

Summit County Opiate Task Force

Key Stakeholders Quarterly Meeting

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM



MEETING NOTES 06/17/2020

ATTENDEES:

48 Community Stakeholders were in attendance.

MEETING MATERIALS:

The following meeting materials were distributed via email and shared during the virtual meeting: Agenda; Data Dashboard; various agency handouts and event fliers.

1. Welcome

China Darrington, Opiate & Addiction Task Force Project Coordinator, opened the meeting at 4:05 p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Since this meeting was held virtually the rules of participation were also covered.

2. GENERAL UPDATES:

- **COVID-19 Response & Updates** – Jerry Craig, ADM Board
 - Mr. Craig thanked all everyone for their creativity, resourcefulness, and flexibility they have exhibited during this time of crisis.
 - He thanked all the providers for maintaining services at this time.
 - The “Stay at Home” order adversely affected the agencies as most of the provider agencies met with clients face to face. The ADM Board advanced many of the agencies the balance of monies on their contracts for the fiscal year, enabling them to continue their mental health and addiction services.
 - The ADM Board also worked with the providers whose employees were working with the clients at most risk by providing “hazard pay”.
 - A Thank You also went out to Summit County Public Health for their assistance in helping us with the acquisition and distribution of PPE, masks, etc. to the providers who were requesting this.
 - At this time, the providers and clients are slowly returning to face to face meetings while maintaining social distancing.
 - The option of choosing face to face meetings or continuing with telemedicine is left to the client for the continuation of provided services.
- **Strategic Planning** - China Darrington
 - The current strategic plan for the Opiate Task Force was in place from 2017 -2019. There is a plan to work on a new plan currently.
 - Summit County Public Health has given grant funds to the Opiate Task Force for use regarding the acquisition of a new strategic plan.

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- A local company has been contacted regarding strategic planning. This company plans to reach out through the Opiate Task Force subcommittees to acquire information regarding the new strategic plan.
- **Data Dashboard** – Nick Baechel
 - Nick provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding substance abuse effects in Summit County. The presentation was full of facts and data regarding how substance abuse has been affecting Summit County currently and in the past. (Presentation slides may be found at www.summitcountyaddictionhelp.org under the Opiate & Addiction Task Force tab).
 - Dr. Robert Shott, with the Summit County Medical Examiner’s office, commented that currently he is not seeing overdose deaths as a result of Carfentanil only but added he does have 2 cases for which he does not have a full toxicology report.
 - Virginia Kreiger asked a question – Can the increase in the distribution of Narcan be credited with the reduction in overdose deaths? The reply to her question came from Summit County Health Personnel – We would like to think that is the cause of the reduction in overdose deaths, but we cannot confirm that is the reason.
- 3. **Quarterly Spotlight: Prevention Innovations during COVID-19** – Kim Patton/Lauren Munk
 - Kim gave a brief overview of what has been occurring in the way of prevention from the providers considering the majority of prevention activities are conducted through the school systems. Since the schools were closed due to COVID -19, this presented a problem as to how to reach the most at-risk youth. Outreach to this population took the form of video distribution, Facebook posts, Google Hangout sessions, ZOOM meetings and other virtual platforms that touched the youth.
 - Lauren Munk from CHC Addiction Services/Summit County Youth 2 Youth (SCY2Y) went into further explanation of what was used to reach young people. Lauren explained the various groups this encompasses and how they continued the outreach to this group.
 - SC Y2Y is a youth led adult guided organization. The youth plan all activities with adult guidance.
 - Middle School – (5-8 grade) This group of youth, when in school, met during their lunch period once a month. Since the schools closed this platform was changed to a virtual meeting using Google Hangouts. These meeting started at once a week but since have progressed to 3 times a week (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). The topics of conversation have varied but mostly they seem to center around “destrressing”.
 - Youth Staff (9-12 grade) This group is made up of high school students. Youth must complete an application with 2 references, and have an interview to become a member of the Youth Staff. The term of office for this committee runs from August thru June and they meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday each month. Since this could no longer happen plans were made to meet virtually. This group has been working on presentations, social media postings, etc. They have been working on a You Tube video to recruit others to be a part of Youth Staff.
 - Camps – The camp that was to be held in May was cancelled due to the pandemic. There is hope that the camp scheduled for October will happen if

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not face to face then virtually. The Youth Staff work during these camps. In these camping sessions, 5 out of the 6 prevention strategies are used.

- Additional programming offered by CHC Addiction Services includes:
 - Mendez Fund, Too Good For Drugs – this is geared to youth age kindergarten through grade 12. This will possibly go virtual in the fall.
 - Project Alert – this targets middle school youth. This group has been working on general presentations. They have put the presentations to video and have been sending those out to schools/teachers. Prevention is now interactive through video.

Virginia Krieger commented on a program being used in the Pennsylvania schools with success. It is called DJ Choices.

Karen Snyder commented on her group Improbable Players. They have made a ZOOM play and would like to connect with Lauren Munk and her SC Y2Y group.

4. **Subcommittee Updates:**

a. Harm Reduction – Jackie Pollard/Angela Kaiser

- This committee has met once since the last OTF meeting.
- They have been working on their mission statement/goals.
- They have reached out to several area police departments to inquire whether their calls have remained the same or increased during COVID-19. The result is they have not seen any change in the amount of calls.
- The committee is proud to announce that they are opening the fourth syringe exchange soon, at Summit County Public Health's Barberton location. July 6th will be the start of the mail order syringe exchange also.
- So far in 2020 – there have been 1700 syringe exchanges, that is approximately 120 per week and they have given out 1367 Narcan kits.
- In May 395 kits were given out and there were 431 reversals reported.

b. Healthcare- Talia Brown & Dr. Gary Thrasher

- Talia reported that the committee has been reaching out to various committees and providers to invite them to their next meeting July 22.
- Dr. Gary Thrasher reported that alcohol use is rising and that detox agencies are seeing an increase for persons wanting to withdraw from alcohol.
- He also expressed a thank you to all detox staff currently.
- He reported that Brightview is now taking patients for MAT treatment. He has been educating Healthcare providers about an upcoming virtual medical conference November 7.

c. Criminal Justice – Chief Jack Davis

- Chief Davis reported that at the meeting held in May, discussion regarding the future of the committee and the values/goals of the committee were discussed.
- He also reported that grant monies have been received. The QRT teams are starting back with home visitation.
- QRT outreach has resumed in some communities. OHI resumed in Cuyahoga Falls and is in discussion with others to resume. CHC Addiction Services resumed in Stow and plans to go out in late July with Coventry. SCPH has resumed with the city of Akron.

d. Policy & Advocacy – Jerry Craig

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- Jerry thanked the various representatives from the surrounding areas for attending the meeting this evening.
- Jerry made mention of several different bills that are being brought before the House and Senate. The more prominent of those being House Bills 87, 160, 341, 365, 655 and Senate Bills 3, 55, 59, and 271. (Document is available on the OATF tab of the website.)
- e. Family Support & Young People – Nicole Jones/N’ecole Ast
 - This committee has made a Recovery Calendar, that features substance free activities in the surrounding areas.
 - They would like to focus on education and training for professional persons
 - They would also like to focus on resource sharing.
 - They brought to the attention of the committee that by calling 211 you can find food resources for those in need.
- f. Public Awareness – Chrissy Gashash
 - Chrissy reported on the various promotions/advertisements that this committee has been putting out into the community.
 - They have been promoting the addiction helpline and the mental health services that are available through such mediums as: fliers in food boxes, fliers that were distributed in key zip code areas where substance abuse/mental health are not widely known, pizza box lids, Facebook ads, etc.
 - SC Public Health has provided some monies to aid in the updating of the current website (www.summitcountyaddictionhelp.org)
 - Chrissy also stressed that if any subcommittees need help making the public aware of activities, etc. please contact her.

5. New Business

a. Announcements/Questions

- Virginia Krieger – asked how the implementation of the OD Map service was working.
 - Nick B responded that the ADM Board gained access to this program about 1 year ago, but since then Akron PD has stopped updating the program due to a manpower shortage it has not garnered a lot of new information.
 - The other barrier surrounding the implementation of this service is the issue of privacy regarding the use of the officer’s individual cell phones. They feel this is a HIPPA violation and would readily use the program if they had company cell phones.
 - Sarah Reinhold – Lorain County ADM Board reports that they are having much success with OD maps and would gladly help us to succeed with this program if needed.
 - Karen Snyder – Improbable Players mentioned their ZOOM Play and that the first 10 organizers that booked her Improbable Players she would give a 70% discount.
 - Denise Thomas – United Way – Reminded everyone of the Food Resources available through 211 and 25lbs of food can be delivered via Door Dash to those in need.
 - Talia Brown – Akron Children’s Hospital Outpatient Clinic for Adolescents has now opened. They will see school students or those up to age 18.

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6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

NEXT OATF MEETING DATE: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 4-5:30pm
Location to be determined

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