

OPIOID CRISIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL (OCCC)

SECOND MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

Meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Allen at 5:25 p.m. 22 members and five guests were physically present, with four others calling in by phone.

Ms. Allen welcomed all participants, and each participant introduced him/herself to the group.

Minutes of April 4, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Some clarity was brought to who is considered a voting member of the Council. Individuals identified as citizens and representatives of major organizations in the Executive Order, which established the Council, are voting members. Those identified as advisors are non-voting. There are 23 voting members, with 12 considered a quorum and 7 a majority. A motion was made to this effect and passed. Ms. Allen assured the group that everyone will be given an opportunity to provide input, even if he/she can't officially vote.

Some discussion concerning the website "HoCoOpioidHelp" was undertaken. It was noted that the site was not stand-alone but was an offshoot of the Howard County Government site. A suggestion to develop a site map was made, as some believed it was difficult to easily find information needed, especially during a crisis situation, and difficult to link to that information, even if available. It was noted that the Maryland opioid site (BEFOREITSTOOLATE) was easier on which to find information in an emergency. The possibility of creating a sub-committee to work on the website was mentioned.

Sean Ford was identified as a sub-committee chairman, charged with working on the Opioid Misuse Prevention Program (OMPP) with Marianne Gibson of the Howard County Health Department. Anyone interested in participating is welcome. The deadline for submission is May 31st; so interested persons should contact Sean as soon as possible.

Ms. Lasser talked about an activities chart which lists all opioid related activities, using input from multiple sources, such as schools, public organizations, etc. This list was emailed to all members of the OCCC prior to the meeting. The list is maintained by the Howard County Health Department for updating and access. Any updates will be shared with OCCC members.

Ms. Allen spoke of need to establish strategic priorities, so the Council could focus on addressing Howard County's specific needs. Five categories were listed as areas of focus. These were: Prevention, Treatment/Recovery, Enforcement and Adjudication, Communication and Business Community Engagement. Members were encouraged to brainstorm their ideas, write them down on individual post-it notes and then place the notes on posters representing each area of focus. After this was done, three or more individuals went to each chart and organized notes so as to identify particular themes and consolidate ideas. A spokesperson for each area then reported out these themes to the group as follows:

Prevention

- Childhood education
- Prevention by educating within NGOs, other groups such as churches.

- Physician education
- Parent education

Treatment/Recovery

- More facilities, more beds, reduction of treatment cost
- Counseling both addicts and families
- Research drugs used in treatment, to establish success rates with each
- Use recovery process that works for each individual, not one size fits all approach.

Enforcement and Adjudication

- Support of officers. Interaction at social events
- Evaluation at point of arrest
- Setting up fire stations as points for immediate referral and treatment
- Courts should be able to refer individuals for treatment
- Increased access to services.

Communication

- Create more social media opportunities to share information, including in multiple languages
- Need for provision of simple, accurate, clear and transparent information
- Expert liaison with professional to assist
- Audience specific provision of information, e.g. parents, school children, etc.
- Education on what is currently provided and used for pain management, with goal of providing non-addictive medications.

Business Community Engagement

- Provide education to increase awareness to employers.
- Host presentations, luncheons, coffees
- Work on employment opportunities for recovering individuals.
- Share real stories, experiences in businesses
- Solicit funds from businesses for dealing with opioid crisis
- Provide rides for those in recovery to treatment, work, etc.

LEAD, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, was discussed. Attendance last Saturday at an opioid awareness softball tournament (organized by the Howard County ROSC – Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) was very encouraging, as they had 100 participants. There is a HCPD event scheduled for May 22, but as yet they have not received any RSVP's. Theresa Collins will be forward to members for sharing.

Ms. Allen stressed that we can use programs already developed and active in other areas around the state and country as templates for implementing the Council's own ideas.

Homework was simply to keep thinking. Goals for next meeting not established yet, but will be promulgated.

Next meeting was set for Wednesday, June 6, in the Columbia/Ellicott Room of the George Howard Building. The following meeting will be on Thursday, July 12th. Normally, meetings will be on the first Wednesday of the month, but July's was moved to July 12th, as the first Wednesday is 4th of July.

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

APPROVED