

Summit County Opiate and Addiction Task Force

Key Stakeholders Quarterly Meeting

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM



MEETING NOTES 03/15/2021

ATTENDEES:

23 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.

2. Presentation: [The SOAR Initiative](#) – SAFETY. OUTREACH. AUTONOMY. RESPECT. (Pranav Padmanabhan)

Presentation: The SOAR Initiative - We work to prevent overdoses and save lives through harm reduction. Our focus is on people who use drugs and how we can help make their lives safer. People with lived experience play an integral role in conceiving, designing, and implementing our projects, and we always strive to protect their anonymity and amplify their unique voice.

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)

not in attendance

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. He noted that telephone support is not as effective as in person. They have also been staffing the emergency department at a local hospital which has helped to increase the service levels.

c. Policy & Advocacy

no update

d. Public Awareness – Darryl Brake

Darryl discussed three programs they are working on:

SOR funded project: This will target the 10 zip codes with the highest known drug use. Specifically targeting African American communities with the increase in male suicide rates. He mentioned the “take Charge Ohio” marketing campaign to increase awareness of the issue.

The Safe Storage and Disposal program: This has a focus on reducing access and the environmental impact of drug use due to incorrect disposal of drug paraphernalia. The drug takeback days will be the last day in April and September this year. They will be promoting this through a media and social marketing campaign. This will also promote the 22 drop boxes that will be placed strategically throughout the county for collection of all types of medications. The pandemic has made it difficult for these programs so he is hoping the marketing campaign will help bring more awareness. They also put together in-home packages and are partnering with 90 distribution partners to get these out.

Educational Webinars: Outreach to faith-based organizations to help reduce the stigma associated with drug use. The position is that the more educated individuals are concerning this issue the more they will become involved to help.

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 – Jackie Pollard SCPH

The Summit Safe Syringe Program was highlighted with demographics being shown as to the number of participants who attend the clinics. She noted that in 2020 the syringe distribution increased quarter to quarter. They created prepackaged kits to hand out to avoid contact and to follow the protocols mandated by the pandemic. Project DAWN was also highlighted with the statistics of distribution of materials. She noted that Barberton closed their facility due to lack of clientele and staff. They had noticed that many from that area came to the Arlington Street location in spite of there being one in their location. They are also considering pop up locations or mail ordering the kits as other options. She shared Project DAWN statistics in a chart detailing month by month distribution of reversal kits, training of persons and the known number of reversals.

5. Other Announcements & Events

- [Green has created a Task Force](#). They have a number of initiatives they are working to put together such as a Human Trafficking Initiative which focuses on the relationship between sex trafficking and drug use. There is good participation from their student population with their Young People’s Coalition with students from Green High School. They are also in process of creating a scholarship fund for any high school student who has experienced drug abuse either personally or in their family.
- 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.
- Dr. Smith from the ADM Board announced that he is working on an Integrated Care Conference for November 11, 2021. Further details to follow as soon as everything is in place.
- China also noted that they are working on a Governance Working Group for the task force. It was noted that many wanted the SCOATF to be taken to the next level with leadership goals, by-laws and a transition plan for succession of officers. This will be further discussed at their

April meeting. She also noted that in the upcoming months they will be actively recruiting for their committees. Email china@xix-recovery.org for details.

6. Conclusion

The meeting was concluded at 4:50p.m. The next public quarterly meeting will be held Monday, June 14, 2021, 4 -5:30p.m via ZOOM.