

## Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

January 24, 2020

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, January 24, 2020.

The meeting was called to order by HOPE Taskforce Co-Chair, Dr. Lanny Wilson at 8:30AM. Dr. Wilson welcomed, Laura Crawford, President of Chamber630 as the newest member of the Taskforce. 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	X
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.	X
Bernadine McFarland	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	X
Dr. Aaron Weiner	Director of Addiction Services, Edward Elmhurst Health	X
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director, Gateway	X
Michele Worobiec	Chief Counsel, TASC	
Allison Johnsen	Manager, Business & Program Development, CDH/Delnor	X
Lisa Schwach	Community Development	
Brad Gerke	Community Member	X
Deb Lewin	Path to Recovery	X
Laura Crawford	President, Chamber630	X
Andrew Anselm	Director, DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group	

### Health Department and DuPage County Staff:

Penny Chanez, Christopher Hoff, Scott Kaufmann, Rabia Mukhtar, Mila Tsagalis, Dennis Brennan

## **II. Acceptance of the Minutes**

Mr. Hart asked for consensus to accept the minutes of the October 18, 2019 meeting as presented. The minutes will be filed as presented.

## **III- Public Comment**

Tyler Clark, Serafin & Assoc informed members of a legislative initiative coming before the state legislature in Springfield. The legislation if passed will tackle the opioid issue from a new policy direction which would require physicians to co-prescribe NALAXONE if they are prescribing a high dose of opioids and benzo diazepam for those most at risk of reoccurring substance abuse.

Bruce Sewick, CEO of SHARE Program - spoke on cannabis harm reduction approach to addressing the opioid crisis.

Mr. Hart thanked those who spoke under public comment and shared that a legislative update will be added as standing item to future Taskforce agendas.

## **IV. HOPE Taskforce Community Meeting Debrief**

Purpose of the meeting(s) are to provide community members with resource information on where to get help for substance use disorders.

Mr. Hart provided the following update:

- First meeting in December occurred in Lisle. 60 community members attended, including nonprofit partners and Taskforce members.
- Next meeting will occur in March in Addison
- Future topics of interest should be shared with the Taskforce.

## **V. HOPE Taskforce Funding process**

Dr. Wilson acknowledged State Representative Terra Costa Howard in the audience and thanked her for her work on behalf of addressing issues surrounding substance abuse.

Dr. Wilson provided the following updates on the \$100,000 approved by the DuPage County Board for the purpose of funding innovative approaches to address the opioid/heroin issue.

- This is the second year the County Board has approved funding for the work being done by the Taskforce to address issues of substance use disorders and addiction.
- Application process was open to the community at large
- 7 reviewers met using best practices to review all applications. Rubric for judging criteria is available for review for the purpose of transparency.
- 15 applications received, 14 met the criteria of meeting one of the 5 key focus areas of the Taskforce.
- A press conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM to announce the recipients.

- Recipient recommendations will go to the DuPage County Board of Health for approval prior to the announcement.

## **VI. Opioid Fatality Review Team and Coroner Updates**

Dr. Jorgensen provided update.

- Coroner's office received a 1.16 million-dollar, 3-year grant for the purpose of creating a review team to address overdose deaths and analyze in depth the details surrounding every deceased person who died of an overdose in 2018.
- Team membership determined by interest and working ability.
- The goal of the team is to collect robust information to determine the cause as to what is driving individuals to use substances.
- Outreach to also include family members who lost someone to overdose
- In response to concerns from outside sources that DuPage is not making the progress that other counties are making in addressing deaths by overdose. Dr. Jorgensen shared that DuPage County does extensive testing not always followed by others to make determinations on overdose deaths which provides more robust data on the cause of death.
- Continuing to see in death data a transition from the use of heroin to fentanyl.
- Not seeing any drug activity hot spots in DuPage County – spread is around the county.

Additional discussion from members included:

- Dr. Weiner – expressed the need to increase the use of Fentanyl test strips and pushing the distribution of the strips as one measure to address the increased in Fentanyl usage.
- Mr. Gerke added that education/prevention with emphasis on real life experiences is important when talking with youth to combat substance use.
- Sheriff Mendrick discussed the abuse of prescription medications, the impacts and what law enforcement witness in the field.
- Ms. Johnson asked the team to consider looking at the treatment patterns due to the high recidivisms of those with substance use disorders.
- Director Ayala addressed the need to treat substance use disorder holistically; evolve thinking, to think not only in terms of Fentanyl, but to look at other substances and address unmet needs in the community such a mental health needs.
- Dr. Ruscitti stated that local high schools and middles schools are seeing unprecedented numbers of students that are vaping and using marijuana.

## **VII. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program at DuPage Correctional Center**

- For individuals leaving jail there are now steps in place to address treatment for those individuals
- Flyer provided to members that highlights what MAT is and who will be considered for treatment
- Contact to be made with families to help break the cycle
- Vivitrol is being used a week before someone is released from jail.
- Comfort dog at the facility

## **VIII, DuPage Health Coalition Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Workshop**

Presentation by Kara Murphy, DuPage Health Coalition

Ms. Murphy addressed: DuPage County Opioid Use Disorder Planning and a community approach to expanding access to treatment. Ms. Murphy spoke on the following items as they relate to her agency's efforts.

- Mission/Charter/Partners
- Project Launch timeline
- Community Assets and Gaps
- Proposed stages of implementation

## **IX: Presentation by Don Kalish, Path to Recovery Foundation -**

Mr. Kalish provided updates on their foundation's focus of helping to support families dealing with substance abuse including historical context on

- Mission
- National and State and local statistics
- Goals
- Treatment descriptions
- PATH to Recovery Foundation's
  1. Support Services
  2. HARM Reduction services
  3. Meetings and website support

## **X. Taskforce Member Updates**

1. Mr. Gerke- March 7, 2020 Heroin Anonymous Open meeting @ Serenity House @ 5:30PM
2. Jim Scarpace – Gateway Foundation coming to DuPage County off of Finley and Butterfield roads in Downers Grove and they will accept Medicaid
3. Bernadine McFarland – FOCUS Update:
  - 240 total cases which includes the 150 cases since the program started in Sept. 2018.

- 600 pending which is double the amount since they originally started. The numbers are anticipated to change once an individual goes to court, because the systems will only focus on DuPage County.
4. Dr. Weiner-
    - Edward-Elmhurst Hospital went live on Monday with the Alternative to Opioids (ALTO) project, an initiative of adopting safe, non-opioid modalities in their Emergency Departments.
    - To date, 529 pounds of medication has been collected in the RX boxes at Elmhurst Hospital.
    - Received a large grant of Detera denaturing bags, an in-home medication disposal option. 15,000 bags will be given to all orthopedic, spinal and general surgery patients over the next 6 months who receive opioids and 15,000 will be distributed out to the community.
    - Still working on trying to hire CD navigators
  5. Deb Lewin – Path to Recovery is having comfort dogs from Naperville Humane Society attend their Naperville meetings. They also are having board paintings sessions with baby goats to bring comfort to the families.
  6. Mila Tsagalis-
    - January 30,2020 – The annual DuPage Narcan meeting will be held at the Health Department with a class for trainers to follow.
    - Feb. 10, 2020– Vaping listening session to be held at the Health Department. State Representatives and experts will also participate, and teens will speak on what is working and not working in their communities and among their peers.

Next meeting of the HOPE Taskforce is scheduled for April 17, 2020

There was no further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20AM

respectfully submitted,

Penny Chanez  
Executive Assistant