

## **BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL**

**November 4, 2016**

Present: Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Carole Cassidy, Katie Cusano, Arthur Garrison, Arthur Johnson, Tom Morellino, Jim Mullins, Debra Preston, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Susan Wheeler

Absent: Jill Alford-Hammit, Robin Alpaugh, John Bernardo, Megan D’Introno, David Harder, Lee Livermore, Jill Lloyd, Jerry Marinich, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Dennis O’Keefe, Gabe Osterhout, Dr. Peter Ronan, Alan Wilmarth, Lorraine Wilmot

### **Announcements:**

- Jim Mullins, Assistant Superintendent of Broome Tioga BOCES, was introduced as a new BOAC member - replacing Allen Buyck.
- Debra Preston requested that the subcommittees continue to meet monthly to keep the momentum going.
- Carole Cassidy provided the BOAC retreat summary for finalization before publication. Send comments to Carole.
- The first debate for the *You Defend It Debate Series* is scheduled for November 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chamber Hall at the Binghamton University Anderson Center. The topic is “Opposing Views on Treatment Philosophies for Heroin Addiction” between John Barry, Executive Director of the Southern Tier AIDS Program, and Alan Wilmarth, Executive Director of the New Horizons Alcohol and Chemical Dependency Treatment Center.
- The US Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of New York, Broome Opioid Abuse Council, Binghamton Police Department and Broome County Sheriff’s Office are sponsoring “Understanding and Preventing Heroin and Prescription Opioid Abuse - How we Solve it?” on December 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Broome County Library. Michael Nerney, former Director of the Training Institute of Narcotic and Drug Research, will present on the science of addiction and the brain. Call 778-2958 to reserve a spot.

### **Community Education Committee:**

- The committee did not meet during the past month.

### **Law Enforcement Committee:**

- The committee did not meet during the past month.

### **Treatment and Prevention Committee:**

- The Walsh family applied to OASAS to open a for-profit outpatient substance abuse clinic locally. Katie will keep BOAC members updated on the progress of the application.
- A meeting is scheduled this afternoon to begin the application process for a System of Care grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). We applied in 2009 but did not receive funding; localities can now apply for the expansion grant of \$1 million per year for four years. This grant would expand the Promise Zone model in schools to all school districts from the current seven school districts.
- Dr. Julia Hunter presented to the committee on a program she developed for pregnant women with opioid use disorder using buprenorphine rather than Methadone. She is working to increase medication assisted treatment in the community and would like to expand UHS’ Suboxone caseload from 100 to 275. She is working with other physicians at UHS to encourage primary care providers to prescribe Suboxone in their practices. She is certified to provide the training required for physicians. Dr. Ryan recently completed the eight-hour online course to become certified.
- There are currently three women in the YWCA Bridge Program.
- All 18 beds at the new women’s residence at Fairview are occupied.
- There has been a delay; however, the new detox unit at ACBC should be open by the beginning of 2017 at the latest. They currently have 40+ patients enrolled in their Vivitrol program with a good success rate.
- UHS began a program in the jail to administer Vivitrol to sentenced inmates with substance use disorder prior to their release with follow-up care at New Horizons.

- The Prevention Needs Assessment Survey is being distributed to ten school districts through the Drug Free Communities Grant; data will be available in the spring. The Drug Free Communities grant and the Promise Zone grant will be working together in school districts.
- The Broome County Sheriff's Department's SARI program currently has an 85 % utilization rate of allocated beds at the ACC.
- Mike Hatch, Crisis Intervention, presented to the committee on how he is interfacing with police agencies regarding people with substance use issues.
- The Family and Children's Society now has same day access for an assessment at their outpatient clinic.

#### **Education of Medical Professionals Committee:**

- Ray Serowik reported that he has completed Naloxone training for most of the Broome County Department of Social Services staff which is mandatory for the professional social work staff. Participation is voluntary for the rest of the staff. They requested 24 kits initially. Training was also provided for nine nurses in the Vestal School District.
- As of October 16<sup>th</sup>, there have been 115 administrations of Naloxone under the Health Department's program: Johnson City Police Department-37; Binghamton Police Department-34; Broome County Sheriff's Office-22; Endicott Police Department-14; Broome County Security and Deposit Police Department-4 each; and Vestal Police Department-1. The NYS Police (which has its own program) shared their data for cases occurring within Broome County, and reported 21 administrations thus far. Broome Tioga BOCES submitted an application for a Naloxone administration program.
- The Susquehanna Valley School District began an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program. Ray will provide more details on their program at a future meeting.
- Dr. Ryan, Ray Serowik and Sean Britton met with SUNY Broome officials about the Opioid Overdose Prevention Program. They will equip campus public safety personnel so they can administer Naloxone. They determined that other faculty and staff members should participate in community training through the Southern Tier AIDS Program. Ray will follow up on presenting to classes in the Health Science Program to heighten awareness.
- Tom Morellino began the second phase of the Opioid Prescription Detailing Project on September 6 and has reached 124 physicians, 61 nurse practitioners or physician assistants, and 19 dentists since that time (450 interactions since the project began). Katie Cusano will contact Dr. Tom Lucia to reach dentists in the area. He started Dreams Over Drugs and participates on the Treatment and Prevention Committee.
- Ray Serowik and Sean Britton will meet with the Lourdes Hospital CEO on an unrelated matter but will discuss barriers that Tom is experiencing getting into some of the Lourdes physician practices.
- Dr. Ryan and Sean Britton are working with the NYSDOH on defining the methodology for counting opioid overdose deaths. There are currently different methodologies used by state, federal and local officials. The US Surgeon General asked all physicians to sign a pledge to commit to good principles of opioid prescribing.
- Sean will be conducting a research project to see whether media health warnings about potentially dangerous drugs being distributed within the community cause any behavior change among users or have any impact on overdose deaths. Warnings are issued to EMS providers about potent products being circulated that might require multiple doses of Naloxone for an overdose reversal.
- Dr. Ryan presented at the Northeast Epidemiology Conference a couple of weeks ago on a spatial analysis of opioid overdose deaths in the Southern Tier regional EMS area. The major portion of the conference dealt with substance use disorders and preventing overdose deaths.

The next meeting is **December 2, 2016** at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room A at the Broome County Health Department.