difference of 38

students. Atlantic City and Pleasantville were not participating but Pleasantville called us last minute to participate this year, in 2015 Pleasantville didn't participate but Atlantic City had. All of this data will be on our website and previous years are already on our site  
Cape May had an issue where the county summary report excluded 3 schools by accident, so keep an eye out for that. You are able to download those reports from our website.

JTAC Newsletter- Laurie said that Liz created the JTAC Newsletter and it began being disseminated last month. Laurie thanked Liz for creating that and coalition members have been giving positive feedback. We will be sending a newsletter out every other month when we do not have a meeting. If anyone has any ideas for articles or a project going on, please let Liz know.

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

SUAR- Bob Zlotnick gave an update from our youth coalition Stand Up and Rebel for Kim Burns. The main focus has been the vaping grant. They will be presenting at several schools and also at the Stockton Youth Summit. The presentation is available to anyone and can be obtained by emailing Kim Burns. Vaping Tool-kits will be distributed, to area high schools. Each group will be doing the presentation for their schools. They're also working on an event called the Zombie Rx Project, to educate the community about prescription drug misuse and also to bring awareness, to the location of the lock boxes. The summer project will be to work on a live old style radio show to be performed in September. Adult volunteers are needed so if you are interested let Bob or Kim know.

Membership Committee- Laurie stated that this committee meets as needed, but there have been a few things with bi-laws and active membership that need to be updated. Laurie will send an email to have a meeting or online workgroup to get the bi-laws updated.

Marketing/Media Committee- We have not had a meeting since October, a meeting will be coming up in the next couple of months.

Sustainability/Fundraising Committee- We have not had a meeting since October, a meeting will be coming up in the next couple of months.

Data Management Group- This group has been meeting every 2 years, we go through data like the Pride Survey. This meeting will be coming up soon and Laurie will send email out. Everyone is welcome to send any data they have from their organization to Laurie and she will make sure to have copies of it for all who attend.

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

Next meeting is March 15th

Naloxone Update (ACCC) - Charlie has trained close to 300 people with his grant under his just in Case program. He will be doing the Faith-Based Narcan training that will finish up his supply. The Urban Treatment Associates, who do the trainings under the state Department of Health

grant, are available to do trainings within the county. Also Robert Wood Johnson with Rutgers is doing free trainings throughout the state. Charlie is hoping to partner up with the DEA 360 Strategy program, with Nick Kolen to see if they can provide funding to enhance the program, the request was sent up to the DEA headquarters so he is waiting on the results. If anyone would like to partner with Charlie and his program or to provide funding and work in partnership to expand the Narcan program in the county, please contact Charlie Kerley. Capt. Bruce DeShields reported on the Law Enforcement end, stating they just synced up with the state for the 2017 results. They went back to 2014 when they first started they had 5,174 Narcan deployments including Law Enforcement and EMS; that does not include hospitals or paramedics. In 2017 we jumped to 14,173 that is just law enforcement and EMS. We started the program in Atlantic County, where all Law Enforcement agencies now carry Narcan in their vehicles. For the month of January and February, just in Atlantic County law enforcement alone we had 48 deployments. What we're tracking with the state is that a lot of the individuals we are getting are repeat users and they are refusing medical treatment. One of the things the state initiated that we do in Atlantic County is that anytime anyone is given reversal and they refuse medical treatment, we give them a pamphlet. The state is supposed to come out with a statewide one, but we utilize the one from JTAC. The prosecutor sees these numbers are growing, he's tasked myself with partnering up with Stockton University to take a look and see exactly which areas have increased rates. From that data he will be reaching out to some of the people on the coalition to utilize resources, because the Prosecutor wants to see what the root cause of the problem is in Atlantic County. Stockton and Capt. DeShields are creating a questionnaire he then would like to meet with everyone to get the questionnaire out.

Christina Smith would be willing to present an addiction and stigma training for first responders. Captain Deshields- We did a training thing with an academy class that we're going to start doing with the in-services. One of the things that the prosecutor is pushing is we've met with a few organizations about getting the peer recovery coaches. We can put that information out there to them, we leave it with them, and we talk with the families.

Charlie Kerley- Per capita, Atlantic county ranks number one in the state for heroin submissions, fentanyl submissions, overdose deaths, and Narcan reversals. We're number one out of 21 counties in the state, with data up through the end of 2017.

Nursing Symposium 9/28 – Dylan reported that AtlantiCare, JTAC, and Seabrook House have been meeting to coordinate this symposium. The symposium will be held at Tropicana Casino on Friday September 28<sup>th</sup>. This symposiums goal is to help educate nurses about the opiate epidemic and how they can help. There will be a few speakers from Seabrook, AtlantiCare, Prosecutors Office, DEA, and JTAC. Sean stated that they will be meeting on 3/15 to discuss more details on sending out a save the date. Registration will start around 8am and the event will end around 4:30-5pm. AtlantiCare is working to obtain credits for all the attendees. More information will come.

Deterra- AC Housing Authority - Capt. Bruce Deshields said there will be a program on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March with ACPO, ACPD, JTAC, and Assemblyman Armato's office. They will be going to all 5

of the housing complexes in AC for the seniors. Residents will be shown how to use Detera bags, collect excess medication, and talk with them about the dangers of keeping prescription drugs that are no longer needed.

Legislation - Laurie reported that Assemblyman Armato's bill is to implement some changes in the labeling on opiate prescriptions, it's already had a lot of movement in the state. The Atlantic County board of Chosen Freeholders did a resolution in support of the Assemblyman's bill, the resolution included the Opiate Task Force in support of the bill, so the Opiate Task Force did an email vote to approve we could be included in the Freeholder resolution. The resolution is posted on the JTAC website.

Stephen Katzen asked has there ever been any conversation in respect to having SAC's in schools? Laurie said that the topic was brought up at the Knock Out Opiate Abuse Town Hall with Assemblyman Mazzeo and there was a bill, but it didn't get all the way through for Governor Christie to sign, so now we have to start from the beginning with Governor Murphy. Laurie will look into it. Stephen said there was a mandate in 1988 that they must provide services but can be outside agencies providing those services, which is why some agencies on JTAC probably provide those services to the students for a fee. Legislation that has been in for years, talks about providing SACs per certain number of students so there are school districts that don't have SACs. Jake Straughn stated that Hammonton would be a case in point, they just divide the cases among the guidance department, and there are several school districts in Cape May County that don't have SACs. Laurie will find out more information about this.

### **Interventions/Updates:**

3/14 Faith Based Meeting- The faith based group is meeting bi-monthly, the next meeting is on March 14<sup>th</sup> and it will be a Narcan training by Charlie Kerley. As of right now we have 14 faith based organizations coming to the training. Thank you to Director of Pharmacy at Shore Medical Matt Piskun, he came to the meeting in January and answered questions about opiates and other pain medication.

Prescription Drop Boxes- Brian reported that there is currently 17 drop boxes throughout the county, we're responsible for placing 11 of them. There are still 3 departments in the county that do not have them, Hamilton Twp., Stockton University, and Brigantine. Assemblyman Armato reached out to the mayor and police chief of Brigantine. They do not have room to store the medications before they go to the incinerator. The new Atlantic County Sherriff, Eric Scheffler, has volunteered to oversee the Brigantine location as well as Stockton University. Stockton University is in the process of hiring a new Public Safety Director, once that is complete we will reach out to the new director and see if they are interested. Sheriff Scheffler is in the process of requesting a waiver of approval to collect medications in Brigantine Police Department from the DEA. When the paperwork is approved and the Sheriff receives the waiver we will then proceed to have the box delivered and installed for people to dispose of unwanted and expired medications.

Stockton Recovery Housing (SMART Recovery) - Stockton's Recovery Housing began Fall 2017. The government mandate in the state of NJ requires higher education schools with over 30% residential students to have a Recovery Housing program, as of Fall of 2018. So Stockton started the program a year ahead of time. The program requires that students attend one social program a week, as well as, a Smart Recovery meeting. Liz Alexander the AmeriCorps VISTA helps facilitate the programming aspect and has done things with the students such as painting, cooking, and a trip to Dave and Busters

Smart Recovery Meetings are open to the public. They take place on Tuesday's at 1pm in Campus Center Meeting Room 2, and Thursday's at 6pm in J wing room 204. Parking on the Tuesday meeting may be an issue because you will need a parking pass, but Thursday nights should be fine as you don't need a parking pass at Stockton after 5pm. You can park in a temporary spot in front of the Campus Center on Tuesday to run in and get a parking pass.

Service Learning Class- Once again we have Laurie Dutton's Peer Education class participating in service learning projects with JTAC. We had a fall class this year, we usually just have the spring class. There are 19 students and we broke the class up into five different group projects.

\*The Opiate Awareness Campaign- This group is working on a PSA video. They are also going to be tabling throughout the semester with information.

\*The Youth Summit group – This group is creating a presentation on communication and will present it at the annual youth summit.

\*The Strangers Project – Liz reported that this is a stigma reduction campaign, the students will be tabling and collecting anonymous stories about addiction, recovery, and stigma. They will then display the stories for students and faculty to read.

\*Story Corps – Liz is also working with this group which is another stigma reduction project. Each student will be interviewing 2 people, either in recovery, have a family member in recovery, or had a family member who passed away due to substance misuse. They will be uploading them to StoryCorps which ends up being archived into the Library of Congress. The stories can be anonymous. If anyone is interested in being interviewed please let us know.

\*Above the Influence- Brian is working with the ATI group and he explained to everyone that this is a national campaign the goal of this campaign is to help teens stand up to negative pressures and influences. The students are utilizing social media; Facebook, Instagram, Snap Chat, and Twitter. They're posting facts, and positive messages. They're also going around campus with a dry erase board and people write "what their natural high is" or "what they are above the influence of"; they then take a picture of them and upload it onto social media. They'll be doing a little presentation at the youth summit to increase followers to all the social media accounts.

HIDTA Marijuana Presentation- Laurie stated that the Marijuana presentation was rescheduled from January due to snow and held in February. We had a great turnout. Laurie thanked everyone who attended. We received a lot of good press the next day.

Pharmacy Project- Brian spoke about the pharmacy project that targeted over 58 different pharmacies throughout Atlantic County that we recently worked on. As many of you know we have rack cards, stickers and magnets with proper drug disposal information on them. Myself

along with two interns from Rutgers assembled packet of this information for each pharmacy to then distribute to their customers. Coalition members Dylan Wulderk, Pastor Tom Douglas and Chief Higbee from Galloway Twp. Police helped distribute the materials to the pharmacies in their immediate areas. We had the pharmacies sign an agreement that they supported the project and will disseminate these material out to their customers.

PSA Contest- Liz reported we are working on a middle school PSA contest, all children in grades 6-8 are invited to participate and draw a picture on an 8.5 X 11 paper with a message warning parents about the dangers of underage drinking and penalties of providing to those under 21. We have extra fliers if anyone is interested in helping get this information distributed.

DEA 360 Strategy 2/28- They're having a large event for the 9 southern counties at the Wildwood convention center on April 28<sup>th</sup> 10-3pm, they are targeting grades 4-8<sup>th</sup> and their parents. The conference is open to any organizations that would like to have a table, there will be a fee for the for profit organizations. There is more information at the Wake Up South Jersey website. We had 7 members in attendance including staff at the 2-day CADCA training. We are already doing a lot of the things they mentioned, but we did learn some things that we plan to discuss at the task force meetings.

Above the Influence Youth Summit 4/10 - We usually have about 7 high schools in attendance. The DEA will be the main presenter that day, and then we have 6-8 rotating 25 minute workshops with the National Guard, local high school students, and Stockton University students and staff.

#### **Tobacco Update:**

Bob Zlotnick gave the tobacco update for Kim Burns. Coming up on end of year 2 of the grant. There is a Tobacco conference sponsored by NJPN on March 29th, it is free and open to anyone, for more information contact Kim.

The group is still working with Galloway, they will be doing tobacco audits and education of tobacco retailers in Galloway next week. They will be approaching the Green Team about supporting an ordinance.

Pleasantville Housing Authority is now smoke free in there Senior and Disabled buildings and will be given signs and posters.

Kim presented on vaping for staff at EHT school district there was a large turnout.

#### **CAB:**

2/6 Meeting- This meeting was held on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ocean City Library. At this meeting Cape May County and Atlantic County come together to discuss things that both coalitions are working on. Right now this grant is going through a full needs assessment so we are collecting data and putting things together. I have a full drawer of data that has been updated and a meeting will be held in the coming months to discuss findings.

NJSHAD- On the New Jersey State Health Assessment Data web page you can get data specific to Atlantic County. Since January 1<sup>st</sup> in NJ there were: 595 overdose deaths suspected, since



they don't have the coronary reports on all of them yet, there were 1607 naloxone administrations, and 760,000 opioid prescriptions written. So it's a good place that they're putting together all the information. When you click on Atlantic County suspected overdose deaths for 2018 there were 41 and 106 naloxone administrations; that's not including family members who are administering Narcan, and 33,655 opioid prescriptions. They know the exact number of opiates prescribed because of the prescription monitoring system. The past few years AtlantiCare, Seabrook, and JTAC sponsored physician symposiums, we've trained over 200 physicians about prescribing practices. The website has all different data about other issues too, like underage drinking, alcohol use, and treatment data. It's a good resource for people who need data for grants or anything else.

We Check for 21 Conference – Laurie said Cape May has been holding this conference for close to 25 years. Cape May developed and started this program. We have also been offering this training for many years. Anyone with a liquor license can come to learn about what to look for and how to spot fake IDs. Joe Vasil will again be doing this training for us. He worked with DMV for many years and now has his own company educating those serving alcohol about fraudulent IDs. The training is free and will be held out at Stockton University sometime in June.

TIPS Training on & off Premise 5/21 & 5/22- Laurie and Kim Mounce from Cape Assist will be providing a TIPS training at the Ocean City Library. One on premise for those who have a liquor license and then off premise for package distributors. There was an invitation sent to anyone with a liquor license in the county as well as it being posted on the Facebook page, and some radio advertisements, private clubs were also sent the invitations. If anyone knows anyone they feel should be invited let us know.

#### **New Business:**

Family Wellness Night- Priscilla Rodriguez recently lost a family member to overdose and the stigma she felt in her own family made her feel a passion to help other families. She imagines other families are feeling the same things. She reached out to Laurie and Tonia to plan a Family Wellness Night; where families can talk and learn how to deal with stigma. And possibly they would want to do a Narcan training beforehand from 4:30-5:30, so they can prepare the families. They will be providing dinner; it will be at Behavioral Crossroads. Registration starts at 5:30 and the program will be from 6-8 Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. The flyer for the event will be coming out soon, everyone is encouraged to share the information.

Laurie Smith asked if everyone in coalition approves of JTAC co-sponsoring this event because it isn't something they usually do. They are hoping to make this a recurring event with the families, and providing them resources and trainings. They even thought about making a schedule for regular meetings. They will be specifically inviting some of the support groups that agencies have for families, they will talk about what issues they are facing like the barriers to recovery and treatment.

Laurie Smith asked for a motion to approve JTAC participating and sponsoring.

1<sup>st</sup> Christina Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain DeShields, Motion Approved

NJPN Conference 5/18- Laurie said this will be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> in Atlantic City. Active members are invited to attend as a part of JTAC and the registration will be covered. Laurie will send an email to all active members who are allowed to participate, with JTAC. 14 members will be covered. It's open to anyone, the fee is \$100 dollars. GCADA offers scholarships to attend for active municipal alliance members.

Minority Outreach- Priscilla and Laurie were talking about all the great interventions the coalition is doing, but some communities within the county are missing. Some of the low income community is being helped, and also with the medicine take back day in the high-rises in Atlantic City. Priscilla said there will be a couple presentations this summer for the Hispanic population, one will be in Hammonton at the Spanish Assembly of God, and the pastor wants to open up the church one day a week to the community for resources. And one also in Atlantic City. Univision the Spanish television station has reached out twice for interviews at events for Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day and also for the marijuana event, and they ask if we have anyone who is bilingual who could be interviewed. So we will be focusing on the western part of the county with Hammonton and the eastern part with Atlantic City. If anyone is bilingual or has someone at their organization who is bilingual, that could help with reaching out to these communities and helping with these events, let us know.

Business Policy Breakfast May 16<sup>th</sup> at MLCC- Laurie said that the Partnership for A Drug Free NJ does a work place policy event. They held one in North Jersey and now we're holding one in South Jersey at the Mays Landing Country Club on May 16<sup>th</sup>. They will be inviting businesses all across New Jersey to attend. They bring in a lawyer who works with businesses and their employee policies up from DC, especially if marijuana were to be legalized, with the fact that we have legal medical marijuana what are the concerns for employees. What are the different drug policies as well as employee's assistance programs? This is specifically for businesses as well as faith based organizations, who have employees on staff, this event is open to coalition members, more information will be sent as it comes.

Marijuana Hearings- Bob Z. reported that there will be a Marijuana Black Caucus Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> 11-2pm at the Second Baptist Church. Marijuana is not a slam dunk necessarily. The legislative black caucus, is having hearings. They're not really "hearings" because it's an informal caucus. But members of the senate and assembly are holding these hearings. It is open to the public. There will be a panel of speakers. We think it's important that our area be heard that day. 300 million dollars is less than 1% of the state budget, it's not a lot of money. It's not going to lower anyone's taxes or rebuild any schools. The flyer is on the back of today's agenda.

**Presentation:**

Perinatal Opioid Use- Ann Rojas VIEW Attachment

**Upcoming Events/ Announcements/ Information:**

Bob Catalano- Recovery Force and Faces and Voices of Recovery will be holding a state wide rally during Recovery month this year.

Charlie Kerley- There are flyers for the upcoming Narcan trainings, they can be distributed.

Priscilla Rodriguez - Behavioral Crossroads- Ambulatory Detox now accepts Medicaid. They have now added Benzos. Reach out if anyone needs any more information.

Nick Geissler - Surfside Structured Sober living- the first and only sober living in the state. They were recently approved.

Tim Reed- Sheriff Scheffler gives his apologies on not being able to make it. Last week they traveled to Morris County. They have a truck there, they go out and meet with people and find out what the needs are and offer services. The Atlantic County Sheriff is in the process of trying to secure funding for the truck.

Matt Piskun - Shore Medical Center- Recently formed a pain stewardship team in an effort to increase multiple pain treatments.

Katie Faldetta- In Cape May County they are working on a similar project to Sheriff Scheffler with the Cape May County prosecutor's office. And they have a plan for a vehicle. Maybe the 2 counties can work together on the project. They are partnering with the Board of Education to plan a Recovery High school in the county. If a grant comes through it would be open to the southern 8 counties. That will be opening in January, possibly September. In either Middle Township or Wildwood. If the grant comes through it will supply transportation.

Joanne Arnold-Velchock - Atlantic Care Behavioral Health- A lot of opportunities in all the treatment programs, outpatient and IOP. They are in the process of hiring for the STAR (Support Team for Addiction Recovery) program, which is for those with an opiate use disorder. It is case management and recovery support for a year. They started ambulatory detox for the Hammonton office, it's part of the CCBHC so that's part of the Medicaid and those without Medicaid.

Lisa Celebre - AtlantiCare- They still have their medical stabilization program at the Atlantic City hospital, which is for medical management withdraw of opiates and/or alcohol, on those 2 substances. The usual turn around for those who are eligible is 1-2 days. They also have the Opioid Overdose Recovery Program or OORP, through their grant they were able to expand those services, they will now respond at all 4 Atlantic County emergency departments. 3 are AtlantiCare 1 is Shore Medical Center that is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They have seen increase in volume by increasing services to everyday. They were asked last meeting if they have seen adolescence and they still have not.

Jake Straughn - Atlantic County Try-it Program- celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> year this year. There are 2 navigators here at the JTAC meeting, Jake welcomed them. They have been going to many other meetings. The county needs the help of the navigators, there are no adolescent IOP's in the county and no other group counseling sessions. Jake thanks all the school reps who attended the meeting, they are needed. For anyone who knows someone who is qualified to be

a SAC, Steve's Job was advertised about 6 weeks ago, and as far as he knows there hasn't been a replacement hired. Joe and Kathy, Jake is asking them to take over where the subcommittee left off, and deal with some of the hurdles. The most recent hurdles have been the lack of mandates in schools and courts. He is hoping they can lead us forward. Fentanyl was mentioned, Charlie had mentioned that he was in a training and Marijuana was laced with Fentanyl. There was the presentation in Somers Point about Marijuana, and the speaker made a statement, that marijuana is the most dangerous drug out there. And he had 2 reasons, one was just that we have a general misunderstanding, about the potency now, he said 40% THC, and with the kids dabbing that can be up to 99%. We're moving towards legalization as if it's nothing, it's just marijuana. He's had kids that have died over 30 years, the wind up dying of opioids, but it was said at the Rutgers symposium, the opiate epidemic started out as a marijuana epidemic. 85% of their diagnosed kids are marijuana diagnosed. For the Hidden in Plain Sight event, the lady from Yale saw it, she said it doesn't have great attendance. He wanted to reiterate what Bob said about Laurie and her extraordinary work, and she is a dynamo in her field.

Denise was doing work with the coalition for her class at Rutgers, and she reached out about working with the coalition over the summer as she moves on toward graduation. You will be seeing a little bit more of her over the summer as she completes her internship.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Motion to adjourn Charlie 1<sup>st</sup>, Jake 2<sup>nd</sup>, Motion Approved

## **Perinatal Opioid Initiative Professional Education**

The Perinatal Opioid Addictions Professional Education grant is funded by the Department of Health. It was established to educate professionals that deal with women of childbearing age on the topic of opioid use disorders. The educational services of this grant are provided free of charge. This grant is due to conclude on June 30, 2018 so all activities must be completed by this date.

Primary activities include, but not limited to,

- No cost conferences to be held in the three regions of the state (Northern, Central and Southern). These conferences will include education on prenatal women that are using opioids and have opioid use disorders. The treatment and care of these women. Brief screening as to ascertain which women are in need of enhanced services. Determining, dealing and handling NAS and newborn care of substance exposed infants.
- Educational sessions on substance use disorders within the perinatal setting for clinical and non-clinical staff i.e. grand rounds, in-services, etc.
- The project will also host in coordination with American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology (ACOG) regional SAMHSA supported continuing medical education (CME) courses to assist physicians in qualifying to prescribe buprenorphine in an office setting.

If you are interested in having our staff come to your facility to offer free trainings, or are interested in attending any of our conferences being offered, please contact:

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