

Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

October 18, 2019

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, October 18, 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.

Task Force Member Name	Title	Attended
Greg Hart	DuPage County Board Member	X
Bob Berlin	DuPage Co. State's Attorney	X
Daniel Guerin	Chief Judge – 18 th Judicial Circuit	
Dr. Richard Jorgensen	DuPage Co. Coroner	
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	DuPage Co. Regional Office of Education	
James Mendrick	DuPage Co. Sheriff	
Grant Eckhoff	DuPage County Board Member	X
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.	
Bernadine Howard	Program Manager, DuPage Co. Probation Dept.	X
Greg Vesta	DuPage Police Chief's Association	X
Keith Krestan	DuPage Fire Chief's Association	X
Rich Veenstra	Mayor of Addison	
Dr. Aaron Weiner	Director of Addiction Services, Edward Elmhurst Health	X
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director, Gateway	
Michele Worobiec	Chief Counsel, TASC	X
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 Angelopoulo, Tim McGavin, Kevin Dixon, Kim Siebert, Dennis Brennan,

County Board Members:

Public at Large:

Julie Naples, Don Kalish, Kevin Bouchard (Rep. for State Rep. Michelle Mussman), Roger Stefani, Steve Stefani, James Kavalsky, Paula McGowen

II. Acceptance of the Minutes

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

III- Public Comment

Don Kalish, Path to Recovery Foundation. Mr. Kalish thanked the Taskforce for their work and encouraged work and research on Benzodiazepines.

IV. HOPE Taskforce Funding Opportunity Discussion

Member Hart shared the following regarding the Taskforce funding for 2020.

- DuPage County has committed \$100,000 for funding in 2020 to continue the important work of the taskforce.
- Members will be asked to review funding criteria to ensure good stewardship of public dollars and that the funds are used for appropriate purposes.
- A survey will be sent to each of the members for their input, which will help to prioritize funding decisions.
- Grant applications for funding will be made available to the community.

Staff member Chris Hoff shared the following regarding the criteria for grant funding.

- Applications will be available to the community at large, and must serve DuPage County residents and meet qualifying criteria. Government entities or 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply. Up to 4 grants of up to \$25,000 each will be offered.
- Innovative projects will be considered and will need to align with agreement of the Taskforce's framework.
- Accountability will be required, including providing outcome data.
- Brad Gerke and Jeff York will serve on the review committee along with Dr. Wilson and Greg Hart
- Funding recommendations will be provided to Taskforce members at the January meeting.

V. HOPE Taskforce Community Meetings

Member Hart shared while there is a great awareness of the opioid issue, it is important to get information into the community on the services available to those who are dealing with this issue and connecting people to services.

- First community meeting to be held soon in cooperation with the Lisle Fire Protection District. Date and location to be determined.
- Plan is to continue meetings quarterly throughout the county.
- Narcan training will also be made available.

VI. Legislative

Drug Take Back Programs

DuPage County Drug Take Back programs are currently handled by the Health Department and generous donors. Members are in agreement that this should be a cost absorbed by the drug manufacturers. A current bill is under consideration at the state level to require pharmaceutical manufacturers to fund unwanted drugs take back programs.

- Staff member Kevin Dixon provided information on drug take back programs and legislation around the country in communities who have passed legislation making the manufacturers responsible for drug take back programs.
- Dr. Wilson shared that the DuPage Medical Society will be hosting an event for legislators on October 23rd with the goal of providing their members and those in attendance with information on ways to address the opioid epidemic. Dr. Wilson requested this information be made available to share with the legislators.
- 54 tons of medication has been collected in DuPage County since the Health Department started the program.

The Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Act (P.A. 101-356) was signed into law on August 9, 2019. The act provides that the Illinois Department of Human Services prepare a report on drug overdose trends and provide information on the current substance use disorder treatment capacity within the State of Illinois

VII. Opioid Lawsuit Update – Bob Berlin

- DuPage County along with all other collar counties filed lawsuit in Dec. 2017 against manufacturers and distributors of opioids.
- The Illinois Attorney General has also filed a lawsuit against Perdu Pharma and its owners, and this could impact the claims of all of the counties, including DuPage and may impact how procedurally the legal process will work.
- Significant rulings are expected before November 12 determining how DuPage County will move forward with its litigation.
- 22 states reached a settlement agreement with Perdu Pharma, Illinois is not one of the states

VIII. Project Updates

FOCUS COURT - Tim McGavin, Deputy Director of Adult Probation provided an update on the FOCUS Court.

- Celebrated 1-year anniversary
- Approximately 246 have participated in the program
- 169 people currently in the program; 9 percent recidivism rate
- New judge recently joined the court
- Added a 4th probation officer – numbers have gone up
- Focused on educational programs for low risk participants
- Focused on treatment for moderate and high-risk participants
- Exploring family and social support programs for participants
- The department worked and trained with Health Dept. staff on the ability to administer NARCAN.

TREATMENT NAVIGATION - Chris Hoff, Director of Community Initiatives provided an update.

The Health Department, in partnership with the Sheriff and Coroner's office, were recently awarded a federal grant for three years for approximately 1 million. The funds will allow for medication assisted treatment for those who are incarcerated, create an overdose fatality review team which will be overseen by the Coroner, and expand efforts to collect data on the opioid crisis.

IX. Community Partner Spotlight

HOPE for Healing – The Stefani family provided a 6-month update.

- Focus on the importance of education
- Presentations at middle schools from a sibling perspective
- Working with the Robert Crowne foundation on social and emotional learning.
- Involvement with the Haymarket Center's appeal to have a center located in Itasca
- Focus on harm reduction – target a population not treatment treating with dignity. Working with *Live for Lali* on the distribution clean supplies including fentanyl strips,
- Network Development

X. Roundtable Updates

Chief Krestan - Narcan training in the community has made an impact in saving lives.

Chief Vesta supportive of the pilot programs and willing to assist. Preparing for the legalization of marijuana.

Lisa Schvach - Ramp UP

- 2nd cohort will conclude on Oct. 22
- 8 will graduate, 7 males and 1 female
- Almost all are already employed.
- RAMP -UP Recognized for innovative solutions award in the State of Illinois

Brad Gerke –

- Aug/Sept – Opioid Awareness Month and Sept. is recognized as recovery month
- Participating in speaking/educational events
- Sept. 14th marks Mr. Gerke's 9 years of sobriety
- Mr. Gerke's, 516 Light Foundation recently received 501 (c) (3) status. The foundation's primary focus to pay for fees at sober living homes for those in recovery.

Health Department (Mila Tsagalis) -

- Started Medical Assisted Treatment for existing clients of the health department who are in mental health services

Bernadine Howard –

- Graduation for drug court is scheduled for 10/24 @ 2:00p.m.

Michelle Worobiec –

- Discussed grant opportunities received by TASC and how monies can impact community programs

Jeff York -

- Exploring hiring additional mental health clinicians in the court system

Dr. Wiener –

- Provided information on Edward/Elmhurst Hospital's *Dump the Dose 2020*, a public health campaign to encourage people to get rid of their opioids
- \$180,000 donation received for the purchase of Detera packages for in house usage and community usage
- Shared information on the ALTO project – alternative to opioids prescribing and usage in Emergency Dept. at Edward/Elmhurst Hospitals

- Hiring chemical dependency navigators for hospitals to meet with patients in the Emergency rooms who have chemical dependencies.

Bob Berlin -

Mr. Berlin stated that one of the barometers used to determine if there is any progress being made in the fight against the opioid epidemic is a review of the numbers drug related possession cases. For the time period of 1/1/2018 -1/1/2019 the following was noted:

- heroin/fentanyl increased from 149 cases to 182 cases
- prescription pill cases down from 111 cases to 81cases

Mr. Berlin expressed his concern on the legalization of marijuana on Jan. 1st.

Deb Lewin –

- PATH held their opioid awareness day. 66 kits of Narcan distributed.
- Traveling services continues with an emphasis on family support, including distribution of fentanyl strips, disposable packets, drug kits and Narcan.

Mr. Hart provided the 2020 meeting dates as follows:

- January 24, 2020
- April 19, 2020
- July 17, 2020
- October 16, 2020

There was no further discussion. Meeting adjourned at 10:35AM

respectfully submitted,

Penny Chanez
Executive Assistant