

Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

April 5, 2019

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, April 5, 2019

The meeting was called to order by HOPE Taskforce Co-Chair, Dr. Lanny Wilson at 9:00AM. The following is a list of members in attendance. Dr. Wilson introduced the newest member of the the Taskforce, Deb Lewin.

Task Force Member Name	Title	Attended
Greg Hart	DuPage County Board Member	X
Bob Berlin	DuPage Co. State's Attorney	
Daniel Guerin	Chief Judge – 18 th Judicial Circuit	
Dr. Richard Jorgensen	DuPage Co. Coroner	X
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	DuPage Co. Regional Office of Education	X
James Mendrick	DuPage Co. Sheriff	
Grant Eckhoff	DuPage County Board Member	
Jeff York	DuPage Co. Public Defender	X
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.	X
Ed Sailer	DuPage Police Chief's Association	X
Jim Burke	DuPage Fire Chief's Association	X
Rich Veenstra	Mayor of Addison	X
Mark Piccoli	Director, DUMEG	
Dr. Aaron Weiner	Director of Addiction Services, Edward Elmhurst Health	
Christin Kruse	Associate Vice President of Advancement - AMITA	X
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director, Gateway	X
Michele Worobiec	Chief Counsel, TASC	X
Allison Johnsen	Manager, Business & Program Development, CDH/Delnor	
Lisa Schvach	Community Development	X
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, Tim McGavin, Anthony Romanelli, Robert Toerpe. Michaela Rusch

County Board Members: Liz Chaplin, Dawn DeSart, Mary Ozog,

Public at Large: Paula McGowan, Doris Nelson, Holly Brinton, Nate Muckley, Don Kalish, Roger/Marge/Steve Stefani, Becca Wodka, Scott Miller and Joe Sulkson (U.S. Dept. of Labor), Jamie Horner, Laura Fry, Jody Daitchau, Michaela Ruscu, Nansi Aangelepolis, Phil Atteberry,

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

Mr. Hart asked for consensus to accept the minutes of the January 19, 2019 meeting as presented. The minutes will be filed as presented.

III- Public Comment

Paula McGowan introduced herself as a drug court and mental health advocate. Ms. McGowan shared her how she has been in the community advocating for more treatment facilities and the distribution of methadone in DuPage County. Ms. McGowan shared her belief that a church would be a good starting place to begin this process under the Health Department's supervision.

Doris Nelson, from Grace Lutheran Church stated that her church would be willing to open a clinic in the church for the DuPage County Health Department to use for the purpose Ms. McGowan spoke to in her earlier comments.

Executive Director Ayala provided feedback stating that the Health Department appreciated this information and will continue to explore all options to provide treatment to the citizens of DuPage County who are seeking assistance while adhering to governmental rules and regulations.

IV. Illinois General Assembly Legislative Update

Legislative Update: Jonathan Nelson from the DuPage County Board office provided an update and handout to members that included information on legislative action being considered at the State level, including expedited RX Drug Monitoring (HB 163), Exemption to RX Drug Monitoring (SB 1665), Opioid Overdose Reporting Requirement (SB1258) and Insurance Coverage and Programming for Mental Health (SB 2572)

V. Partners Presentations

a. HOPE for Healing -

The Stefani family was introduced by Mr. Hart. The family spoke on the loss of their son/brother 4 years ago and shared information on their recently launch non for profit 501C3 organization in his memory. The family spoke on the mission and focus of their work including:

- Education for families
- Meeting at the schools and meeting with students
- Meeting with Robert Crowne to develop educational programs

- Building a network of people who expressed interest to help in addressing this issue
- Creating a philosophy of *harm reduction* meeting people where they are that and keeping people's human dignity intact

Steve Stefani introduced Laura Fry from Live for Lali an organization that the Stefani family has been working with and whose mission is to work to reduce stigma and prevent substance use disorder among individuals, families, and communities, and minimize the overall health, legal and social harms associated with substance use.

Laura Fry from Live for Lali shared information about the Live for Lali focus on putting boots on the ground, meeting people where they are at without judgment and reducing stigma associated with substance use disorders. Ms. Fry shared that the distribution of Naxalone, Fentanyl test strips and clean needle programs along with personal interaction has produced positive results and community outreach is critical in reduction in overdose deaths. Ms. Fry stated that the Live for Lali organization along with the Stefani's are willing to help DuPage County with this process.

Task Force member Alison Johnson added that there are different definitions for the term harm reduction and the treatment community defines it differently than how it was defined and presented today. Her recommendation for the family for future presentations was to clearly state what it means in their terms since it has multiple meanings.

b. PATH to Recovery Foundation -

Don Kalish spoke on behalf Path to Recovery Foundation whose mission is to support the families dealing with a family member with substance use disorders. Path to Recovery is now meeting on Friday evenings at the Linda A. Kurzawa Community Center. Mr. Kalish encouraged anyone in the room who knows a family dealing with this issue and who needs support to refer them to the Path to Recovery Foundation.

Michelle Worobiec to provide link for the American Society of Addiction Medicine who just published a free booklet for families.

c. U.S. Department of Labor –

Scott Miller, Senior Benefits Advisor – employee benefit security administration. Their department oversees the **ERISA** laws (the Employee Retirement Income Security Act) represents a set of laws meant to protect employees with their benefits. The Customer service division fields calls of individuals with private sector health plans where the insurer is not paying a claim for a benefit (i.e. residential treatment) that is provided under their plan. Calls of this nature are determined on an individual basis. Calls that are more of a systemic problem where a health plan is denying benefits across the board are referred to the enforcement division. The Mental

Health Parity Addiction Equity Act which establishes parity rules applies to opioid addictions. The Department of Labor also includes a criminal division.

- Members of the treatment community can reach out to the department for assistance.
- The Department does not handle issues associated with Medicaid sponsored plans

VI. Health Coalition

The DuPage Health Coalition is a partnership of health partners including hospitals, doctors and leaders of community organizations. The Coalition strives to make healthcare more efficient and effective, making it easier for lower income families to receive high quality healthcare.

We operate several programs – all designed to keep DuPage residents healthy, regardless of their ability to pay.

Michele Worobiec, Karen Ayala and Dr. Wilson did a presentation on Opioid Epidemic 101

Ms. Worobiec shared information with the Health Coalition on levels of care and noted that the group was a well-informed, inquisitive and a supportive group. Ms. Worobiec stated that working with the Health Coalition provides an opportunity to collaborate, develop treatment capacity, warm handoffs and true collaboration.

VII- Update on RXBox Take-Back Program – Karen Ayala

- All time collection 5026 pounds collected in March
- Approx. 54 tons collected since the inception of the program
- April 23 County Board meeting, proclamation on DEA takeback and how community partners are stepping up and listening to request

VIII - Pilot Project Updates

a. FOCUS Court – Bernadine Howard

- 195 cases in the court, 47 new since Sept. 24
- Low risk educational series started today. Two mothers who lost their sons to the opioid crisis spoke to those participants who scored as a low risk to reoffend. Evaluation will be completed to determine impact on the participants and collect data to determine next steps and how to move forward.
- Training and conferences
 1. Probation officers attended American Probation and Patrol conference – substance related trainings at the conference
 2. July 2019 entire FOCUS team to attend National Association of Drug Court Professionals.
- FOCUS Court nominated for national achievement award from NAACHO

b. Ramp Up – Lisa Schwach

- Shared classroom portion completed - 7 students participated
 - One student moved out of state
 - 4 received full credentials
 - 2 students still working on their credentials
 - Attendance and engagement remarkable
 - Average age of students was 29 years old.
 - 4 federal funding streams were applied towards the program
- Employment
 - 3 currently employed
 - 1 interviewing
 - 1 is interning at a local manufacture, had no prior work experience.
 - 1 was homeless during the entirety of the program but is now in housing and starting a job
- Next cohort June – August.

c. Treatment Navigation – Mila Tsagalis

- DuPage Narcan Program: 2019 –
 - 61 successful reversals
 - Successfully trained approx. 5300 law enforcement
 - Approx. 1000 community and bystanders trained
 - 55 percent of reversals are between the ages of 19 -29
- **Navigation**
 - Pilot program – 1 person known to take advantage
 - Carol Stream Police Dept. training hotel employees how to use Narcan
 - Police and Fire Departments are distributing Narcan
 - Safe Prescribing webinar – May 10

IX - Roundtable Comments

- Jamie Horner, Naperville Police - on Wed. May 3rd will host annual national crime victims support for victims of crime.
- Mr. Hart – spoke on possible future forums including videotapes and webinars for schools and parents
- The next meeting of the HOPE Taskforce is July 19, 2019

There was no further discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45AM.

respectfully submitted,
Penny Chanez
Executive Assistant

