

Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

November 13, 2020

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met via the ZOOM platform on Friday, November 13, 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.

Task Force Member Name	Title	Attended
Greg Hart	DuPage County Board Member	X
Bob Berlin	DuPage Co. State's Attorney	X
Judge Guerin	Chief Judge – 18 th Judicial Circuit	
Dr. Richard Jorgensen	DuPage Co. Coroner	
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
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
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director, Gateway	X
Allison Johnsen	Manager, Business & Program Development, CDH/Delnor	X
Lisa Schvach	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	X

Health Department and DuPage County Staff:

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

Jim Zay, DuPage County Board member

Leslie Reis from Congressman Krishnamoorthi's office also was also on the call.

II. Acceptance of the Minutes

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

III- Public Comment

There was no public comment.

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.
- State of Illinois, Tier 2 Guidelines
- 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
- Discussion on expansion of testing sites

Mr. Scarpace shared the impacts of COVID-19 in the treatment of those with substance use disorders, including seeing increases in substance use, depression/anxiety and suicides. Mr. Scarpace also shared how Gateway is addressing programming/treatment services during COVID-19.

Guest presenter, Karen Kissel of Haymarket echoed Mr. Scarpace's observations and noted the increases on opioid related EMS calls and related deaths in the city of Chicago. Ms. Kissel also shared information on how Haymarket is addressing COVID-19 in their congregated setting environment, including having a representative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Chicago Dept. of Public Health complete a walk through to provide guidance on how to keep individuals safe.

Mr. Gerke also echoed the same observations mentioned by Mr. Scarpace and Ms. Kissel. In the recovery community. Mr. Gerke spoke to the many challenges including the difficulty in the lack of resources and the confusion some individuals are experiencing as they navigate meeting settings during COVID-19.

Ms. Johnsen from Northwestern spoke to the mental health issues and that psychiatrically those with substance use disorders often have co-concurring depression/anxiety. They are seeing a 20% increase in mental health needs since COVID-19 and an increase in the need for services.

Ms. Johnsen noted that they have begun in person services by practicing physical distancing and utilizing modified space, particularly for those who are dealing with a substance use disorder who need human interaction.

V. Haymarket Update

Ms. Kissel provided an update on the Haymarket DuPage's purchase of the former Holiday Inn on the west side of Interstate 290 in Itasca. Ms. Kissel highlighted a few changes made to their proposal to address community concerns, including:

- The new site will not accept women and children at the Haymarket DuPage facility.
- Haymarket DuPage has entered into a formal agreement with Elite Ambulance services to support emergency calls.
- Significant landscaping updates have been added, including a patio and fencing to provide patients with privacy.
- Haymarket is partnering with Edward/Elmhurst Hospital and Linden Oaks to address specific needs of their patients.

VI. Pilot Project Updates

Mila Tsagalis from the DuPage County Health Department provided updates on two of three recipients of the 2020 grants provided by funding approved by the DuPage County Board.

Access Community Health Network

- Began Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services at their West Chicago location including telehealth services. The 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.
- <https://www.achn.net/services-programs/Buprenorphine-program/>

DuPage Health Coalition:

- funded to provide x waiver education and increase the number of providers in DuPage County that can provide MAT services.
- They have trained 44 providers in MAT services with additional trainings schedule. Training has been spread across 7 DuPage County Healthcare Providers including:
 - a. Advocate Aurora (Good Sam)
 - b. DuPage Medical Group
 - c. Northwestern Medicine
 - d. DuPage County Health Department
 - e. Access Community Health Network
 - f. Edward Elmhurst Health
 - g. AMITA
 - h. Non-DuPage providers were allowed to register and also had attendees from Spokane Dept. of Health, OSF Healthcare, UI Health, and Princess of Wales Hospital (UK)
- DHC was awarded an expansion to support a broader array of providers through DuPage County COVID funds. Although most of the providers X Waiver Certified to date were working in ED settings, training supported providers practicing in:
 - a. Emergency Medicine
 - b. Internal Medicine (Including Hospitalists)
 - c. Neurology and Psychiatry
 - d. Family Medicine
 - e. Obstetrics and Gynecology

VII. DuPage Narcan Program Update

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

- The DuPage Narcan Program expanded Narcan distribution to community members who may be at risk of an opioid overdose. A rapid deployment project was implemented to be able to quickly reach families and individuals at risk. Since the rapid deployment project launched in June 2020, 42 Narcan kits have been distributed.
- From May – June 2020, the DNP shipped 1,500 Narcan kits to 5 treatment programs in DuPage County- HAS, Stonybrook, Symetria, New Age and CAP.
- Narcan kits have also been provided to many of our Foundations and partners that work with families and others at risk for an overdose.
- Leave behind cards have been sent to first responders to continue to educate the community about this new resource.
- Between January 1st – November 10th, the HOPE Website received 1070 pageviews to in-person and virtual Narcan training information.
- Between January 1, November 10, 2020 – 503 first responders have been trained.
- The DNP has expanded to 93 participating program sites, including first responder and bystander partners.

VIII. HOPE Grant Application Review

Chris Hoff from the Health Department provided an update on the grant review process for the new round of grant funding approved by the DuPage County Board to address the opioid crisis in DuPage County. Areas of interest for this funding cycle include overdose response and treatment and recovery.

The submissions received were evaluated by grant review committee consisting of the members from the HOPE Taskforce and DuPage County Health Department staff.

3 organizations were selected from the multiple submissions.

- DuPage County Adult Probation – for a peer recovery coach program
- Serenity House – to expand their MAT program.
- Path Recovery Foundation – for peer-based support services to assist individuals navigate the complexities of treatment.

VIII. Roundtable Discussion/Updates

1. Mr. Berlin provided an update on a lawsuit filed by DuPage County and other counties against many of manufacturers and distributors of opioid medications. Lawsuit is staid after Perdue Pharma filed bankruptcy. The State's Attorney's office continues to pursue actions in this matter.
2. Mr. Berlin also shared that the DuPage County Drug Court continues to see increases in cases. There are 61 current/active drug court participants and 46 pending applications and 6 applicants ready to execute a contract.

3. Mr. Berlin provided an update on the DuPage County Focus Courtroom: there are currently 403 pending predisposition cases/ 610 post disposition cases.
4. Mr. Anslem shared information that there is an increase of counterfeit oxycodone pills on the market which has been classified as being straight fentanyl. There is also a significant increase of LSD.
5. Ms. Tsagalis shared that the Health Department has developed virtual education tools for health classes in schools. Ms. Tsagalis also shared information on a HOPE DuPage survey found on the HOPE DuPage website which seeks feedback on how drug usage impacts different sectors in the community.
6. Ms. Crawford shared her appreciation for all the work being completed by the Taskforce and also shared feedback on the impacts of substance use in the restaurant sector.
7. Mayor Veenstra shared his thoughts on having more synergy between the work being done on COVID-19 and the work being done by HOPE Taskforce given the impact and scope of both issues in communities.
8. Mr. Scarpace shared that Gateway is stilling planning to open their new facility in Downers Grove in January 2021.

Next meeting of the HOPE Taskforce is scheduled for January 22, 2021.

There was no further discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30PM

respectfully submitted,

Penny Chanez
Executive Assistant