

## Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

**July 19, 2019**

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, July 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order by HOPE Taskforce Co-Chair, Dr. Lanny Wilson at 8:30AM. The following is a list of members in attendance.

| <b>Task Force Member Name</b> | <b>Title</b>   | <b>Attended</b> |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Greg Hart                     | DuPage County Board Member                             | X               |
| Bob Berlin                    | DuPage Co. State's Attorney                            |                 |
| Daniel Guerin                 | Chief Judge – 18 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit        |                 |
| Dr. Richard Jorgensen         | DuPage Co. Coroner                                     | X               |
| Dr. Darlene Ruscitti          | DuPage Co. Regional Office of Education                |                 |
| James Mendrick                | DuPage Co. Sheriff                                     |                 |
| Grant Eckhoff                 | DuPage County Board Member                             |                 |
| Jeff York                     | DuPage Co. Public Defender                             |                 |
| Dr. Lanny Wilson              | Vice-President, DuPage County Board of Health          | X               |
| Karen Ayala                   | Executive Director, DuPage Co. Health Dept.            | X               |
| Bernadine Howard              | Program Manager, DuPage Co. Probation Dept.            |                 |
| Ed Sailer                     | DuPage Police Chief's Association                      | X               |
| Jim Burke                     | DuPage Fire Chief's Association                        |                 |
| Rich Veenstra                 | Mayor of Addison                                       |                 |
| Mark Piccoli                  | Director, DUMEG  |                 |
| Dr. Aaron Weiner              | Director of Addiction Services, Edward Elmhurst Health | X               |
| Jim Scarpace                  | Executive Director, Gateway                            | X               |
| Michele Worobiec              | Chief Counsel, TASC                                    | X               |
| Lisa Schvach                  | Community Development                                  |                 |
| Brad Gerke                    | Community Member                                       | X               |
| Deb Lewin                     | Path to Recovery                                       | X               |

### **Health Department and DuPage County Staff:**

Penny Chanez, Christopher Hoff, Scott Kaufmann, Rabia Mukhtar, Mila Tsagalis, Nansi Angelopoulos, Maddelena Fico

County Board Members: Liz Chaplin

**Public at Large:** Roger Stefani ( HOPE for Healing), Steve Stefani (HOPE for Healing), Denny Rogers(DuPage County Fire Chiefs), Anitha Saravanan(College of DuPage), Diane Pappas (State Representative/District 45), Katie Gallagher (Robert Crown Center), Joan Lonerd

## **II. Acceptance of the Minutes – Co-Chair, Greg Hart**

Mr. Hart asked for consensus to accept the minutes of the April 5, 2019 meeting as presented. The minutes will be filed as presented.

## **III- Public Comment**

Mayor Pruyn of Itasca shared a letter with members of the Task Force and provided comments regarding the recent development of Haymarket Center's interest in purchasing a Holiday Inn in Itasca for the purpose of a substance use disorder treatment center. Mayor Pruyn expressed that he understands the need for a facility of this kind in DuPage County, but also needs to weigh the concerns and questions that his constituents may have and to be given time to fully vet any potential issues. He asked that Taskforce take this into consideration as they deliberate on supporting Haymarket's request for support and thanked the Taskforce for their time.

## **IV. Update on Key Opioid Crisis Metrics**

Staff member Mila Tsagalis presented updates on the following metrics:

- Reduce Drug Access and Opioid Misuse
- Reduce Opioid Access
- Overdose and Response Death
- Treatment and Recovery
- Prevention and Education
- Number of DuPage Narcan reversals – Approx. 115 reversals to date, on pace to eclipse that from prior years

See addendum #1 for a full list of metric details.

### **Comments/Questions:**

**Dr. Jorgensen** – Under treatment/recovery, is the tracking specifically for heroin or are they tracking opioids? Dr. Jorgensen shared that it is better to use the words opioids and that heroin is almost becoming passé, heroin/heroin derivatives are rarely seen at all in toxicology and that reports etc. need to keep up with the wording; specifically, illicit synthetic opioids.

Response (M.Tsagalis): Heroin specifically called out, but also other opioids are included too (oxycodone. Fentanyl and benzos as well as others)

National Association of Counties (NACo) Meeting - Dr. Jorgensen attended the meeting and sits on the Health steering committee; there was a proposal for a resolution on opioids, discussion ensued that there is a broader issue of addiction in society and the resolution should reflect that and broaden terminology to address all addictions in the country.

**Jim Scarpace** – stated that alcohol use in DuPage County is still a primary issue that people are struggling with and Gateway has a specialized alcohol use disorder track program to work on that. Mr. Scarpace added he is still willing to work on any anti- stigma campaign developed by the Health Department. Mr. Hart concurred on the importance on addressing stigma as it relates to substance use disorder and mentioned that there will be more discussion on this later under the agenda item regarding a community meeting proposal.

**Staff Member Chris Hoff-** shared the number of DuPage Narcan reversals, approx. 114 in the first six months of 2019, which is on pace to exceed previous years.

**Chief Sailer** - Concurred with Mr. Hoff's assessment. Chief Sailer added that they are seeing increases in fentanyl and cocaine usage in DuPage County. Cocaine has skyrocketed and making a comeback. Chief Sailer also shared that they are increasing Narcan training for hotels and business operators, especially 24hour businesses.

#### **V. Discussion on Haymarket Center proposal**

**Co-Chair Hart** provided comments and mentioned that in member's packets was a draft letter of support for Haymarket Center. Mr. Hart thanked Mayor Pruyne for providing earlier comments and stated that he understood and appreciated that the Mayor needs to address the issues of his community. Mr. Hart added that the epidemic ravaging the county has impacted the County both financially, as well as, the human cost. The Taskforce mission is that of addressing public health and reducing opioid related deaths and based on the information and statistics provided, access to treatment is critical in combatting this issue. Mr. Hart recommended the Taskforce adopt the letter of support.

#### *Discussion:*

**Jim Scarpace** added that he would like to see language included in the letter about serving the underserved.

**Dr. Wilson** asked treatment providers in the room their experiences working with Haymarket.

**Dr. Weiner** – echoed Mr. Scarpace's comments, there is almost a desert for the underserved, very few resources available and agreed that the role of the Taskforce is to look at the healthcare side and added that Haymarket will address the needs of the underserved.

**Brad Gerke** – Appreciates how easy it is to get people into treatment at Haymarket Center (24 hour service) – Mr. Gerke added that he currently is referring many DuPage County residents out of county for services.

**Dr. Jorgensen** – asked if anyone on the committee visited the site that is proposed? Dr. Jorgensen expressed his belief that there is a disconnect between Haymarket's proposal and the content in the letter and requested clarification as to whether the task force is supportive of Haymarket Center moving to DuPage County or is the support, project specific.

Response: Co-Chair Hart responded that the letter is to support Haymarket Center's interest to provide services in DuPage County and is County specific.

**Karen Ayala** added that it would be remiss not to address the stigma; of those people getting treatment, or those people who may have legal involvement or other kinds of concerns in any community, and stated "at same point I think we would be overstepping if we talk about a specific village or community. My stance as a Hope Taskforce member is these are not those people, these are neighbors, it is our children, our brothers and our sisters and yes, they have legal involvement which is a process of the disease they are involved with similar to people's insulin reactions or other chronic health concerns. This is our opportunity to strongly advocate for individuals, who, however they got involved with the substance that they now find themselves unable to stop, we want to provide them with high quality treatment for a health condition they have and similar to other health conditions in DuPage, I don't think it is necessary for individuals to have to travel to downtown Chicago, we would no expect that for someone with any other chronic disease, why would that be expected for substance use treatment?"

**Dr. Jorgensen** added to Ms. Ayala's comments that this is completely within the Taskforce's framework.

**Brad Gerke** – thanked Karen Ayala for sharing her thoughts and spoke to effects of stigma and how that impacts those in the recovery process.

**Dr. Weiner** - agreed with the previous statements and also added that Haymarket's current location in Chicago is in an area with some of the highest real estate prices.

**Co – Chair Hart** – agreed and reiterated the point that this is not them, this is us and stated that "these are people who are already in our community and that as the members of the HOPE Taskforce we should focus on the public health side of this issue, which is what the letter addresses and that Haymarket would be a willing and able partner and welcome them to DuPage County. We have a responsibility as a county and as a taskforce to make sure that people are connected to treatment as much as possible and that is the way we will make an impact. Co- Chair Hart asked for consensus for support of the letter

There was no further discussion, members were in agreement and the letter was adopted.

## **VI Illinois Helpline Update - Nate Muckley, Public Health Institute Metropolitan Chicago**

Illinois Helpline launched Dec. 2017

Works with Department of Human Services to do outreach for the Illinois Helpline for Opioids.

- Promotion materials available, including a Helpline Tote Bag available to promote in the communities.

New feature of the Helpline rolled out 7/1/19, includes a capacity management system, for providers who do inpatient and opioid maintenance therapy (methadone programs)

- Waitlists and openings in the programs can be seen by helpline staff, for inpatient services/open beds/treatment
- Track Medicaid identification number

Brad Gerke questioned if he or a family member called the line could they get information on available beds? Mr. Muckley responded yes.

Dr, Wilson – what kind of training/background of individuals taking the calls? Mr. Muckley responded that helpline staff are trained in hotline training/certifications. Clinical social workers on staff who can do call backs for more specifics

Co-Chair Greg Hart left the meeting at 9:30AM.

#### **VII. Taskforce Funding Process – Dr. Wilson**

- At the launch of the Taskforce in January 2018, the County committed \$100,000 towards the work of the Taskforce recommendations consisting of the establishment of the FOCUS Court, Treatment Navigation and Medication Assisted Treatment. The Taskforce will ask the County again to commit to funding the work of the Taskforce in its second year.
- Will follow a similar process ask for recommendations from Taskforce.
- October – discuss recommendations. January funding of recommendations.

#### **VIII. Community Meeting Proposal – Karen Ayala**

- A way to better connect taskforce work to the residents in the community
- Create a presentation that goes into different areas of the county.
- DuPage Narcan Trainings continue throughout the county.
- Combine community meetings with Narcan trainings – challenges and successes.
- Meetings would include Narcan training and people can leave with Narcan
- September/October

Brad Gerke offered a suggestion for schools/parents – gather assembly during the health class to address the issues and also have a community event that same night. Brings families together. Kids get the information during the day and the families in the evening.

Mila Tsagalidis added that having partners help with the meetings makes it a success.

#### **IX. Project Updates**

- a. *Focus Court* – no report

***b. Medication Assisted Treatment***

- The Health Department's North Public Health Center launched a vivitrol clinic.
  - Very excited to announce partnering with Sheriff Mendrick on a grant submission to address treatment for individuals currently incarcerated and coming out of jail.
  - Working with medical community through the DuPage Health Coalition to address the need for additional primary care and health system support. Agreed to be part of a pilot development program using some of the resources from the County Board to develop systems of care.
  - October 9<sup>th</sup> prescriber summit.
- c. Treatment Navigation – going well.***
- Interest from, Schaumburg Police Dept., Hinsdale Fire Dept. and Addison Police/Fire departments.
  - Chief Sailer – no new referrals recently. Narcan distribution - at least ½ dozen free Narcan kit were distributed. Received more than a dozen phone calls to refer people to treatment agencies.

**X. Roundtable Updates**

**Dr. Weiner**

- In the end of stages of getting masters trained chemical dependency navigators in emergency rooms and hospitals at Elmhurst and Edwards
- Launching in January 2020. denaturing packets will be provided to patient after surgery for safe disposal of unneeded pain medications– Dispose RX brand
- Pill counts in orthopedics
- Naperville to opt out of recreational marijuana sales.
- Study rerun on linkage of marijuana use and opioid deaths. 2017 study showed 23 percent more opioid deaths with those who use medical marijuana.
- Drug related Awareness Information– Kratom is a leaf-based drug and mimics the effects of cocaine and is a typical opioid. Individuals can overdose or become addicted. Currently there are no regulations regarding the use of Kratom.

**Jim Scarpace –**

- Echo Kratom comments provided by Dr. Weiner.
- Gateway – did create a specialize alcohol disorder clients.
- Medical Assisted Treatment(MAT) – currently working with FHQs to provide MAT.

**Chief Sailer -**

- Carol Stream Police Dept. calls were historically for traffic enforcement and DUI , now more than ½ of arrests are related to cannabis and alcohol.

- FOCUS Court has been extremely helpful for first time arrests relating to substance use. Individuals are getting assistance and treatment first versus incarceration.

### **Dennis Rogers - Warrenville Fire Dept./DuPage Association of Fire Chiefs**

- Added comments that fire personnel are supportive and will help in any way they can to combat this issue.

### **Dr. Jorgensen –**

Appreciated Dr. Weiner's sharing the new statistics on medical marijuana and opioid deaths and requested to have the article/information sent to task force.

Kratom commissioner from Oregon presented at the NACo conference a resolution encouraging the federal government to investigate the effect of Kratom usage. West coast inundated and it is an absolute disaster according to the commissioner.

### **Brad Gerke -**

- Still active with the Act for Life Program.
- Involved and recently participated Pedal for Life program (cycling)- Pedal4Life empowers civilians and veterans in recovery to discover the *hero in themselves* so they can live healthier and more productive lives.
- Continues to work with those who are seeking to enter recovery.
- Continues to work on personal journey and the many opportunities that being in recovery has allowed him to experience

### **Deb Lewin –**

- Overdose Recovery Day- August 30<sup>th</sup> 5:30 p, m. in Naperville, will include a "Trailer Hidden in Plain Sight". Trailer contains a mock bedroom, that shows where individuals hide things.
- PATH continues its mobile sites and PATH support groups

### **Michelle Worobiec-**

Met with SUPR last week to discuss Naxalone availability at pharmacies, especially for individuals with no insurance or Medicaid. The following was learned.

1. Pricing made it unavailable as a practical matter for families that need it.
2. Pharmacies are not allowed to turn down a request for Naxalone, even if an individual cannot pay.

Other updates:

1. Updating information on the Safe Jail withdrawal process.
2. Prescription Drug Monitoring Program – looking to make data more available

3. Federal Grants – looking to make information available on practices for strengthening communities.

**Karen Ayala -**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> round on the RAMP up classes are now in week 4.

**Chris Hoff –**

- Offered educational materials to anyone who needs it.

There was no further discussion.

The next meeting of the HOPE Taskforce is scheduled for Friday, October 18th

respectfully submitted,

Penny Chanez

Executive Assistant