

Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

July 17, 2020

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met via the ZOOM platform on Friday, July 17, 2020.

The meeting was called to order by HOPE Taskforce Co-Chair, Dr. Lanny Wilson at 8:30AM. A roll call vote was taken. The following was noted and read into the minutes in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-07 (2019 IL EO 20-07), issued March 16, 2020, during the duration of the COVID-19 Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation, the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, requiring or relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body are suspended. Specifically, the conditions in 5 ILCS 120/7 limiting when remote participation is permitted are suspended.

Pursuant to section 7(e) of this act; today's meeting is being conducted remotely and is being livestreamed for the public's viewing. This meeting is also being recorded in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

The DuPage County Health Department is the lead agency for DuPage County in response to the global pandemic and as such is currently closed to the public except by appointment, in adherence to public health guidelines and for the protection and safety of the public and staff.

Dr. Wilson also noted that Taskforce member Dr. Weiner has left his position at Edward/Elmhurst Hospital and at this time will not be participating as a member of the Taskforce, but the Taskforce is looking forward to collaborating with him in the future and wishes him well on his new endeavor.

| Task Force Member Name | Title | Attended |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Greg Hart | DuPage County Board Member | X |
| Bernard Murray for Bob Berlin | DuPage Co. State's Attorney | X |
| Judge Athanikar for Judge Guerin | Chief Judge – 18 th Judicial Circuit | X |
| Dr. Richard Jorgensen | DuPage Co. Coroner | X |
| Dr. Darlene Ruscitti | DuPage Co. Regional Office of Education | X |
| Mike Drugan for Sheriff Mendrick | DuPage Co. Sheriff | X |
| 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 |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Tim McGavin for Bernadine McFarland | Program Manager, DuPage Co. Probation Dept. | X |
| Greg Vesta | DuPage Police Chief's Association | |
| Keith Krestan | DuPage Fire Chief's Association | X |
| Rich Veenstra | Mayor of Addison | X |
| Jim Scarpace | Executive Director, Gateway | X |
| Michele Worobiec | Chief Counsel, TASC | X |
| Allison Johnsen | Manager, Business & Program Development, CDH/Delnor | |
| Lisa Schwach | Community Development | X |
| Brad Gerke | Community Member | X |
| Deb Lewin | Path to Recovery | X |
| Laura Crawford | President, Chamber630 | X |
| Andrew Anselm | Director, DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group | X |

Health Department and DuPage County Staff:

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

II. Acceptance of the Minutes

Mr. Hart asked for consensus to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2020 meeting as presented. The minutes will be filed as presented.

III- Public Comment

Three public comments were received via the Health Department's website in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

Comment received from S.
Stefani

We want to update you on our efforts to provide harm reduction services to DuPage County. We are happy to announce that the Live4Lali Harm Reduction Mobile Unit will be providing services to Schaumburg starting in August. We have been working with the Schaumburg PD on rolling out harm reduction services. Our goal is to implement harm reduction services overdose hotspots in the county. We are looking to collaborate with stakeholders in these areas. Thanks
-Hope for Healing

Comment from Richard Lasek

Thank you for the time today. The Lasek Family is a Hinsdale family of almost 20 years and lost a dear son last September. Through the efforts of many amazing people, they've started a charity called CHRISCROSS Foundation. CHRISCROSS's mission statement is

expanding awareness and access to treatment for Mental Health, Addiction and Suicide Prevention for young adults and their families.

Comment from John D.

All schools, especially high schools, should be SHUT DOWN and students should have online learning ONLY. If we send our kids to school while the county has almost ten thousand cases, they will bring the virus back home and spread it to their families, who then will spread it to their co-workers and friends. The virus will definitely increase if hundreds or thousands of children gather in one building multiplied by all the high schools in different towns. Schools CANNOT re-open.

IV. COVID-19 Update – Director Ayala

As the recent COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impact in the ongoing efforts to address substance use disorders, Director Ayala provided an overview of the Health Department's COVID -19 dashboard with members and highlighted the following:

- Numbers of confirmed case counts, with indicators showing community-wide spread over all age groups
- Case count demographics by sex, race and ethnicity
- Positivity rates from onset of the virus in March to current data
- Countywide hospitalizations and death counts from onset of the virus to current data
- Provided an overview of the County's testing site located at the DuPage County Fairgrounds

V. HOPE Taskforce Pilot Project Updates

Mr. Hart introduced representatives from two of the agency's who received funding for the Taskforce's pilot projects.

Rosalind McGee provided a project update on Access Community Health Network.

- Recently opened a new Medical Assistance Treatment (MAT) program in West Chicago on July 8, 2020.
- They are currently having in patient visits and using telehealth.
- Individual treatment occurring with clients
- Bloomingdale site also provides MAT services, approx. 20 DuPage clients are enrolled at the Bloomingdale site; ACCESS has 14 MAT sites in total.
- West Chicago site is a Federally Qualified Healthcare Center (FQHC) and they accept multiple insurances
- Ongoing outreach occurring with their clients to provide support during this time

Kara Murphy, Executive Director from DuPage Health Coalition provided an update on Coalition's efforts in exploring ways to expand MAT in DuPage County and identifying community assets and gaps related to MAT. Ms. Murphy shared that COVID-19 has presented challenges in their efforts but shared what progress has been made since January.

- Working towards getting Emergency Room physicians certified in providing medication assisted treatment in emergency rooms.
- Capacity to serve 75 providers with training occurring using a remote training model
- 13 individuals are currently signed up for the first training scheduled in 2 weeks.

VI. DuPage Narcan Program Update

Mila Tsagalis from the Health Department shared the following information on Narcan usage in 2020:

- The total number of uses in 2020 so far stands at 145, an increase from previous years.
- There have been 102 successful reversals
- Narcan distribution continues during COVID-19 with curbside pickup
- Increased the amount provided to first responders to limit the number of times they need to pick-up
- The State of Illinois has provided additional funding for the purchase of Narcan to make it readily available to people at risk and 2000 doses were distributed to multiple entities.
- Multiple adjustments made to Narcan training and can be found online on the HOPE DuPage website. Trainings are in both English and Spanish
- Working on building awareness of the Illinois Help Line 1833-2FINDHELP

VII. Opioid Fatality Review Team and Coroner Updates

Dr. Jorgensen provided an update on the current opioid related overdoses and deaths since the Taskforce met in January 2020. Dr. Jorgensen noted that the data is concerning as the crisis has fallen off the radar, specifically during the period of time since COVID -19 and the implementation of the stay at home orders.

- Dr. Jorgensen shared that he provided a public service announcement informing the public of the 20 overdoses that occurred over a three-week period, which included multiple overdoses occurring on several days
- In August 2013 there were 42 overdoses which prompted officials to become alarmed and put a spotlight on the issue. Over the last several years there has been an increase to over 100 overdoses on a yearly basis. In 2019 there were 96 overdoses. As of the end of May 2020, Dr. Jorgensen noted there has been 60 overdoses indicating an ever increasingly alarming trend which is eclipsing the previous year's totals for the same time period.

- Dr. Jorgensen noted that there has been a similar increase in the number of suicides
- There has been a huge shift in usage to Fentanyl and fentanyl related substances
- Studying the cases occurring in 2020, Dr. Jorgensen noted the following occurrences in all the cases: the individual either had a history of depression, a history of mental health issues, all were living alone often due to financial or marital problems, and a large number of the individuals were either in recovery or in rehabilitation for addiction problems.

Members Scarpace and Gerke concurred with the observations made by Dr. Jorgensen stating that the economic fears of what can happen has taken a large toll on the recovery community. This is not isolated to DuPage County and is being seen nationwide and stressed the importance of social contact with those in recovery and reaching out to do daily check ins, stressing the importance of personal contact.

Dr. Ruscetti mentioned that the Regional Office of Education has 20 social workers and behavioral health interventionists that are working with vulnerable student populations age 16 and up on a daily basis and are having good results.

VIII. Roundtable Discussion/Updates

Judge Anthanikar presented on behalf Chief Judge Guerin and oversees FOCUS Court which focuses on first time offenders and oversees the County's drug court.

Worked with Chief Judge Guerin to address what was to be anticipated as an increase in usage during the COVID-19 pandemic and implemented measures to assist in mitigating some of the issues including:

- Development of a comprehensive pandemic plan for the courtroom to monitor those in the FOCUS group as well as drug court participants.
- Conducting remote staffing for each portion of the courtroom and collaborating with the State's Attorney's office, the Health Department, Public Defenders office and Probation to determine what needs to be done for each individual in the courtroom and determine next steps
- On-line training continued for staff members
- Drug testing has continued during the pandemic as well as placement of individuals into treatment centers
- Emphasized the importance of continued contact and keeping as much structure as possible for at risk populations

Legislative Update

Sheryl Markay, Chief Policy & Program Officer from DuPage County provided the following update.

Comprehensive materials will be sent to Taskforce members on current legislative initiatives at the State and Federal levels on specific legislation surrounding substance use including the

- State Telehealth COVID-19 Pandemic Act sponsored by Rep. Conroy with a purpose for all health coverage providers to cover various treatments including behavioral health and substance use treatments.
- Rep. Conroy also obtained \$5,000,000 for DuPage County to construct a central receiving center for evaluation for substance use disorders and behavioral health issues for individuals as an alternative to being placed in jail or emergency rooms.
- Federal bills include a list of 50 -75 bills on telehealth, increase access to broadband, prescription drug disposal programs. Nothing is currently moving.
- Two federal bills are moving forward including HR5201 – permanently include a patients home as eligible originating site for mental health services delivered via telehealth services and would include reimbursement from Medicare.
- HR-7539 which would allow for random audits of insurance plans for parity laws for behavioral health and substance use coverage.
- HEROS Act – does include funding for substance use disorders and behavioral health.

Round Table Updates

Mr. Hart shared that RAMP Up received a National Achievement award from the National Assoc. of County and City Health Officials for their work in training individuals in recovery, for jobs in the manufacturing sector.

Jim Scarpace – Gateway’s grand opening for their new Downers Grove facility is tentative for October. The facility will accept Medicaid for treatment services.

County Board Member DeSart questioned if the County keeps a list of those who need support and how do you reach out to those individuals. Mr. Hoff responded that yes, the Health Department Behavioral Health Services and the 24-hour CRISIS center has been open during the pandemic to address client needs. Information about the health department’s behavioral health services, including the 24/7/365 phone number is available here.

<https://www.dupagehealth.org/214/Crisis-Phone-Support>

Next meeting of the HOPE Taskforce is scheduled for October 16, 2020

There was no further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25AM

respectfully submitted,

Penny Chanez
Executive Assistant

DRAFT