

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL

October 21, 2016

Present: Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Carole Cassidy, Katie Cusano, Arthur Garrison, Jill Lloyd, Tom Morellino, Susan Wheeler, Alan Wilmarth, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Robin Alpaugh, John Bernardo, Allen Buyck, Megan D’Introno, David Harder, Arthur Johnson, Lee Livermore, Jerry Marinich, Kim Newell, Kate Newcomb, Dennis O’Keefe, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Dr. Peter Ronan, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik

Announcements:

- Sean Britton prepared an article on BOAC which was printed in Public Management magazine which reaches city and county administrators. BOAC is a model practice for communities nationwide because of the collaborative effort of all sectors of the community to address the opioid epidemic.
- Lorraine Wilmot attended a NYS Association of Counties conference in September and reported that Broome County is way ahead of other counties in addressing the opioid/heroin epidemic. We are sharing our experience with other counties. Tioga County and Monroe County have just starting meeting. Ed Beach, the local representative from High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program, attended our community education events in Windsor and Deposit. He travels throughout New York State and has been referring county officials to BOAC for information on our efforts. Jim Hawley from HIDTA is a member of BOAC’s Law Enforcement subcommittee.
- Carole wrote a letter to School Superintendents in Broome County to provide information about BOAC. She also dropped off brochures at the Broome County Library.
- Art Garrison reported that the Broome County Youth Bureau works with kids throughout the county to help them resist alcohol and drugs when they face that decision.

Community Education Committee:

- The committee did not meet during the past month.
- A community education event with coaches, athletic directors, athletes and parents was held October 12th at Susquehanna Valley High School from a sports medicine perspective to discuss alternative treatment options for pain management besides opioids. Additional events will be scheduled.
- Broome County Legislator Jason Shaw asked Jill Lloyd to present at the Maine-Endwell heroin awareness event. She offered to provide information about BOAC at this event.
- The information and support group for parents and grandparents of individuals who are suffering from substance use disorder continues to grow and meets weekly at the Christ the King Church in Vestal.

Law Enforcement Committee:

- The committee did not meet during the past month.

Treatment and Prevention Committee:

- The Walsh family submitted an application to OASAS to open an outpatient substance abuse treatment facility in Broome. They recently met with local treatment providers to discuss their plans. The new facility will accept private-pay and self-pay clients. This program will have a lot of modalities that we have in other programs. They do not plan to do medication assisted treatment right away. Katie will keep BOAC updated on the progress of the application.
- Julie Hunter, M.D., addiction specialist at United Health Services, met with most of the providers in the community. She developed a dedicated program for pregnant women using buprenorphine rather than methadone. She is partnering with the DeMarillac Clinic, Dr. Kassis and Mothers and Babies Perinatal Network. The program utilizes the Baby Basics curriculum for parents.
- Lourdes Hospital hired a physician who will offer Suboxone locally.
- OASAS provided funding for implementation of Vivitrol, a medication assisted treatment, at the Broome County jail. Inmates who have been sentenced and are scheduled for discharge will be offered the program and evaluated. New Horizons will conduct the evaluations at the jail and provide follow-up care.
- The new ambulatory detox program at ACBC should be available at the beginning of November. Jill Lloyd updated the council on the family navigator and peer advocate programs. Jill met with several insurance companies to try to overcome barriers to substance abuse treatment. She will lead a program on Thursdays at ACBC (beginning December 1) for individuals grieving after the death of someone suffering from a substance use disorder. Jill plans to meet with detox and inpatient residential programs about referrals to treatment programs.

- Jill will attend the American Association of the Treatment of Opioid Dependence conference in Baltimore, MD on October 29–November 2. The conference announcement will be emailed to BOAC members.
- ACBC will hold a family education program on Tuesday, October 25, 6:00-7:30, which is open to the community for family members of those with substance use disorder.
- Alan Wilmarth reported that Conifer Park is one of the few programs that has detox beds. UHSH does a level of care evaluation before someone is sent there to streamline access to detox for patients that have insurance to cover the cost. Inpatient detox is a tool to get someone into treatment. Alan said we already have a system for assisting individuals suffering from substance use disorder into treatment. We need to put more community resources into prevention. He suggested that BOAC prepare a white paper about confidentiality restrictions on communication with patients – particularly the ability to text patients, which is often the preferred method of communication for the under 30 population. This is a barrier created unintentionally by privacy laws.
- The UHSH Methadone Clinic continues to expand slowly; it has seen an increase in clients with behavioral problems. Clients with a low level of risk can select the buprenorphine program rather than the methadone program and most are opting for that.
- Attorney Rob Kilmer is scheduling a debate at Binghamton University between John Barry and Alan Wilmarth on harm reduction vs. treatment. Alan will send out information to BOAC on this event.
- Dr. Ryan presented at the Northeast Regional Epidemiology Conference on a spatial analysis of opioid overdoses in this EMS region.
- UHS is beginning a new program, MedicaSafe (a patented combination of tamper-resistant medication dispensers and remote check-ins for enhanced treatment data and improved medication adherence) to more closely track doses of buprenorphine to help improve how detox is handled. Substance use disorder does not go away when someone goes through detox; they need ongoing treatment and monitoring. It is a complicated process to get someone free of opioid addiction. Vivitrol works to reduce the cravings and block the drug but is most effective for individuals who have been addicted for less than five years. After that, methadone or buprenorphine are needed.
- BOAC received the Drug Free Communities Grant of \$125,000 per year for five years, with the opportunity to apply for another five years. BOAC will be able to expand its work with schools and the community. Lourdes Hospital started a program for student assistance programming around mental health and substance use disorder. We need to find a way to sustain the programs once grant funding ends. MOU's will be developed with BOAC members to provide documentation of in-kind contributions, which is a requirement to match the federal funding.
- Promise Zone is working with the Family and Children's Society to open satellite mental health clinics in the schools. There are now clinics in the Windsor and Johnson City School Districts and at East Middle School. The goal is to have a center in each school district.
- BOAC submitted a grant application to the Mee Foundation to fund two take-back prescription drug boxes.
- The Addiction Crisis Center (ACC) is working with the Sheriff's Department on the Sheriff's Assisted Recovery Initiative program. There was an 87% utilization rate of the two allotted beds during August and 80% during September. The ACC is approved for 22 beds.
- The Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce has requested a presentation on BOAC activities at the December 2nd Eggs and Issues meeting. Diane Brown shared that the focus may be on why the 2,400 job openings in Broome County are difficult to fill. She related that many job applicants fail the employment drug screening. United Occupational Medicine could provide percentages.
- Katie Cusano is getting ready to administer the Prevention Needs Assessment in the schools.

Education of Medical Professionals Committee:

- Dr. Ryan, Sean Britton, and Ray Serowik met with SUNY Broome officials about expanding the Opioid Overdose Prevention Program to include SUNY Broome.
- Ray Serowik is working with school districts to try to get Naloxone Programs in each district. Training was provided as part of Superintendent's Day for school nurses, social workers, and school psychologists. There are three options for school districts who want to join the Naloxone Program: 1) train and equip school nurses; 2) affiliate with an existing program such as ours; or 3) begin their own program. We offer them assistance with training regardless of which option they choose.
- Tom Morellino began the second phase of the Opioid Prescription Detailing Project on September 6 and has reached 121 physicians, 58 nurse practitioners or physician assistants, and 16 dentists, many through group presentations. Group presentations are much more successful than individual office visits; he was able to present to 80 physicians (including five orthopedic surgeons) at the Lourdes Hospital Medical Board on September 27. 250 clinicians were reached through Phase One of the project. The third phase of the project will begin at the end of November.

The next meeting is **November 4, 2016** at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room A at the Broome County Health Department.