

## Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

Sept. 23, 2022

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, September 23, 2022

Mr. Hart called the meeting to order at 8:30AM

Karen Ayala, Executive Director for the DuPage County Health Department presented comments from Co-Chair Dr. Wilson who was not able to attend the meeting. Director Ayala presented a certificate of appreciation to Mr. Hart for his leadership and commitment to the mission of the HOPE Taskforce. Recognition was also given to Dr. Ruscitti who was not present. This will be Mr. Hart's and Dr. Ruscitti's last meeting serving on the taskforce.

Task Force Member Name	Title	Attended
Greg Hart	DuPage County Board Member	X
Bob Berlin (Mr. Murray)	DuPage Co. State's Attorney	X
Dr. Richard Jorgensen	DuPage Co. Coroner	X
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	DuPage Co. Regional Office of Education	X
Sheriff Mendrick (Mr. Drugan)	DuPage Co. Sheriff	
Jeff York	DuPage Co. Public Defender	X
Dr. Lanny Wilson	Vice-President, DuPage County Board of Health	
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		
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director	X
Lisa Schvach	Community Development	
Brad Gerke	Community Member	X
Deb Lewin	Path to Recovery	X
Laura Crawford	President, Chamber630	
Andrew Anselm	Illinois State Police	
Chief Judge Kenneth Popejoy	Chief Judge – 18 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit	X
Greg Schwarze	DuPage County Board	
Karyn Charvat	PowerForward DuPage	X
Megan Corrigan	Advocate Good Samaritan	X
Dr. Michael Nelson	Cook County Health	

## **Health Department and DuPage County Staff:**

Penny Chanez, Christopher Hoff, Mila Tsagalis, Dennis Brennan

DuPage County Board members:

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

Mr. Hart asked for consensus to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2022 meeting as presented. The minutes will be filed as presented.

## **III. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **IV. Substance Use Disorder Treatment Updates**

Jim Scarpace – Director of Behavioral Health Service, Ascension Behavioral Health System

- Looking to add detox beds at Mercy Behavioral Health program in Aurora
- Partnered with Gateway to do warm hand offs in the emergency rooms at St. Joes in Elgin and Alexian Brothers Medical Center. Gateway will help to assess and screen individuals that present with substance use disorders and help individuals get placed in treatment facilities on the same day.
- Exploring opportunities in DuPage County to provide the same level of support for mental health outpatient services to parts of the county where services are not available specifically for the Medicare/Medicaid managed care population.

Lori Carnahan, Director for Behavioral Health Services, DuPage County Health Department (DCHD)

Jeff Lata, Assistant Director of Adult Outpatient Services

Dr. Dolgin – Substance Use Medical Director

- Provided a review of the substance use disorder treatment services /programming offered by DCHD. Services began in 2018 after being transitioned from the DuPage County Courthouse Psychological services and was used as a foundation for expanding services in the community.
- DCHD staff are in the correctional facility 5 days a week doing classes for the substance use discovery pod and also provide evaluations.
- A post crisis response team responds within 72 hrs of a 911 call when the sheriff's office has responded previously. A social worker along with one of the deputies who has been CIT trained will meet with people who had a mental health crisis. Additionally, anytime the Sheriff's office gets a NARCAN save, staff work with the individual to link them to treatment. This initiative has resulted in positive outcomes.
- Expansion of services include having a full-time reentry program manager at the Sheriff's office to help with linking individuals services.

- Dr. Dolgin very recently joined the Health Dept., and her experience will be an important part of the agency's effort to expand Medical Assisted Therapy.
- Biggest challenge for DCHD services – awareness that there is help at the local level. Director Ayala added that staffing resources continues to also be a challenge and requested the taskforce look at ways to meet the challenge.

## **VI. HOPE Updates**

Dr Jorgensen, Coroner Update:

- Prior to 2015 overdose deaths were typically from a singular drug. Currently, Dr. Jorgensen noted that a change in the polypharmacy and strange mixture of drugs is being found in overdose fatalities and is prevalent in all age groups.
- Currently not seeing an increase in any new drugs, but is seeing increased usage of “legal” drugs such as Kratom that can be purchased in area businesses.
- The age of individuals dying is increasing – majority are 30-50 years of age
- Overdose Fatality Review Team – slowly getting back on track after COVID. 5 individuals were identified, and letters were sent to next of kin to see if the team could do next of kin interview to learn more about the person and the path they took. One individual participated and much information was gleaned from the interview.
- Dr. Jorgensen addressed a question if marijuana is being found in deaths attributed to overdose deaths. Dr. Jorgensen said it is found in most samples and usually samples also include alcohol.
- Dr. Jorgensen additionally shared that many individuals are confused on the types of drugs they are taking.

Mila Tsagalidis, Director for Community Initiatives

- Provided an update on the recently installed Narcan vending machine at the Linda A. Kurzawa Community Center which is a pilot program for the distribution of free Narcan. To date 58 doses have been provided.
- Shared information on the federal educational campaign “One Pill Can Kill Campaign” and is looking for recommendations on where to message this throughout the County.

Taskforce Members Brad Gerke and Deb Lewin provided updates on upcoming events.

B. Gerke

- September is recovery month
- Event: First Choice Second Chance – discussion from bestselling author, Steven Hill; recovery coach and attorney advocating for treatment over incarceration provides an inspiring comeback story. (9/27 and 9/28)
- Event: Sept – 28 panel discussion with Steven Hill at 8:00AM. Discussion will center on education, resources, sober living and community-based living and effective stigma reduction methods.

#### D. Lewin

- Path for Recovery held their annual “Overdose Awareness Day” on Aug. 31 with a focus on the issue of stigma.
- Event: Sept. 27 – focus on Mobilize Recovery an initiative of the Recovery Advocacy Project and the Voices Project. Its mission is to expand policy to support recovery, create connections to supportive services that are vital and lifesaving and to engage affected individuals in meaningful community action. Location: Path for Recovery office in Naperville.

#### **V. 2021 and 2022 HOPE Grantees Updates and New Recipients**

Project: Teen Ambassadors for Mental Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Stigma Reduction (Serenity House, Prevention Leadership Team, and NAMI DuPage)

- 6 high school students attended a youth leadership conference (CGTI) which offers opportunities for teens around the state to learn about leadership, healthy choices and working with others to create better communities.
- The project “*Teen Ambassadors for Mental Health Substance Use Prevention and Stigma Reduction Campaign*” consists of high school children in District 87 and are known as the DuPage Ambassadors Team (DAT) and consists of 22 student members. They meet regularly to spread awareness of mental health and substance use in student populations and have held panel discussions and will be participating in the annual Glenbard West High School Homecoming parade. They also provide awareness of mental health and substance use during the school’s freshman orientation and to continue to meet with freshman throughout the year to help them navigate high school.

Project: Hope for Healing

- Continue their work on harm reduction efforts through mobile outreach.
- Working with community organizations on methods for stigma reduction
- Participated in multiple events within the community to provide education on the use of Narcan and fentanyl test strips, and recognizing the signs of overdose
- Looking to partner with the DuPage ROSC for expanded educational outreach/trainings
- Applied for a grant along with Access clinics. If awarded it will have an Access employee on the truck who can provide basic healthcare services.
- Hired employee in a more formalized partnership with Live4Lali to expand relationships within the community.

#### **NEW GRANT RECIPIENTS:**

Project: Mental Health First Aid Training – DuPage High School District 88

- Goal: To train staff members and students in grades 10-13 in Youth Mental First Aid and will become a certified Mental Health First Aid site. A check was presented at the conclusion of the meeting in the amount of \$50,000.

Project: Peace Circles - Immigrant Solidarity

- Will organize peace circles for those struggling with substance use disorders, depression, and an anxiety where participants can talk with their peers in Spanish and share their challenges with trained Community Health Workers.
- Cristobal Cavazos coordinator of Immigrant Solidarity spoke on the challenges facing the Latino populations including how economic stress is the leading factor to overdoses in the Latino community. A check was presented at the conclusion of the meeting in the amount of \$20,000.

## **VII - Opioid Settlement Status and Statewide Efforts**

State's Attorney Bob Berlin provided an update.

- First major opioid settlement against Johnson and Johnson and distributors Cardinal Health, McKesson and AmerisourceBergen has resulted in a settlement.
- The settlement is \$26 Billion nationally of which \$760,000 million dollars will go to the State of Illinois and will be allocated by the Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement. \$190 million will be allocated to local Illinois governments. Through the State's Attorney's office negotiations, approx. 78% percent will go to County governments. Distribution of funds will be over a period of 18 years and will be paid in installments.
- The first two installments to be paid to DuPage County will coming shortly, as soon as October. The net payment for year one to DuPage County will be \$306,192. Year two payment will be \$321,793.
- DuPage County's gross recovery from this settlement is anticipated to be approx. \$10 to \$10.5 million dollars.
- Additional funds are expected from future national settlements/bankruptcies against other drug manufacturers and retail pharmacies.
- Illinois counties are receiving more funds than many counties throughout the United States due to terms that were negotiated by state's representation during the negotiations.
- Executive Director Karen Ayala has been appointed to the State of Illinois's abatement fund board
- Local municipalities will also receive settlement funds.
- 40% percentage of attorney fees are expected to come from the contingency fund which will increase the amount of settlement money that comes to the County.
- Settlement money does have guidelines and must be used for the purposes of treatment, education and prevention.

### **VIII. Taskforce Updates**

Judge Popejoy – Kavita Athanikar has resigned from the Judiciary effective October 7 due to personal reasons and will be missed immensely. Brian Jacobs will serve as judge for the Drug Court/FOCUS Court.

There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned at 10:27AM. The next meeting of the HOPE Taskforce to be determined.

respectfully submitted,

Penny Chanez  
Executive Secretary

DRAFT