

## Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

**Meeting Date: January 19, 2018**

The first meeting of Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday January 19, 2018. The Taskforce is a joint operation of the DuPage County Board and the DuPage County Board of Health. Members are from across many sectors in the community, specializing in mental health, law enforcement, adjudication, substance abuse treatment, prevention and education. (see addendum #1) that provides an overview, goals and membership.

The meeting was called to order by Board of Health Vice President, Dr. Lanny Wilson at 9:00AM

The following is a list of those members in attendance.

<b>Task Force Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Demetri Demopoulos representing Bob Berlin	State's Attorney	X
Jeff McKay representing Daniel Guerin	Chief Judge	X
Dr. Richard Jorgensen	Coroner	X
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	Superintendent	X
Frank Bibbiano- representing John Zaruba	Sheriff	X
Grant Eckhoff	Board Member	X
Jeff York	Public Defender	X
Dr. Lanny Wilson	Vice - President	X
Karen Ayala	Executive Director	X
Bernadine Howard	Program Manager	X
Ed Sailer	Police Chief	X
Jim Burke	Fire Chief	X
Rich Veenstra	Mayor	X
Mark Piccoli	Director	X
Dr. Aaron Weiner	Director of Addiction	X
Christin Kruse	Associate Vice President of Advancement - AMITA	X
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director	X
Michele Worobiec	Chief Counsel	X
Tess Benham	Senior Program Manager	X

Members introduced themselves and provided information on how the issue of substance abuse and addiction relates in their professional environments. Members held a roundtable discussion that was presided over by Dr. Wilson.

The following list of recommendations were agreed upon by a consensus of the members as areas of focus toward development of a working framework and the next steps needed to address the use of heroin and over use of opioids within DuPage County.

Reduce the stigma associated with use of heroin/opioids:

- Remove negative connotations associated with heroin and opioid use; treat as an illness
- address physician and first responder compassion fatigue

Education campaign:

- Review and increase the level of education on disposal options (RXBox) and other drug take back programs
- Provide educational materials to physicians i.e. posters
- Educate consumers (what is an opioid) and on patient advocacy for alternatives to opioids
- Target youth education programs
- Continued education on the use of Naloxone for first responders, family members and the general population
- Promote and provide safe prescriber training
- Education on the use of Vivitrol

Technology:

- Encourage prescribers to participate and use the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

Treatment:

- review of treatment capacity in DuPage County
- safe passage programs/access to treatment vs. jail – work with the criminal justice system for referrals to treatment
- Integration of services by mental health providers and substance use disorder treatment providers
- Follow-up guidance for when an overdose occurs - recommendations for first responders, hospitals and clinicians

Members also discussed key points they see as challenges in the area of making inroads to addressing the issue of heroin and opioid use. The main areas of discussion relating to challenges included the following areas:

- funding mechanisms
- patient interest in recovery services
- physician and first responder compassion fatigue associated with chronic users

- lack of adequate number of treatment facilities

Dr. Wilson closed the meeting at 11:00AM. Members agreed to a future meeting date of Friday, February 23, 2018.

respectfully submitted,  
Penny Chanez  
Executive Assistant