

HOWARD COUNTY
Opioid Crisis Community Council
September 2, 2020
5:15-6:45pm
ZOOM Meeting/COVID-19

Meeting called to order at 5:20 pm

In attendance: Barbara Allen, Debbie Nix, Robin Bartko, Mark Donovan, Joanie Elder, Cindy Johnson, Jack Kavanagh, Eric Kruhm, Teron Powell, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Christine Castro (for D. Sabat), Laura Torres, John Way, Joan Webb-Scornaienchi, Liesel Wood, Rich Gibson, Corey Boyce,

Approval of minutes: Robin B; motion to approve the August minutes as written; Teron 2nd. Motion passed.

Announcements:

Welcome Christina Castro, Christtina sitting in for Dave Sabat, FRS.

Per Debbie Nix, Kahler Hall in Harper's Choice will partner with HD to be a pickup location for Harm Reduction kits. Will also provide a table with HCHD information, Detera bags and messaging at our monthly blood drives through the end of 2020.

Roe – HCHD busy with COVID, MH and BH campaigns. Social media push, You Tube webinars, multiple ongoing campaigns focused on Peer Recovery services, MH, Fentanyl test strips, virtual ORP training, etc.

Liese – Lisa Morrel is working on the harm reduction take-home kits which contain fentanyl test strips, harm reduction materials. Still providing virtual ORP for organizations, groups, and individuals. Over 4K pocket guides have been distributed and HCPD received 400 Detera disposal bags to be handed out. Peer materials to be sent out w/Peer cell number; available basically 24/7. Fentanyl print materials ordered; digital campaign begins soon. Pharmacy campaign participation is up - 85% participating in standing order for Naloxone.

Steve Schuh, Director of the OCCC came to HoCo to see progress and provide feedback on possible improvements or areas of opportunity. He was very pleased:

Positives – Test strips by mail order, mobile van coming, harm reduction initiatives, OCCC 1st Responders recognition event, Provider Prescriber Program, Inpatient treatment coming and HC ROsc, strongest in MD!, Corrections Peer Services, DUI drug court, LEAD program, HCGH ED induction of buprenorphine at hospital.

Opportunities – Adolescent Drug Court, alternative destinations, ie: Safe Stations, work with Parole and Probation, Social services.

Sean H – Lobby video messaging is ready to go! This was an OCCC ask. Kudos to all involved.

Barbara – Treatment facility location fell through. Still a priority to find a location. Tuerk Conference this year to be virtual on 9/10. Flier to be emailed. BHAC meeting 9/15 – to discuss BH plan, priorities, harm reduction. Executive Order has been drafted. Rich Gibson suggested we rephrase representation by the office or position rather than names due to job shifts.

How COVID is changing BH/SUD discussions, opportunities. For example, helping families touched by disease. Youth, family programs. Social equity – impacting the way we think about outreach. Grant funding for more school based programs – perhaps via OCCC grant programs.

Teron – Providers working to navigate the telehealth as well as in-person services. Telehealth options need to continue post COVID as this provides another viable option to meet people where they are.

Robin B. – MH use of telehealth seems to be accepted more broadly for 1st time services. Easy access, less stigma, can access from comfort of home, etc.

First Responders event date – October 28th, which is National 1st Responders Day. Cindy suggested that due to physical distancing, we request that a copy of the proclamation be emailed to every 1st responder. OCCC wants to ensure we are part of the conversation – part of the solution, appreciation. We are working with ROSC to get this done.

Eric Kruhm, HCPD – Regarding the numbers they report on social media, they are working to ensure they have good solid data to report out.

Laura T – “News”; Beth H has a contact to train OCCC members on...family support. Beth S. from MCF states that MD Coalition of Families provides family support – that is their mission. Laura said the Treatment and Recovery committee will loop Beth S into further committee discussions.

Rich made a motion to adjourn, Cindy 2nd. Meeting adjourned 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Nix