

## **BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL**

**July 8, 2016**

Present: John Bernardo, Carole Cassidy, Megan D'Introno, Arthur Johnson, Tom Morellino, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Raymond Serowik, Susan Wheeler, Lorraine Wilmot,

Absent: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Robin Alpaugh, Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Allen Buyck, Stephen Cornwell, Katie Cusano, David Harder, Lee Livermore, Jerry Marinich, Dennis O'Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Dr. Christopher Ryan

### **Announcements:**

- The new BOAC brochure is being distributed throughout Broome County and is available for printing on the BOAC website. BOAC's Facebook page is up and running and the new website will be complete in the next couple of weeks. With the assistance of the Endwell Rotary, BOAC brochures were distributed at the Fourth of July Highland Park event.
- Megan D'Introno, the newly hired Drug Court Case Manager was welcomed and introduced as a new member of BOAC.
- Carole Cassidy is compiling a binder of all BOAC materials including BOAC committee meetings.
- Debbie Preston, John Bernardo and Art Johnson met regarding partnering with a private agency that would like to build a long-term rehab facility in Broome County which would treat all addictions, not just heroin or opioids.
- About 200 people attended Dr. Kolodny's presentation which was well received. Cortland and Tompkins Counties plan to invite him for presentations.
- Jeff Smith, President of the Endwell Rotary, may be able to secure some grant funding for drug take back boxes.
- *Recovery is Possible and All Around Us* –the information and support group for parents and grandparents has been going very well. The flyer is available on the BOAC website.
- Debbie Preston is visiting all the towns and villages throughout Broome County. Carole has been joining her to present BOAC's mission to the Boards and they have been well received.
- The draft document from the retreat was passed out to BOAC members for review and comments. Those attending the retreat felt that it was empowering to hear BOAC's accomplishments and the new ideas that came out of the discussions. It was suggested that participants at the retreat be listed at the end of the document.
- Brian Sickora is no longer with WSKG and Carole will reach out to see if someone else from WSKG is interested in joining BOAC.

### **Community Education Committee:**

- Jill was unable to attend this meeting to provide an update.

### **Law Enforcement Committee:**

- Captain Newcomb advised that during the retreat, there was discussion about expanding this committee. She will talk to Sheriff Harder about discussing this at the next Police Chief's meeting.
- Since March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Sheriff's Assisted Recovery Initiative has assisted approximately 30 individuals suffering from substance use disorder. The Sheriff, Michele Napolitano and Alan Wilmarth plan to discuss

the first quarter. During June, there were 12-13 days when both beds were occupied each day and 10 days where one bed was occupied.

- The Vestal Medicine Shoppe has expressed interest in having a drug take-back box. A discussion will be held with the new Police Chief in Endicott to see if he is willing to have a drug take-back box there.

#### **Treatment and Prevention Committee:**

- A handout prepared by Katie Cusano was distributed. It provides a comparison of the primary substance identified for inpatient, outpatient and residential admissions for 2010 to 2015. Inpatient admissions increased by 30 people (11%) with heroin and opiates as the primary substance of choice. Outpatient admissions also increased by about 10%. Clients who identified alcohol as their primary substance of choice decreased while the numbers almost doubled for heroin and opiates. The total numbers went up 8% from 2010 to 2015.
- The NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) will now allow residential OASAS licensed providers to increase their treatment bed count to 10% provided that they have the physical space and are in good standing with licensing requirements. Art Johnson and Katie Cusano participated in a conference call with Michele Napolitano, Executive Director of Fairview Recovery Services and the State. The new female halfway house will be open before the end of the year with 16 beds for women, two of them for women with children.
- UHSH hired another physician who will be able to prescribe Suboxone.
- Drug Court's first of four training sessions will be held on August 10<sup>th</sup>. It was reported that a drug court participant passed away. Grief counseling was provided to Drug Court participants. Kim Newell noted that the individual did not die of an overdose.
- Investigator Tim Dewey from the New York State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement will present to BOAC about opioid prescribing practices in Broome and other counties in New York. Carole hopes to schedule him for the August 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Education of Medical Professionals Committee:**

- Eighty-three overdoses have been treated, primarily by law enforcement agencies, through the Overdose Prevention Program. There were six cases each during April, May and June in addition to what is treated by EMS personnel and civilian administrations. Five hundred fifty-one providers have been trained under this program which includes 215 members of the Broome County Sheriff's Department and 193 from the Binghamton Police Department. Training is provided at the basic academy for law enforcement which includes people beyond our county borders.
- Tom Morellino has visited 47 physicians, 26 nurse practitioners and physician assistants, and 41 dentists through face-to-face meetings to provide academic detailing. We are three months into the program. The information is being well received. Tom leaves the literature and his card if someone chooses not to meet with him.

The next meeting is August 5, 2016 in Conference Room A at the Broome County Health Department.