

**HOWARD COUNTY
Opioid Crisis Community Council
December 4, 2019
Barton Conference Room
Howard County Health Department
8930 Stanford Blvd
Columbia, MD 21045**

Meeting Minutes

Barbara called the meeting to order at 5:18 pm

In attendance: Barbara Allen, Roe Rogers-Bonaccorsy, Katie Dant, Mark Donovan, Laura Torres, Robin Bartko, Jack Mathews, Sean Ford, Debbie Nix, Teron Powell, Cindy Johnson, Sean Hughes, Joanie Elder, Liesele Wood, Eric Kruhm, Scott Peterson and Bruce MacDonald, Corey Bryce. Jack Kavanagh (joined as rep from Department of Corrections).

On the phone: Katie Dant, Beth Schmidt, Cindy Johnson, James LeMon, Flora Betro.

Minutes of the November meeting were presented; discussion ensued. Debbie moved to table the approval of the minutes; Teron 2nd. Motion carried.

Barbara shared our very positive experience manning a table at the Veterans Day event, Columbia Lakefront on November 10. John Way, Laura Torres, Robin Bartko, Liesele Wood, Debbie Nix, Beth Harbinson, Barbara and Tom Allen worked the event. We talked with many in attendance to educate and reduce the stigma. The 211, Press 1 cards were well received. We handed out numerous Deterra and DisposeRx bags. Barbara connected with John Terry of Leidos for possible funding of additional Deterra bags for the community as well as possible funding for events or programs. A Cantor from within HC intentionally sought out our table asking for Barbara's card. He is interested in a possible educational program for his temple community.

Note: Leidos is the company that hosted John Way's MH First Aid classes. As a group, we discussed the story behind Leidos' CEO stepping up to lead in the realm of opioid addiction and the workplace; creating policy and allocating resources for their employees, challenging other CEO's to do the same. They've partnered with the NFL to help reduce the stigma and raise awareness. Leidos' program came out of an employee's loss of his son to SUD. Flora mentioned Leidos has a corporate presence in Howard County; she will reach out to them and see where we can connect and partner.

Announcements:

A reminder that Sobar is hosting a New Year's Eve event, SOBAR Soiree, a sober party to celebrate the new year. (9120 Frederick Road, Ellicott City, 12/31 from 8:30pm-12:30 am.) An electronic flyer was sent out to be shared.

Roe - Training at the HCHD on 12/6 from 8:30am – 12; "Bearing Witness to Racial Trauma" w/resource tables. Roe also talked about World Aids Day – the Peer Counselors spent Saturday, November 30 at the Leona Dorsey Day Resource Center providing information and support,

Narcan training and reaching out with harm reduction information and resources, including the pocket card. Jack Mathews added that it was a great event.

Liesele – Collaboration with Fire and Rescue continues as well as the expansion of harm reduction programs in HoCo. Narcan distribution continues to many organizations. The pocket card has been distributed to CAC, LBHA, and peers. OCCC has requested more pocket cards. The first 2,000 went out rapidly. HCHD will order 5,000 – 10,000 depending on the price break. Liesele asked us to provide her with information on where we distribute the cards. This information is required for grant reporting purposes.

Jack Kavanagh has joined as the representative for HoCo Detention Center (HCDC) to OCCC. He wants to know about the work of the OCCC and be part of what is going on in the county around opioids. He talked about the programs and services being offered at HCDC now and the direction of corrections around MH/SUD.

The HCDC has added 2 new, permanent FT Peer Support positions in addition to the HCHD Peers that work with them now. The SBIRT screening and the Peer support has been very successful with the population. A voluntary MAT program for corrections is up and running at HCDC and is fully compliant with the grant (\$340,000). Howard County is one of 4 jurisdictions, including PG, Montgomery, and St. Mary's, putting this program in place in Maryland. HoCo is the only one currently fully compliant with the three approved MAT medications.

Jack states that illegal use of drugs in the detention center is going down with the introduction of MAT. There is a contract with U of MD to track recidivism. A big thank you is owed to Teron Powell from Silverman for his partnership with this effort. Teron is appreciative of the partnership and collaboration, the work of the Peers. He is seeing the benefits in treatment when folks get to Silverman after having been in detention. Jack Matthews from Howard House is also seeing the benefits once folks get to him. Debbie Nix is grateful for this program and is hopeful for other families on this journey whose loved ones have access while in detention. This program helps once folks are released.

Laura Torres reports that January 9, HCGH will begin providing Buprenorphine waivers for a limited number of medical staff in the ED. Also they are expanding SBIRT screening @hospital, increasing peer access in ED, and additional nurse training. Laura is presenting a Workplace Safety Training on the Opioid Crisis to HCGH employees. Sean Hughes suggested the HCGH Magazine issue that solely focused on the crisis is an excellent resource tool for her training. Mark Donovan commented that relapse is a medical issue, not just about addiction.

Barbara talked about harm reduction programs and how they reduce the costs to society. For a life time of care for persons with HIV and/or Hepatitis it is \$380,000 per person. Clean needle exchange and other harm reduction programs do cut costs.

Robin Bartko has experienced 1st responders with lack of empathy for MH/SUD issues. She wonders if they have enough training or if it is "burnout." Eric Kruhm reports that HCPD gets 40 hours of Crisis Intervention training, and that sometimes families and patients refuse to get help which can be frustrating. The 911 Flagging program was mentioned again. This is where families or individuals can complete a form that is then connected at the 911 response center. This alerts 1st responders there is a special circumstance at the home. This is completely voluntary

and residents can ask that the information be removed from the record as well. All agreed that there needs to be more education of this program for families/employers/communities across the board.

Cindy Johnson reports that the information sharing by the members and guests of the OCCC has been *vital* to the States Attorney's Office and learned information can then be utilized in working with the public.

Barbara asked that everyone review the Interim Report and get back to her with additions, comments, changes by December 13.

Teron suggested that if we cannot get a full appreciation event off the ground before the OCCC term ends, perhaps we, along with the County Executive's office can give a "Proclamation of Recognition" to each PD precinct, community outreach office and Fire and Rescue station, with the OCCC listed on the document to show our appreciation.

Next meeting: January 2, 2020 – Thursday, back at the George Howard Building in Ellicott City.
February 5, 2020 – Wednesday @George Howard Building
March 4, 2020 – Wednesday @George Howard Building

Debbie moved to adjourn, Joanie 2nd, meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm.

APPROVED