

HOWARD COUNTY
Opioid Crisis Community Council
August 5, 2020
5:15-6:45pm
VIA ZOOM – COVID-19

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In Attendance: Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Liesele Wood, Barbara Allen, Teron Powell, Debbie Nix, Mark Donovan, Corey Bryce, Joanie Elder, Katie Dant, John Way, Eric Cohn, Jack Kavanaugh, Theresa Collins, Shereen Cabrara-Bentley, Andrea (Detention Center) King Wessels, Cindy Johnson, Miriam Mathews, Joan Webb Scornaienchi, Beth Harbinson

Absent: Laura Torres, Robin Bartko, Sean Ford, Sean Hughes, Roger Hoff, James LeMon, Matt Levy, Jack Matthews, Ana Park, David Sabat, Dr. Toler, Laura Torres.

July 1, 2020 minutes were presented. Mimi Matthews moved to approve, and Joanie Elder seconded.

Minutes were approved.

UPDATES

Barbara asked for people to report on things that had changed and what is different.

Roe reported:

1. Finalized mental health transition to college program and was recorded at HCC and includes staff, an intern and other college sophomores. Teen Health Matters webpage and social media.
2. Suicide Prevention and Recovery Month planning is continuing.
3. Free Front-Line Staff offering through MDH will be forwarded by Barbara to the group.

Liesele reported that they had a virtual training for Opioid Prevention Response with HoCo Eco Works staff and is working on Naloxone mail out project to connect with people who need refills or are further away.

Fentanyl awareness campaign has been approved and are looking at how to collect data from Fentanyl test strips distribution effort. Community members can call the health department to get these. Call the general behavioral health number or orpresponse@howardcountymd.gov or call 410- 313 6202

PEER Recovery Support Line – this has been expanded and is often answered by a live person

September is recovery month so looking to launch many of these campaigns in September. Roe mentioned that these projects are moving ahead and will not wait until September.

Cindy Johnson reported that Drug DUI Court has been live for the last 2 months and they are the only live court in the state. They have 7 new people and are thankful they can do this in person.

Barbara - August 31st IOAD event. They were working in conjunction with ROSC. There will not be an event this year in HoCo.

Recovery Walk has been cancelled.

Joanie asked if there were National Events we could join. Barbara is not aware of any but said the talent pool to create a HC event virtually is slim.

Debbie mentioned that Harpers Choice Community Association is doing 2 blood drives a month now through September. 10 – 4. Could be great places to give out materials and resources including harm reduction kits. Liesele said she would send info to Debbie to pass this along.

Roe said that their Harm Reduction Bags are in the hands of Silverman and Grassroots. They are restocking to give to Hopeworks and wanted to know if there were other agencies who wanted them.

They contain H2O, condoms, granola bars, masks, gloves, hats, resource materials first aid materials, and cell phone chargers,

Reentry bags gave Narcan, resources, condoms, hand sanitizer and anything they can find to assist including resources. Peer recovery staff member cards for contact information are included as well.

2000 fentanyl test strips on the way. Organizations must collect 20 surveys and the state has said these would be “nice’ to have. May do those surveys on tablets and ask folks to complete while they are waiting for supplies.

ENFORCEMENT AND ADJUCIATION COMMITTEE

Teron reported that he has crafted language for a proclamation and sent to the committee for review and sent to Sean from Communications Committee. This will serve as an acknowledgement to service providers and consider how formally they could take this – i.e. a document/proclamation from the County Executive.

Jack asked that we add corrections officers to the list of those we acknowledge and Teron thought this would be appropriate and important as they also play a vital role.

Teron looked at models from other areas to see how they were written. First responders need to stay in the forefront of being acknowledged especially at this time.

Barbara asked Teron what he needed and how the accolades would be distributed. Police have 2 stations – northern and southern. 13 locations total for Fire and Police in the county. Sheriff has one office. The Detention Center would also be included.

Perhaps there will be a big celebration in the future but for now the precinct approach will be used. Maybe the COEX might go to each location to deliver the proclamation. Also wanting to acknowledge this annually and perhaps honor an individual from each branch in the future.

Barbara also reminded us that we may want to try to connect people who had been revived with the person or persons who had assisted.

Teron said they will coordinate with the ROSC Committee and begin in September to acknowledge. It is critical that we continue to push this initiative forward so these folks and their efforts are not forgotten and need to be acknowledged. It is relatively easy for us to push this forward.

Teron will attend this meeting and Barbara will get this on the ROSC agenda for their next meeting. Debbie will also attend the ROSC meeting.

Barbara sent a draft of the Executive Order to extend the OCCC through March of 2023 and put in a provision for co-chairs among other updates and suggestions.

SOCIAL RACIAL EQUITY ISSUES

Barbara asked the group for feedback on the topic and the wordings and groups that are being used.

Beth talked about the Annie E. Casey Report and the talk she watched about How to be An Anti-Racist. She mentioned that the author asked us to be in action

Teron sees this as an issue related to the social determinants of health and ask myself how does the work I am doing relate to these silos. We need to apply these determinants to those we serve. For example, taking fliers into trailer parks and not just to another area. When he looks at his patients, some of the silos within the social determinants of health are not being addressed.

Teron has been reading Up from Slavery by Booker T Washington and The Soul of Black Folks by WEB Dubois. Some of the things going on then are still going on now.

Barbara talked about the Telehealth report and the advantages including less appointments missed, but also that the people in greatest need may not have access to the internet – lack of phone, computer.

Barbara recommends that we continue to educate ourselves. The intention is not to put others down but to learn. She also suggested that we see a Netflix documentary called The Business of Drugs. It shows cultural and financial perspective of the drug business. One segment is specifically related to cannabis and another to opioids. Excellent documentary.

Barbara suggested this be an on-going dialogue.

Last weekend there was a National Conference for bereaved families. Barbara presented on SUD/MH losses – each session had over 80 individuals. She was stunned to see the level of ignorance of many family members. It again reminded her to ask the questions “How do we get the information to families?” They only pay attention when it is important. We need to continue to ask WHY.

Joanie has spoken to many people and they need Family Peer Support Specialists – Beth Schmidt offers these through Maryland Coalition of Families. Will there be a network of people in HoCo that do this?

Barbara said there is now a segment of training for thiFmily Peer Support Specialists at the state level, but it has not been promoted much.

The MCF is headquartered in Columbia MD. Trish Todd or Beth Schmidt for contacts.

Joanie asked if dollars could be allocated more towards family support. Barbara said some money has been allocated and it is becoming an issue of greater importance in the various grant programs in MD.

Debbie mentioned that family members go from crisis to crisis and they turn to Google. Resources there were unreliable at best and unscrupulous at worst. We must continue to push county government to keep the issue front and center.

Barbara met someone who has done an assessment of treatment services – Conquer Addiction might be the name of it. Recommend folks check it out and provide feedback to its veracity. Shatterproof is launching a similar web database for EVP based treatment programs.

Teron was trying to find a bed for someone with alcohol detox and Md House Detox said ONLY private insurance. JH Bayview also accepts.

Debbie asked who was watching the issue of treatment centers offering Medicaid beds to ensure they are accepting them. Roe said she would follow up with them, but that waiting lists tend to be a month long for the few Medicaid beds available. Mark agreed that this was the case.

We discussed that AlaNon meetings were difficult to access. Beth invited people to reach out to her if they needed access.

Joanie said that one of the values of this group were connections and information sharing was invaluable.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Harbinson

APPROVED