

Summit County Opiate and Addiction Task Force

Key Stakeholders Quarterly Meeting

Virtual Meeting Held via Zoom



MEETING NOTES 12/13/2021

ATTENDEES:

47 Community Stakeholders were in attendance.

MEETING MATERIALS:

The following materials were distributed via Zoom and shared during the virtual meeting: Agenda, Data Dashboard, Harm Reduction Presentation.

• **Introductions & Welcome**

- Amy Woodland welcomed all who attended this meeting.
- She then introduced Aimee Wade to provide an update.

• **Update: Executive Director Aimee Wade**

- Executive Director Wade thanked everyone for being committed to this task force and joining us.
- She reiterated that the need for this task force is not decreasing. We need to be flexible and able to respond to the needs in our community.

• **Update: Amy Woodland**

- One of our needs is to sit down collaboratively and have a conversation about leadership going forward. For anyone interested in assuming the role of Opiate Addiction Task Force Coordinator, we will set up a virtual meeting in late January of 2022. For those who would like to consider taking on a roll in one of the Task Force's subcommittees, anyone interested will be invited to attend.

• **Data Dashboard: Nick Baechel**

- Nick Baechel presented the most recent data regarding key critical indicators of the OATF. Mr. Baechel showed the average daily department overdoses in the 4th quarter of 2022. Summit County has averaged 2.9 people per day. These are not deaths necessarily, but those who went to the ER.
- In the overdose deaths by year, we hit 219 in 2020. In 2021, Summit County had 198 confirmed deaths and 27 suspected deaths. Summit County is trending up compared to the previous 2 years.
- He showed this data again on a monthly spectrum.
- Mr. Baechel also showed the overdose rate per 100,000 population. Summit County is trending up on this data as well.

- He broke this same data down by race. There was a dramatic increase in African American males in 2020, and it is still increasing in 2021. Both males and females, Caucasian and African American, are increasing in numbers.
 - Mr. Baechel then showed a graph of substances listed as a cause of death. Fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine respectively are involved in these deaths.
 - He presented another graph showing causes of death in combinations of these 3 substances. This is constantly changing as these combinations continue.
 - Mr. Baechel showed a map of where these fatal overdoses are occurring. He stated that the smaller the area of impact with more deaths occurring is an inflated rate of deaths which we should be concerned about.
 - Mr. Baechel then showed a graph of detox wait times. This data showed that if someone comes in for detox treatment, they can get in the same day.
 - The residential wait times are heading in a good direction. There is a steady decrease which shows people are getting through faster.
 - He also showed the opioid doses dispensed per capita, and the line graph he presented showed a steady decrease. There are fewer opioids being dispensed in Summit County.
 - Mr. Baechel concluded his presentation with a report from the ADM Helpline. The average access time to get an appointment is 4.4 days. However, they can usually get an appointment for the next day. In 2021, they have had 454 scheduled appointments.
- **Greta Johnson, SC Executives Office**
 - Ms. Johnson provided an update from Executive Shapiro stating that as of October 2017, opioid addiction is a public health crisis.
 - The Henry Shine Corporation provided \$1,000,000 to the Akron Community Foundation to aid in this crisis. The focus on these funds was to educate the community and local healthcare professionals.
 - Over \$100,000 went to Akron Children's Hospital for peer recovery for addicted mothers.
 - The Cleveland Health System expanded their recovery treatment.
 - Henry Shine also sent \$1,000,000 to Summa Hospital to fund their program for pregnant women who will go through treatment through their child's first birthday.
 - The County Executive's Office also connected to the Summit County Sheriff's Office to make sure pregnant inmates have access to treatment.
 - They granted ACF \$500,000 in grassroots grants for the "boots on the ground" organizations. They also provided assistance to people who are unable to qualify for Medicaid dollars.
 - Ms. Johnson gave thanks to Ms. Wade in working with the Executive's Office and providing open the lines of communication with ACF. Every organization who qualified for the ADM dollars which were supposed to come from ACF received a grant.
- **Recovery's in Reach Report: Jonathan Sanchez**
 - In 2020, Cleveland Clinic Akron General submitted for a grant from Ohio Health. In spring of 2021, they reapplied to the opiate abatement council and in July were

granted with \$1,000,000 and a 1 year term. Mr. Sanchez noted that addiction can be hard on the community and family, but also in the hospital. They have 3 emergency departments in Bath, Green, and Stow, and are hoping to become the front door to addiction treatment.

- Their focus is to treat addiction at a high level. They identify and stabilize patients in a safe setting, give them the best options for referral and the tools to make recovery possible. They also plan to set up patients with a recovery coordinator. This is a registered nurse who is staffed daily, and acts as a recovery coach to give the patient the proper tools for a successful road to recovery. This program is planned to go live on January 3rd, 2022, and they are ready to make it successful.

- **Subcommittee Reports**

- **Criminal Justice: Police Chief Jack Davis & Rhonda Brink (Cuyahoga Falls PD)**
 - Chief Davis spoke about trends they are seeing in the probation department. They are finding that fentanyl is now in cocaine and methamphetamine. They are also determining a direction in the subcommittee. They have accomplished a lot of the goals they have set, so they are now looking for a new direction for the subcommittee to go in. They are going to have some meetings in the future to make sure they meet some difficulties they are facing.
- **Healthcare: Dr. Garry Thrasher**
 - Dr. Thrasher stated that they have just finished their 8th annual conference on November 6th via Zoom. They want to educate healthcare providers, as he said there is no better way to improve the care of patients than to improve the providers. They would like to reconnect with various organizations to make sure they are communicating and functioning at an efficient level.
 - The county jail has so many inmates there for drug/alcohol related issues. They have had success with pregnant inmates with substance use disorders, but they want to help them more if they can. There are patients coming in with withdrawal symptoms and they want to follow up with them to see how they can help moving forward.
 - Dr. Thrasher also gave the update that ADM detox is open 24 hours a day, and they tell patients to come in whenever they are ready. In light of the COVID Pandemic, they want to look into obtaining their lab test onsite and have a currier pick them up from Summa lab care. That will cut down on patients having to go to the Emergency Departments with lots of wait times and sick people, and make better utilization for the ER.
- **Policy and Advocacy: Dr. Andy Davis**
 - This year, the committee has continued to meet every other month on the 3rd Thursday. Many members of this committee are policy and advocacy professionals, so they have been helping track substance use. They hope to have more tangible action items they can do that will make a difference.
 - This past year was also slow in the political environment for this committee. Some issues they have looked at are Medicare reform and expanding reimbursement for others who are not eligible even though they are providing services. There is more need, and not enough providers going around.

- Legislation is looking to streamline peer supporters on the state level, and provide them with more funding.
- **Public Awareness: Lucky Tisch**
 - Darryl Brake was unable to join us for this meeting. However, Lucky Tisch spoke about their review of the ADM Board website and the SAMHSA(?) website. Leslie Wood assisted them in their review.
- **Family Support and Young People Committee: Nicole Jones**
 - This was a rough year for this committee due to COVID-19 as their membership took a hit. Nobody from family support has attended any meetings. They are looking to regroup and find new ways to help support the community. They want to get more membership and more people involved in the subcommittee.
- **Harm Reduction: Jackie Pollard (Summit County Public Health)**
 - They continue to discuss the illegality of purchasing syringes and are coming up with different strategies. They are also looking into finding new members who are interested in participating.
 - Project DAWN is an overdose prevention, education, and distribution program. They provide naloxone to those who feel they need it. Participants are taught how to recognize an overdose and how to intervene and prevent a fatal overdose. Project DAWN also offers home CPR kits.
 - From January 2021 through the end of November, they have distributed 5,115 Narcan kits through their web of partners. They also had a total of 1,637 known reversals. Even though overdoses are going up, we are still making a dent in reversals which is necessary to tackle this issue. They continue to look at ways to push Narcan out into the community.
 - They have 3 syringe clinics a week. They had anticipated seeing fewer people, but lately have seen an uptick in their numbers. This year they have given out over 400,000 syringes.
- **General Announcements**
 - Ms. Woodland opened the floor for general announcements:
 - **Andy Davis:** With peer work in emergency departments, they have been training peer supporters in addition to their state certifications. They are trying to get a grant, but if we have peer supporters and they want to learn an additional skill, they will be provided that information.
 - **Dr. Thrasher:** Are you using the needle exchange program? Every retailer knows half the sale is getting them into the store. Detox at the ADM Crisis Center asks patients if they lick their needles. If this is the case, they are putting saliva onto their needle before they inject it, and that could be a dangerous practice which could cause further infection. They say they want to taste the product to see how much fentanyl is in it.
 - **Caryn Griffin, Stark State Akron:** Stark State Akron would be more than happy to have agencies come in and table at their atrium to pass out information.

- Amy wished everyone a wonderful holiday and thanked everyone for their patience. We will move forward in working with the leadership team to bring focus to 2022 and acquire a new project manager.

- **Conclusion**

The meeting was concluded at 5:26 p.m. The next public quarterly meeting will be held Monday March 14, 2022, 4-5:30p.m via ZOOM.