

Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

Meeting Date: April 20, 2018

The meeting of Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, April 20, 2018.

The meeting was called to order by HOPE Taskforce Co-Chair, Dr. Lanny Wilson at 9:00AM

The following is a list of those members in attendance.

Task Force Member Name	Title	Attended
Bob Berlin	DuPage Co. State's Attorney	
Jeff McKay for Daniel Guerin	Chief Judge-18 th Judicial Circuit	X
Dr. Richard Jorgensen	DuPage Co. Coroner	
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	DuPage Co. Regional Office of Education	
Frank Bibbiano- representing John Zaruba	DuPage Co. Sheriff	X
Grant Eckhoff	DuPage County Board Member	X
Jeff York	DuPage Co. Public Defender	X
Dr. Lanny Wilson	Vice – President- DuPage Board of Health	X
Karen Ayala	Executive Director-DCHD	X
Bernadine Howard	Program Manager, DuPage Co. Probation Department	
Ed Sailer	DuPage Police Chief's Association	X
Jim Burke	DuPage Fire Chief's Association	X
Rich Veenstra	Mayor Of Addison	
Mark Piccoli	Director, DUMEG	X
Dr. Aaron Weiner (Edward/Elmhurst)	Director of Addiction Services	
Christin Kruse	Associate Vice President of Advancement - AMITA	
Jim Scarpace- Gateway	Executive Director	X
Michele Worobiec	TASC Chief Counsel	X

Health Department and DuPage County Staff:

Don Bolger, Scott Kauffman, Rabia Mukhtar, Chris Hoff, Mila Tsagalis, Dennis Brennan, Penny Chanez, Chad Schaffer, Christopher Walton

Public at Large:

Gerald Johnson
Mark Buschbacher, Serenity House
Donna Rennard, Serenity House
Dr. James Morrone, DuPage Medical Society
Chris Jordan, Representative, Office of Congressman Roskam
Allison Johnsen, Central DuPage Hospital, Delnor Hospital
Karen Elliot, New Age Services Corporation

Dr. Wilson asked for a consensus to accept the minutes of the March 23, 2018 minutes as presented. There were no corrections. The minutes will be filed as presented.

Public Comment: Allison Johnsen from Central DuPage Hospital introduced herself.

Comments from the Chair(s)

Dr. Wilson introduced Karen Ayala, Executive Director, DuPage County Health Department.

Ms. Ayala clarified that there were two financial areas for the taskforce's consideration.

1. how best to utilize the \$100,000 investment provided by the DuPage County Board through the Judicial/Public Safety Committee for FY2018.
2. how to capitalize on funding opportunities through Federal and State initiatives and other local foundations to assist and support the needs of DuPage County to address key priority areas/gaps in addressing the heroin and opioid epidemic.

Ms. Ayala presented information on the recommendations from the taskforce on how to best utilize the \$100,000 investment outline in item one listed above. The following is a list of those draft recommendations received by members of the Taskforce.

- Specialized training for court professionals – submitted by Chief Judge Guerin
- Public Defender staffing for court targeting first time offenders – submitted by Chief Judge Guerin and Public Defender Jeff York
- Uninsured/underinsured inpatient treatment beds – submitted by Christin Kruse
- Staffing to facilitate linkage with a focus on increasing treatment capacity – submitted by Christin Kruse, Jim Scarpace, Jeff York
- Prevention curriculum for students – submitted by Jim Scarpace

- Development/implementation of naloxone plus deflection and pre-arrest diversion national model – submitted by Michelle Worobiec

When determining the best use of funds, Ms. Ayala stated that the purpose is to look at creating a system vs. one – offs.

Members shared several key pieces of information relating to the recommendations

Mr. Scarpace shared that a central point of contact where police could call to assist with the linkage of individuals to a bed is needed. The need is greatest for government (Medicaid/DASA) and unfunded beds. There are fewer of these beds available and is attributed to poor reimbursement rates associated with Medicaid. Treatment facilities have many more private insurance beds than government beds. On average private insurance reimburses \$500.00 a day vs. the state Medicaid reimbursement rate which is on average \$150.00 per day. This amount of reimbursement does not cover the cost of daily services. Mr. Scarpace stated that there are currently several hundred individuals on waiting lists for government beds. In order to meet the needs of these individuals and increase the number of available Medicaid/DASA. unfunded beds the state needs to reimburse at rates that allow a facility to remain open.

Chief Sailer agreed with Mr. Scarpace, that a person to coordinate linkage efforts would assist first responders when they respond to a call and encounter an individual who wants treatment. Currently first responders have no resources to assist them in these situations.

Audience member, Ms. Johnson added that individuals seeking treatment do not always know what treatment will work for their individual situation and while discussing funding it is important to define what treatment will look like.

Mr. Grant questioned the use of Vivitrol and why it is not being used in treatment based on the effects it has in the treatment process. Mr. Scarpace stated the issue is cost and again relates to reimbursement rates for DASA/unfunded patients.

Ms. Worobiec – shared information on sustainable funding sources, including federal Medicaid administrative claiming relating to linkage.

In summary, Ms. Ayala stated that the proposals are not mutually exclusive and asked for interested task force members to participate in a work group that would be responsible for crafting a formal recommendation to bring back to the task force in May outlining the elements of the proposals. The recommendation may not be to focus on one single item recommendation, but to view a more broader approach that may utilize pieces from several of the proposals with some implementation occurring in June.

The following individuals agreed to help: Dr. Wilson, M. Worobiec, Mr. Scarpace and Chief. Bibbiano.

The May meeting will include a recommendation for funding that will come out with the agenda.

Ms. Ayala also discussed the opportunities on the horizon for funding through Federal initiatives and some through the State of Illinois and other local foundations to assist and support the need of communities to address key priority areas/gaps. Pre-identification and prioritization of these opportunities by the taskforce members will better position the County to both apply and receive funding.

Members took a brief break 10:07AM and reconvened at 10:17AM

Ms. Ayala provided the Taskforce on updates on the recent opioid roundtable discussion with Congressman Roskam and on her recent congressional testimony in Washington D.C.

Dr. Wilson reviewed with task force members the handout that was provided titled *Ten Steps the Federal Government Should Take Now to Reverse the Opioid Addiction Epidemic (addendum #1)*

Dr. Wilson opened the meeting for comments from the audience and any further comments by task force members.

- Chief Sailer said he would like to see a County-wide diversion program similar to Lake County.
- Mr. Scarpace shared information on using existing funds for an anti-stigma campaign.
- Karen Elliott from New Age Services shared information on their new location in Elmhurst which focuses on opioid addiction, mental health and health screenings.
- Ms. Johnsen added it is important when determining treatment to look at the underlying issues that started an individual on the path to substance use and spoke to how the hospital does have government beds, but concurred that more must be done in addressing this issue.
- Mark Buschbacher and Donna Rennard of Serenity House also spoke to the services they offer including residential care and working with the families of those seeking treatment and agreed with the discussion surrounding the lack of government beds.

There was no further discussion.

Dr. Wilson closed the meeting at 10:38AM. The next meeting of the HOPE taskforce is scheduled for Friday, May 18, 2018

respectfully submitted,
Penny Chanez
Executive Assistant