

Summit County Opiate and Addiction Task Force

Key Stakeholders Quarterly Meeting

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM



MEETING NOTES 12/16/2020

ATTENDEES:

36 Community Stakeholders were in attendance.

MEETING MATERIALS:

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

1. Welcome

China Darrington, Opiate & Addiction Task Force Project Coordinator, opened the meeting at 4:05p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. She reviewed the agenda and noted that several subcommittees were in search of new leadership. If anyone knew of someone who would consider stepping into that leadership role to please reach out to that person and then to inform China of that interested party. Policy & Advocacy and the Healthcare Subcommittees need persons willing to step into leadership/co-leadership roles. China also congratulated all those in attendance for attending all the Zoom Meetings and mentioned that as soon as possible the OATF meetings would be going back to "in public" meetings held at Summit County Public Health Auditorium with a Zoom link option.

2. Presentation: Tina Ughrin, Strategic Planning: Final Report

- Tina Ughrin gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2020 Strategic Planning Process. The PowerPoint listed and explained all 3 phases that were involved in the planning process to gain a Mission, Vision and Values Statement.
- Mission Statement – We are a diverse collaborative committed to reducing stigma, risk, and harm by serving as the voice and resource hub keeping addiction and recovery at the forefront of health in Summit County.
- Vision Statement – We aspire to broaden our diverse base to leverage opportunities addressing addiction and recovery by providing hope, engaging in resource sharing, leading effective and persistent advocacy, and catalyzing new supports for individuals and families to reduce stigma, risk, and harm.
- Values Statement - We strive to embody a recovery-oriented system of care through the values of commitment, compassion, and inclusivity. We will approach our shared work from a wellness and resiliency perspective that encourages self-determination, asset-building, and motivation in those facing addiction and recovery to reduce stigma, risk, and harm.
- These 3 statements were the foundations for the discussions surrounding the strategic plan.
- After a SWOT analysis, discussions, and interviews within the OATF, 3 priorities emerged for the whole task force: Governance, Recruitment and Retention, and Resource Hub and Funding Landscape. With these 3 priorities established goals and objectives for each one was set into place.
- Tina also went over an Operational Plan and timeline for the goals and objectives to be completed.
- The whole PowerPoint presentation will be made available on the OATF website.

3. Data Dashboard – Nick Baechel

- Nick provided a very thorough PowerPoint presentation featuring the following areas: Overdoses that reached the Emergency Room, fatal overdoses, the OARRS Report, Residential & Detox Waitlists, and the ADM Helpline Report.
- Nick presented data comparing substance abuse in the past to substance abuse currently and what specific substances seem to be in use more often than others. He displayed a map in his PowerPoint that directly revealed the geographic areas where substance abuse is more prevalent. This PowerPoint also showed the trends of use between, males, females, and those of African American race.
- This Data Dashboard information is used to help target specific areas for campaigns promoting help for those with substance abuse problems.

4. Subcommittee Reports

a. Criminal Justice – Police Chief Jack Davis (Cuyahoga Falls PD)

Chief Davis reported that they have been doing some work with the Good Samaritan Law. He also would like to note that they would like to increase the membership in this subcommittee.

b. Healthcare – Dr. Garry Thrasher

Dr. Thrasher noted that since the COVID Pandemic there has been an increase in substance abuse relapses in patients. He did state that many patients are being seen virtually so that contact can be maintained in the doctor/patient relationship. Although this virtual opportunity does provide connectivity, it is still very difficult on patients and providers during this pandemic. China expressed a “thank you” to Talia Brown for her service as Co-Chairperson on this committee as she has stepped away from the Co-Chairperson position. Should anyone like to become a Co-Chairperson on this committee the opportunity now exists to do so.

c. Policy & Advocacy – Jerry Craig

Jerry took a moment to thank all public officials that attended the meeting: Linda Omobien and Judge Tom Teodosio. Jerry then went on to highlight some of the bills that are in the General Assembly currently. A list of such bills will be made available on the OATF website.

d. Public Awareness – Darryl Brake

Darryl expressed a “thank you” to Chrissy Gashash who recently served as Co-Chairperson on this committee with him. He stated that Amy Woodland, ADM Board, will be joining him as Co-Chairperson for this committee. Amy took a few minutes to introduce herself to the OATF.

e. Family Support/Young People

Currently, there was no report. China expressed the desire to reach out to more young people for this committee. She expressed concern as how to get young people interested and involved in this committee. It is hard to compete with all the other things trying to grab the attention of the young people they are trying to connect with.

f. Harm Reduction & Summit County Public Health

China reported on Jackie’s PowerPoint presentation as Jackie was unable to join the meeting. This PowerPoint presentation outlined what Harm Reduction means and the focus/goals of this subcommittee. The Summit Safe Syringe Program was highlighted with demographics being shown as to the number of participants who attend the clinics. Project DAWN was also highlighted with the statistics of distribution of materials. The final statistic shared regarding Project DAWN was a chart detailing month by month distribution of reversal kits, training of persons and the known number of reversals. Since some of the clinics in other counties have closed due to the pandemic – participants are coming from out of county to receive supplies.

5. Other Announcements & Events

- Darryl Brake reported on Drug Take Back Day for 2020. The April Drug Take Back Day was cancelled due to COVID. Darryl and his team partnered with the Akron Food Bank and distributed drug disposal bags to those participating in the Food Bank. The September Drug Take Back Day was very successful and there were 13 communities that participated. Darryl will report final numbers for this day at the next OATF meeting in March.
- China announced that all Meetings of the Opiate and Addiction Task Force and Subcommittees of such are listed on the [website](#). They all have Zoom links listed with them. The standard password that will be used for the Opiate and Addiction Task Force meetings will be SCOATF. All other subcommittees will list the passwords and ID's for their meetings with the Zoom links.

6. Conclusion

The meeting was concluded at 5:20p.m. The next public quarterly meeting will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2021, 4 -5:30p.m via ZOOM.