



State of New York County of Broome Government Offices

Broome County Health Department

Jason T. Garnar, County Executive · Rebecca A. Kaufman, MS, Director of Public Health

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL

February 3, 2017

- Present:** Jill Alford-Hammitt, Scott Baker, Iris Borilla, Diane Brown, Katie Cusano, Valerie Datta, Jason Garnar, Matthew Gawors, Arthur Johnson, Nancy Johnson, Rebecca Kaufman, Jill Lloyd, Mary McFadden, Kevin McManus, Tom Morellino, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Michael Ponticiello, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Kara Skellett, Penny Stringfield, Alan Wilmarth, Lorraine Wilmot
- Absent:** Robin Alpaugh, Stephen Cornwell, Rich David, Megan D’Introno, David Harder, Ben Lainhart, Lee Livermore, Donna Lupardo, Jim Mullins, Dennis O’Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Colleen Wagner, Chris Whalen, Susan Wheeler
- Guests:** Jack Salo, Mary Maruscak, Julie Pitts – Rural Health Network of SCNY

Community Education Committee: Jill Alford-Hammitt provided an update.

- The committee discussed projects they are working on with the Drug Free Communities Grant. Kara and Jill worked together to encourage school districts to participate and each school district is now represented on this committee. The Tobacco Coalition also joined.
- The Drug Free Communities Grant is working with school districts on the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey.
- The Community Education Committee is working on a social norms misconception campaign and hope to show students through the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey data that most of their peers are making healthy choices.
- An underage drinking prevention poster contest sponsored by Mirabito, the STOP-DWI Program and Lourdes ADEPT will begin for high school students. The winning poster will be displayed at Mirabito stores during prom/graduation season and on school district websites. The NYS Police number to report underage drinking must be included on each poster.
- Sports injury forums for community members, athletes, parents, athletic directors, and coaches are being scheduled. The Maine-Endwell School District event will be held on February 21st at 6:00 p.m. An event for Afton and Bainbridge-Guilford School Districts will be held on March 16th at 6:00 p.m. at the Afton high school. The Windsor School District will have a half hour program at their parent/athlete meeting on March 7th. An athlete in recovery will speak to the student body at the SV School District high school assembly on March 9th at 9:00 a.m.; contact the high school principal if you would like to attend. This athlete will also speak at the Maine-Endwell event. The Whitney Point, Chenango Forks and Deposit School Districts are also interested in hosting events.
- Through funding from Senator Akshar, a contract will be executed with OASAS for expansion of SAP counselors into area schools. Counselors should be in place at Binghamton, Chenango Forks, Deposit, BOCES East Learning Center, Maine-Endwell and Newark Valley by March 1st.

Law Enforcement Committee: Kate Newcomb provided an update.

- Sensitivity training to be more empathetic toward addicts and their families is being provided for law enforcement personnel. This is part of in-service training for all police departments.
- Prescription drug drop off boxes are located at the Broome County Sheriff’s Office and the Broome County Library. A grant was received from the MEE Foundation to purchase prescription drug drop off boxes for the Broome County Office Building and Endicott Police Station, which should be in place soon.

- The Vivitrol Program at the Broome County Jail is going well. Inmates nearing the end of their sentence are provided education. If they choose to take Vivitrol, they get their first dose before leaving the Jail and continue medical observation through UHS for 3-6 months. There is some evidence that Vivitrol and oral Naloxone can help with alcohol addiction as well. Most of the inmates interested in the program are alcohol dependent rather than opioid dependent and they are not eligible for this program now.

Treatment and Prevention Committee: Katie Cusano provided an update.

- The UHS Outpatient Clinic is very busy with about a week wait for admission. The 18 beds at the inpatient unit were full as of yesterday. Nine new patients were admitted to the Methadone Program. There are currently 136 people in the Suboxone Program. UHS has a program for women addicted to opioids. They are partnering with Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network to provide the Baby Basics course. The group is going well and there are 15 moms in the group. The YWCA is working closely with this group to get mothers into the Bridge Program; there are two openings in the program right now.
- ACBC has 8 tracts running. The Family Navigators saw 89 people in the first quarter. The program will be expanding to add two part-time Family Navigators. There is one RN to provide medical assessments. They worked with 89 family members in the third quarter from 47 families and provided 56 family sessions. They worked with 15 families during January. Families are referred to peer counselors. A peer counselor meets with an individual as many times as they want while they wait for their pre-assessment and during their first three appointments for support and to answer questions. They are expanding to offer some services in Tioga and Chenango Counties. They hope to hear back soon on a grant application to offer an opioid abuse prevention program.
- Fairview Recovery Services is looking for a facility to rent to begin their recovery center services.
- Kim Saunders in the Forensic Unit at Broome County Mental Health runs a program to connect people to services within 14 days of their release from prison. Most have some type of substance use disorder.
- Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Executive, will present findings from the National Task Force on Heroin and Opioid Abuse on February 8th at Binghamton University. NYSAC will present on best practices and recommendations for local governments who are dealing with this national epidemic.
- John Barry hopes to bring in Andrew Tatarsky from NYC to provide some training on harm reduction.
- The Dual Recovery Program will provide Hepatitis training on March 28th.
- The Greater Binghamton Health Center has a new program for people with first onset of Schizophrenia to get treatment to prevent future episodes.
- UHS had their first baby born whose mother received treatment with buprenorphine rather than methadone. The baby had no neonatal abstinence syndrome or withdrawal symptoms and only needed to spend five days in the neonatal unit (which is state law for opioid dependent babies) rather than the typical three week stay for babies born to mothers in the Methadone Program. It was a much better outcome for the mother and baby.
- Alan Wilmarth noted that during the past year methamphetamine and crack cocaine have been seen to be the primary drug of choice rather than opioids. The hospital is having issues with controlling the violent behavior of individuals who present with synthetic cannabinoids.
- Scott Baker works in Susquehanna County PA. They have a one day a week Suboxone Clinic at Barnes Kasson Hospital and the patients all must go through counseling. They are seeing 30 patients right now and expect to be able to see up to 130 patients after the first six months of the program. They are finding that almost all the patients have Hepatitis C. They are seeing an increase in methamphetamine use in Susquehanna County.

Education of Medical Professionals Committee: Dr. Christopher Ryan provided an update.

- The academic detailing project is in its third and final phase with targeted messages for safe and judicious management of prescriptions for patients dealing with chronic pain that cannot be cured.
- Dr. Ryan met with hospital staff at both hospitals to discuss Suboxone prescribing. There is some trepidation about prescribing something new and physicians want to make sure they are properly trained and have good counseling resources available. There were some concerns about logistics such as whether one physician in a practice could prescribe or whether all the physicians in the practice would have to be trained to do so, and whether it is a reasonable treatment for opioid use disorder. He will work on ways to help physicians feel more comfortable with prescribing Suboxone and hopes to meet with Internists and Pediatricians soon. UHS has mid-level providers who can do this now and they are using a hub/spoke model where physicians can refer to Drs. Hunter and Ronan to stabilize the patient. They would then refer the patient back to the provider, as is done for other chronic ailments.

- The Opioid Prevention Program has trained 717 public safety members on Narcan administration. There have been 131 cases treated with a 90% survival rate. The NYS Police have treated 24 cases. Nine investigators at the Broome County District Attorney's Office will be trained as well as nurses in the Binghamton School District.

AmeriCorps Opioid Pilot Project 2017: The Rural Health Network presented on a pilot project they would like to begin where AmeriCorps members would work in Broome County to combat the opioid epidemic by providing direct non-clinical services through outreach activities. They would connect people to prevention education, assist with harm reduction activities, and provide navigation assistance to treatment resources. This would be for May-November 2017 with a possible long-term program for 2017-2020. 900 service hours per member would be needed for the project which would make the AmeriCorps members almost full-time. They would like to utilize 4-6 AmeriCorps members at a cost of \$3,375 per member. Grant opportunities need to be explored quickly to get the pilot program in place by May. Possible \$5,000 grant opportunities exist with Care Compass Network and the Community Foundation of South Central NY. The Health Department will pursue this grant funding. Contact Rebecca Kaufman or Mary McFadden if you are aware of other possible grant opportunities. The deadline for grant applications will be March 15th to be operational by May. In-kind support for mileage and training specific to the project would be needed.

Potential activities for the AmeriCorps members are outreach and education targeting rural populations, coordination of the community Narcan training events, promotion of the needle exchange program, navigation assistance for treatment options, and to connect communities, families and individuals with resources. The actual program design needs to be developed. Chronic disease medical management is required to restabilize a person with a substance use disorder; treatment is deemed to be successful when the person is back to a stable lifestyle.

Prevention is where most of our efforts would be directed with harm reduction support (STAP provides many harm reduction activities) and treatment support to be more effective in the management and treatment of substance use disorders. AmeriCorps members could be utilized to do the active prevention work and could be facilitators in Broome and surrounding counties to receive requests for further information and find venues for events. They could be the contact people for follow-up after community education events and to help people get into treatment. The AmeriCorps members could be the link between prevention entities to avoid duplication of efforts. They could assist STAP with harm reduction activities such as the syringe exchange program, Hepatitis C testing, Narcan training and to expand the availability of Narcan kits in rural communities. They could assist with removing transportation barriers for people in rural communities, assist with insurance, and provide transition support for people going back to rural communities after treatment. They could assist with finding self-help meetings and transportation to those meetings. This could be a tremendous opportunity to supplement resources in rural communities. The CEO's of both United Health Services Hospitals and Lourdes Hospital are supportive of this project.

The Broome Opioid Abuse Council's 2016 semi-annual report was distributed. There are timelines for specific strategies that can be discussed at the next meeting which is scheduled for March 3, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room A at the Broome County Health Department.

The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs and Health, *Facing Addiction in America*, can be found at:
<https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/surgeon-generals-report.pdf>