

# Summit County Opiate Task Force

## Key Stakeholders Quarterly Meeting

Summit County Public Health Auditorium  
1867 W. Market St. Suite A, Akron, OH



**DRAFT**

## MEETING NOTES 3/20/2019

### ATTENDEES:

60 Community Stakeholders were in attendance.

### MEETING MATERIALS:

The following meeting materials were distributed: Agenda; Data Dashboard; various agency handouts and event fliers.

### GENERAL UPDATES:

China Darrington, Opiate & Addiction Task Force Project Coordinator, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- **Introduction and Overview** – Ms. Darrington reviewed the mission of the Summit County Opiate Task Force, and its six Subcommittees will report out individually.
- **Drug Safe Hudson Task Force Report** – Jamie Messenger reported on:
  - Placement of Detera bags with each new resident at new nursing home in Hudson
  - Library is on board to pass out Detera bags and display Drug Free Hudson materials.
  - Detera bags will go out with each prescription filled by dentists in Hudson area
  - Working with counselors. Hudson has Drug Free Clubs of America in schools. Has doubled in past year.
  - New Athletic Director at Hudson HS contacted. Information sheets developed for athletes
  - High use of vaping in both middle schools and high school. Community event on April 20 at Hudson High School will address the issue.
  - Connecting with Police Department. Scheduled to do Drug Take Back Day with them next month. October Drug Take Back Day garnered 81 pounds of pills.
  - Faith groups very interested
  - Drugs and alcohol not my problem, it's our problem. To see city of Hudson come on board is an amazing experience.
- **Green Drug Task Force Report** – Bob Bender reported:
  - Green Task Force's 20+ members meet once a month. Members are available to cover any event in Green.
  - Recent Board of Education event hosted 1,000 attendees. Task Force members staffed the event.

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- Green High School has six youth on the Task Force. Main interest in vaping and trying to educate the community.
  - Hosted several sessions of “Hidden in Plain Sight” for parents only. Next presentation is April 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, at Central Park Community Center.
  - Hosted a three-part series with physicians from Summa. Last part scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at City Hall: “Managing Chronic Pain.”
  - Commented that Facebook posts have been very disturbing. Lots to do yet.
  - Faith communities in Green will host a “Crisis Awareness Sunday” on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Green Drug Task Force will be working with pastors/leaders to develop messages regarding drug abuse and recovery and a member will be available to answer questions after services. (flyer available)
  - Working to engage businesses in the community in more ways.
  - Reported on Quick Response Team (QRT) in Green.
- **United Way Addiction Leadership Council** – Report tabled.
  - **Summit County Public Health** – Jackie Pollard representing.  
Information available in the Data Dashboard regarding Summit Safe needle exchange and Project Dawn

## **DATA DASHBOARD**

Jerry Craig, Executive Director of the County of Summit ADM Board presented the quarterly Dashboard (see attached)

- Medical Examiner’s Office reported 109 Drug Overdose Deaths in 2018; preliminarily the Medical Director’s office reported 29 deaths possibly attributed to drug overdoses through March 18<sup>th</sup>. Although too early to predict, this represents an increase over the same period in 2018.
- OARRS (Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System) Report indicates a decrease in opioid doses dispensed per capita to Ohio patients by County and Quarter as shown in Montgomery County which is similar in demographics to Summit, to below 9 for first time.
- D.U.M.P. Box sites and Drug Take Back Day (twice a year) finally crossed threshold of 10,000 lbs. of unused meds collected. Includes all drugs, not just opioids.
- DAWN Kits and Syringe Exchange programs data revealed \_\_\_\_\_ trainings, with \_\_\_\_ kits dispensed.
- ADM Helpline Report indicated 63 scheduled appointments in February, 2019, with average access time to appointment of 4.6 days.
- Days to access of Residential Care for Individuals on the Residential Wait List is down to almost no wait time.
- Detox availability is almost immediate due to the County of Summit ADM increasing capacity, which eliminated a wait for Summit County residents. Capacity for women is lower.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Policy & Advocacy Committee** – Ms. Darrington reported that Michael Evans will be the new committee chair. Committee did amazing work last year to keep the Task Force advised as to goal information. Pointed out that new Governor, Mike Dewine’s 12-point Recovery Ohio Plan is giving awareness a nice push.

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- **Family Supports** – Nicole Jones reported that the committee is working on goals for 2019:
  - Continuing to support families addressing addiction and developing support for someone who has lost someone to addiction. s
  - Continuing to promote harm reduction via Naloxone and syringe exchange programs
  - Calendar magnets are available for distribution; resources will be updated every three months with items/groups found to be particularly effective when dealing with addiction or loss of loved ones through addiction.
  - Next meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup>.
  
- **Public Awareness** – Chrissy Gashash reported that the Public Awareness committee had met on March 15<sup>th</sup>:
  - Reviewing national campaign for awareness of addiction and tailoring to needs: vaping and methamphetamines a new focus
  - Priority to sponsor some community events: Ohio CAN Steps, Running to Be Well, and Keys to Serenity just a few
  - Working with Summit County Public Health and The University of Akron for conference, “Addictions & Opiates: What’s New, What’s Next” on June 14<sup>th</sup> for clinical and general public; leaders are applying for CEUs for social workers, family therapists, RNs and other health professionals. Registration will be available shortly.
  - Committee was established to support efforts of the *entire* Task Force and would like to get involved to assist other committees. Encouraged others to contact them for assistance.
  - Inquiry made as to committee’s community event involvement. Lucky Tisch reported:
    - Hudson on March 16<sup>th</sup>
    - Nordonia on March 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - Others upcoming throughout the year
  
- **Criminal Justice** – report tabled.
  
- **Healthcare Committee** – Dr. Garry Thrasher from Oriana House reported:
  - Detox is not treatment... It leads to treatment and recovery, and recovery leads to a better life.
  - Sometimes there is a gap leading to treatment, with one gap being transportation to detox. Looking at Uber or Lyft services being justified in getting patients where they need to go.
  - First Up Program – role in detox is to bridge people until they can get into treatment.
  - With regard to the meth crisis ... what we have is an addiction epidemic.
  - Holding meetings with physicians, local ERs, ADM Board, and Oriana House to coordinate care.
  - No MAT that is required for meth abuse.
  - Patients can come to Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES) and to detox if can manage in detox setting and can do so as long as not a threat to staff or other clients. Patients can be kept for 24 hours to stabilize.
  - Question posed as to where we are with patients with meth use issues? Dr. Thrasher responded that they are detoxing patients with mild psychosis \_\_\_\_\_

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Dr. Doug Smith, Chief Clinical Officer of the ADM Board, reported on the status of the State's Universal Release or "Standard Form." It has a full page all about HIPAA, and 42 CFR 42; Patients need to use one side or the other. He explained use of the form which, when signed, requires another agency to honor the form if signed. The Universal Release is to launch on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It was presented at the ADM Board's Providers' meeting and to the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Forum, and has been tested at the Summit County Jail and in Barberton. Release has also been presented at CHOICES for consumers' review and to another large consumer based group. Working on a secure portal for entering data into a database to give immediate access as to limited information regarding agency involvement. Release needs to be signed when someone is well, not when in crisis. Form will allow for time limits, with suggestion made for up to a three year term, or "until no longer served by Agency" type language.

- **Youth and Young Adults** – Katie VanHorn from Juvenile Court indicated the committee has met twice since December.
  - Looking into prevention resources for youth.
  - Creating calendars for CYs 20-21, with activities to be determined. Committee will be adding calendar items until its next meeting and will continue to do so until end of CY.
  - Hoping to add coupons to the calendars.
  - First youth member attended the last meeting.
  - Next meeting is May 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

Young People Group wants to create a pro-recovery calendar; focused on social/community recovery support. would like to work with Family Support and Public Awareness on both. Will reach out to Public Awareness for additional ideas.

#### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Mr. Craig announced that the Governor's Budget was released on Friday. He will prepare a one pager for Opiate & Addiction Task Force website, noting items that relate directly to what we do. He noted that a good opportunity to engage the community is to go down to legislature to advocate for what we do.
- Dr. Thrasher reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical Conference for Mental Health and Addictions. Thanked Oriana House and ADM Board. Mainly focused on physicians but supplied CEUs to other professionals. Over 250 people registered for the event which provided education to the medical community about mental health, substance abuse and addiction and increasing their awareness about what is going on locally and resources available in the community. Many don't know a detox facility exists in Summit County/Akron.
- Brenda Ryan from Keys to Serenity announced the new program "Keys to Parenting again..." for grandparents raising grandchildren because of addiction issues. Starting 4/9, meetings will be held monthly on second Tuesdays at 6:00 pm, at ARC on Market. And on August 10<sup>th</sup>, they are teaming up with OhioCAN for "2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Keys to the Heart" event for kids with addiction issues in their home.
- Bernie Rochford commented on the Couch to 5K training by the Running to Be Well group: Mondays at 6:30 in the Valley.

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- Laura Broyles announced the Hope United support group for families who have lost someone to addiction, “The Well.” First meeting is this Wednesday, at Crossview Church, 737 George Washington Blvd., Akron.
- Ruth Stimac, Assistant County Coordinator for OhioCAN, reported that the City of Cuyahoga Falls, the ADM Board, TurningPoint program, and Summit County Juvenile Court are partnering on [“Pain into Purpose: Steps of Change”](#) on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Will include a walk for those lost to addiction in the past year.
- Beth Kuckuck pointed out the Northeast Ohio Healing Arts Alliance’s “Healing Arts Drop-In” on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm, at Summit Artspace, 140 E. Market St., Akron.
- Julie Barnhart- announced that April is “Child Abuse Prevention Month.” Presentation on April 16<sup>th</sup>, “Implicit Bias.” CEUs available.
- China Darrington reminded members of:
  - 6/14 event at The University of Akron
  - 4/16 DTF Summa “Be Drug Safe” event “Beyond Drugs”
  - 6/1 ADM Recovery Challenge 5K obstacle course

Ms. Darrington thanked members for their continued support.  
Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

**NEXT OATF MEETING DATE:** June 12, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

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