



Broome Opioid Awareness Council & Drug Free

September 13, 2019 | 10 a.m. - Noon
Conference Rooms B & C • Broome County Health Department

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Terry Carey, Annie DePugh, Max Goldfarb, Ashley Griffis, Jim Hawley, Wendy Hunter, Rebecca Kaufman, Mary McFadden, Erin Monroe, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Timothy Swan, Susan Wheeler, Nancy Williams, Megan Wise

Absent: Fred Akshar, Scott Baker, John Barry, Lisa Bobby, Megan Brockett, Diane Brown, Kevin Brown, Cara Burney, Courtney Cashman, Cindi Conway, Steve Cornwell, Jim Dadamio, Rich David, Cheryl DeRosa, Maria Fabrizi, Juliana Garcia, Fred Garfinkel, Jason Garnar, John Gartman, Shannon Gillette, Sidney Graham, Earl Greene, Alicia Grunder, Andrea Guccia, Monika Hammer, Pastor Will Hampton, Gary Hartford, Stephanie Hazelett, Dr. Julia Hunter, Laurie Keller, Kyle King, Sarah King, Jessica Krohn, Marissa Lamphere, Lee Livermore, Jill Lloyd, Donna Lupardo, Jenna Matthews, Haley McCrory, Kevin McManus, Heidi Mikeska, JoAnn Moore, Leslie Morris-Palmer, Jim Mullins, Kim Myers, Michele Napolitano, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Emma Ospelt, Carmela Pirich, Alexis Pleus, Christine Podolak, Michael Ponticiello, Lisa Rattinger, Kevin Revier, Stacy Rodzinka, Dr. Peter Ronan, Bouakham Rosetti, Jessica Saeman, Raymond Serowik, Daanish Shaikh, Pastor John Snider, Penny Stringfield, Roxanne Strom, Mike Telfer, Colleen Wagner, Jeffrey Wagner, Tedessa Whitney, Alan Wilmarth, Lis Woldt

Call to Order:

Rebecca Kaufman, Broome County Director of Public Health, issued the Call to Order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were made.

Remembrance:

Rebecca spoke on Carol Kuklis's contributions to Broome County, and to the field of Mental Health overall.

Opioid Fatality Tracking Data update:

- Dr. Ryan surveys data from four indicators:
 - Number of Death Certificates using at least one opioid related term
 - Instances of Law Enforcement reporting application of Naloxone
 - Instances of Naloxone application by non-professional rescuers
 - EMS application of Naloxone within the three-county Susquehanna EMS Region
- One limitation to the data is the overlap between the four indicators.
- These indicators also don't account for circumstances in which overdoses were administered Naloxone by a bystander who didn't report its use, and in which a patient sought no further medical care after the administration.

- Any number of pending death certificates from 2019 may be opioid related, making it difficult to have a fuller picture of the trend until these results are resolved.
- Due to the chain of events in processing death certificates, there are many areas for bottlenecks to occur between laboratory, pathologist, coroner, municipal clerk, and health department, leading to delays in receiving data. As a byproduct of this process, more recent quarters tend to have more pending results, with older reports being resolved over time. Markedly older unresolved cases are taken as unlikely to be resolved.
- Dr. Zevan used to sit on the BOAC committee; bringing a new coroner on could bring further perspective to opioid related deaths.
- ICD-10 codes used at Federal level by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) in North Carolina are a potential 5th indicator for studying opioid deaths but currently have an 18-month lag on receiving this information. The new Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) will be much timelier, but processing data sets from NCHS would require a good deal more bandwidth. Dr. Ryan has volunteered Broome County to beta-test this process.
- Uptick in reported Naloxone application by law enforcement could be interpreted as an increase in opioids overdoses, or as an increase in overdosed people receiving the needed treatment.
- Non-professional access to Naloxone gives a faster and more immediate source of treatment for overdoses; that someone on hand could administer treatment while awaiting the arrival of professional services.

Fairview Recovery Services:

- Per Rebecca, Fairview had their annual Recovery Day recently, as an annual celebration for those in recovery from addiction, their families, and their loved ones.

Prevention Coalition:

- Per Megan Wise reporting for Maria Fabrizi, Family Fun Night had turnout of 500-600 in attendance, a double in turnout from the prior annual event. Attendees to the event surveyed reported a sense of gratitude for it, as well as a desire for community engagement with the Prevention Coalition.
- Seven questions were added to the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey regarding vaping which was administered in 2018. Dissemination of the results happens in the odd years, most recently in 2019. The survey has been given out on even years since around 2004 and will be administered again in 2020. The Drug Free Communities grant pays for the survey administration. A significant uptick in e-cigarette usage reported between 2016 and 2018.

Peer Response:

- Jim mentioned THC “crack” being vaped, which contains very potent levels of THC close to 30%.
- Fred added that repeat patients at Lourdes often don’t recognize symptoms such as vomiting as indicative of THC intoxication, and that they believe that their use of the drug is preventative. In addition, some people may be more genetically susceptible to these effects.

Prospective Accidental Fatality Review Team:

- Rebecca and Marissa were able to attend a training in Washington D.C. on Accidental Fatality Review Teams, and their use as a form of prevention. Currently, no such team is in effect in Broome County.
- Rebecca reached out to Senator Akshar to pursue NYS legislation to begin local or regional teams.
- A federal grant could potentially be used to help fund a county or regional level review for several years.
- The State of Maryland fatality review teams approved by showing they could secure sources of funding. They also used language that counties “may” participate rather than “will” have to participate.
- Broome County’s Child Fatality Review Team could serve as another partial template for an Accidental Fatality Review Team.

- Rebecca emphasized the need to gather further information on setting up an Accidental Fatality Review Team before attempting to implement it.

Helio Health:

- Wendy mentioned that Helio Health currently has 20 beds available for inpatient rehabilitation. While detox is open 24/7, inpatient services are by appointment only, Mon-Fri from 8 until 4.
- Helio is considering avenues for accepting referrals, including through email. Dr. Ryan voiced concerns on submitting Protected Health Information through email, that even if a Release of Information was filled out and the emails encrypted, the complexities of the encryption process could still render it an unsafe avenue of transmitting information
- At 9AM, 2PM, and 9PM, nurses are passing meds and, due to a lack of full-time clerical staff, inquiries may have to wait up to an hour at these junctures.
- Dr. Ryan inquired as to what percent of referral plans involve MAT including methadone, as its proven effective as a long-term treatment plan. Wendy mentioned that Helio checks to see that referrals are established patients with MAT providers including UHS Methadone clinic.

ACBC:

- Per Ashley, family members and significant others of those struggling with addiction can now be seen at ACBC for therapy free of charge.
- Rebecca mentioned that the Health Department and ACBC collaboration wasn't awarded funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant, but that the application could be used toward future opportunities.

CHA:

- Per Mary, Dr. Leon Cosler with BU's Pharmacy Department is currently conducting 3 opioid related studies.
- Per Mary, CHA released the two main priority areas for the next two years and requested that those in attendance for BOAC provide feedback for this.