

# Summit County Opiate Task Force

## Key Stakeholders Quarterly Meeting

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM



## MEETING NOTES 09/16/2020

### ATTENDEES:

46 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 4:00p.m., and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Since this meeting was held virtually the rules of participation were also covered.

#### 2. **Presentation:** William Goldman, D.O. Akron Children's Hospital, Adolescent Addiction Medicine Program

- Dr. Goldman gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the new Department of Adolescent Addiction Medicine at Akron Children's Hospital.
- This new addition to Akron Children's Hospital was a collaborative effort with many entities; wanting to serve the adolescent community as this seems to be where addiction begins.
- Addiction in the adolescent community begins innocently as experimentation but easily progresses forward to substance abuse.
- 47% of 14-year olds have experimented with alcohol and 1 out of 5 youths under the age of 13 have experimented with Marijuana
- Young people are very quickly catching up to the adults in substance use, firearms, crime, etc.
- Beginning with the Opiate epidemic – the medical community realized that something must be done to help the youth population.
- Marijuana is currently the most used substance with this age group, with opiates and the use of Adderall declining. Tobacco and/or vaping use among adolescents has increased and alcohol use has remained constant with no big increase/decrease in its usage among this age group.
- When you enter the Adolescent Addiction Medicine program you will encounter a multi-faceted treatment program. Upon entrance into the program you will begin with a meeting with Talia Brown, clinical liaison, and program coordinator. At this time, a treatment program will be discussed and that can include withdrawal management within Akron Children's Hospital or a referral to a community partner to aid with in this process. You may be treated within the program if you are 18 years or younger or if you are still a

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student in school. Should you not meet this age requirement you will be referred to an Adult Program. Currently Dr. Goldman (and Dr. Friebert) are credentialed to see patients and they use a combination of medication assisted recovery, family/individual counseling, and medication management.

### **3. Strategic Planning – Tina Ughrin**

Ms. Ughrin gave an update on the status of the Strategic Plan for the OATF. She has broken this down into 4 phases of strategic planning.

PHASE 1 – She has been speaking with various individuals using the SWOT application (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)

PHASE 2 – There will be presentation featuring the results of the SWOT conversations, in which the priorities of the strategic plan will be discussed.

PHASE 3 – This will be including a brainstorming session, in which the goals and objectives of the committee will be discussed and then a final strategic plan will be formulated.

She closed her presentation with an invitation to all members of the OATF to participate in the strategic planning virtual sessions on 9/17, 10/7 and 10/14. Info will be sent to membership via email.

### **4. Data Dashboard – Nick Baechel**

Nick provided the quarterly data dashboard featuring the following areas: Overdoses that reached the Emergency Room, fatal overdoses, the OARRS Report, the Addiction Helpline, and the waitlist for treatment.

- Nick presented data comparing substance abuse in the past to substance abuse currently and what drugs are currently being used currently.

[LINK TO DATA DASHBOARD](#)

### **5. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **a. Criminal Justice – Rhonda Brink**

Rhonda explained that COVID is still influencing various reopening plans. She also expressed an interest to diversify this committee. Currently they are focusing on the continuum of care for inmates in the Summit County Jail. They want to make sure to include a Deterra bag with all inmate's possessions.

#### **b. Healthcare – Talia Brown/Dr. Garry Thrasher/Dr. Doug Smith**

Talia told of the presentations being made to the committee regarding how the community partners are working to treat those with substance abuse disorders. She wants the committee to be aware of what all the community partners have to offer to this community. The committee has also been working on measurable goals. They have achieved many of the short-term goals set by the committee. Dr. Thrasher recognized the work that Dr. Goldman is doing in conjunction with Akron Children's Hospital with the Adolescent Addiction Program. The committee is also working with Brightview to make treatment seamless for patients. Dr. Smith spoke of the **Integrated Health Care Conference to be held November 7**. At this conference, the goal is to coeducate the medical community on mental health/substance use disorders; as there is a shortage of persons in the addiction, mental health specialties. A hot topic also to be discussed at this conference is – the COVID pandemic effect on addiction medicine and those addicted.

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c. Policy & Advocacy – Jerry Craig

Jerry took a moment to acknowledge any state/local legislators that happen to be in attendance. He then highlighted some bills that are in the General Assembly currently. Senate Bill #3 – Drug Sentencing Reform Bill (Link to bill summary sent with minutes) House Bill #669 – this concerns the takeout/delivery of liquor. The bill wants to change the amount of alcohol you can get via take out and to also allow a third party to make home deliveries (i.e. door dash, grub hub).

d. Public Awareness – Darryl Brake

Darryl gave updates on how organizations are dealing with COVID. He also said that with the help of ADM they have been working on outreach regarding overdose data, and the addiction helpline.

- He also said that Sept. 21 – 28 is Behavioral Health Front Line Workers Celebration Week.
- Darryl concluded his report reminding everyone that there is a Speaker's Bureau available for presentations on an assortment of topics.

e. Family Support/Young People –

Due to technical difficulties by the presenters for this committee, China shared the report with the task force.

They have broadened their focus of just concentrating on young persons with substance use disorders to include children affected by substance use disorders (i.e. a parent, grandparent, relative, etc.) Also, the committee is working with the United Way and the 211 food deliveries to include flyers with important information to be included in those food boxes.

f. Harm Reduction – Jackie Pollard

Jackie reported that Angela Kaiser is no longer with the committee as she has changed occupations. Jackie reported that they have been working on their mission statement including 4 goals. Committee is based on harm reduction strategies, prevention, intervention, and the strategies to implement these. They have been targeting the different ethnicities with a focus on those who may have been discriminated against.

The syringe exchange/Narcan disbursement has been very active, with locations open 4 times a week and a mail order Narcan program. In addition to the mail order option for Narcan, QRT has been distributing as well.

Harm reduction stats:

- July there were 191 documented Narcan reversals, August had 165 reversals.
- Prepackaged kits have also been being dispensed. The number of kits being handed out has increased but the number of people being served has stayed the same.
- In January 2020 237 kits were disbursed, in August 445 kits were disbursed. Year-to-date there have been 943 reversals with 512 of those occurring in June, July, and August.
- Jackie presented many statistics regarding the number of sterile needles handed out January – September being 178, 813 with 33,323 having been collected.

Since COVID, they have been trying to keep the length of time spent collecting/distributing needles to a minimum, so they have instituted a small questionnaire/checklist that can be

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completed while the clients are waiting in line. After completion, the lists are reviewed and the next day a follow up call is made to the individual regarding the interests indicated the day before.

#### **6. Other Announcements**

- Darryl Brake announced that through a SAMSHA grant during the month of September, there is a Friday lunch speaker series being offered at the House of our Lord. The series is titled “*In case you didn’t notice ...*”
- Darryl also spoke regarding the distribution of addiction resources and Narcan through a “drive thru” platform in the parking lot of the House of our Lord Church. Visit [www.cpsummit.org](http://www.cpsummit.org) for more info.

#### **7. Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm

**NEXT OATF MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, December 16, 2020 4-5:30pm  
Zoom link will be sent out.

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