

HOWARD COUNTY

Opioid Crisis Community Council

January 2, 2020 5:15 – 6:45 pm Columbia/Ellicott Room,
George Howard Building
3420 Court House Drive Ellicott City, MD 21043
Call in: **605.468.8005 code: 195587#**

Meeting Minutes

January 2, 2020

In Attendance: Barbara Allen, Laura Torres, Joan Scornaiench, Liesele Wood, Roe Rodgers-Bonaccorsy, Cindy Johnson, Eric Kruhm, Jack Kavanaugh, Robin Bartko, John Way, Sean Hughes, Teron Powell, David Sabat, Theresa Collins, Corey Bryce, Shawn Wister, James LaMon, Beth Harbinson, and Bruce McDonald (ultimately phone problems didn't work for Bruce).

Meeting was convened by Barbara Allen at 5:20 p.m.

Introductions were made. Barbara mentioned that attendees from the Oxford House were here.

Both the November and December minutes needed to be approved. November minutes were approved with no corrections. The December minutes were revised and re-sent to the committee a few days ago. No additional corrections. Were approved unanimously.

Announcements

James – HCPD at Principal meeting to discuss resources and the issues and followed up with an email to them as well. Continue to make this a key topic at the schools. The police dept did a great job and had over an hour to present to the administration.

Beth – thanked everyone for their support for the SoBar NYE event.

Liesele w/ Laura – buprenorphine training for 15 providers at the hospital. Will continue to provide to others over time.

- Working on a grant for mid-period funding. Competitive situation but they want to purchase 12 – 15 person van for DUI court and other transportation needs of those in recovery. This can include State care coordination for services, getting prescriptions, driver's license appointments, therapy and treatment appointments. Asked for \$60,000. Van must be ADA compliant
- CDC Overdose Data to Action, use surveillance data to help prevention programming. Hoping to hire 2 new staff folks at the HD to expand provider education and research. Also looking at what publications and resources people in addiction refer to insure we (HCHD, OCC) are using these same channels to reach the intended audience.

Roe announced that the HD is hiring drug and alcohol counselor for the detention center. Have funding through the state for this position. This adds a third counselor to the detention center staff. They provide assessments, individual sessions and are imbedded into the program at the Detention Center. Does it include weekends? Jack said no. Study said the results from the weekend program

interventions were not good. Now they do more post-release treatment. 25% of population are Baltimore City, 48% HoCo, balance Baltimore County. There is a 3 – 4-week backlog with assessments.

Jack mentioned they do group counseling, mental health counseling, (3 full time 50% psychiatrists) also training staff on what the impact is of ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences). Replicating the peer counseling approach from PG County. They also offer acupuncture, yoga, mini gym for the staff.

James mentioned that the school system (HCPSS) is also using ACES.

Barbara – Dr. Aliya Jones is the new Deputy Sec for Behavioral Health Administrator. Came from MD and has experience in SUD, co-occurring disorders and mental health. Knows the system and knows MD.

- Oxford House has been given an 8-county grant (SOR) to include a house for women and one for women and/children in Howard County. One house will open no later than March 1st for 9 women.
- The committee was sent the latest report from the OCCC 3rd quarter final and has a lot of good data in it. The Co Exec has a report with stats for 2020. ??
- # Opioid Deaths in Howard County
 - 2016 – 40
 - 2017 – 51
 - 2018 – 38
 - 2019 – 24
- Feb OCCC meeting Howie Newton will discuss harm reduction

Program – Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP)

Daniel Atzmon, Director of Justice Reinvestment, Statewide and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD). Handout provided.

Daniel acknowledged our work and wants to be a resource for everyone in the room and if he does not have the answer, he will get us to someone who can.

Has met with Jack, Lisa Meyers and others in Howard County. What would this program look like in HoCo? Good things take time – have a thoughtful assessment period. Start slow and small to adjust. Police led diversion work – GOCCP has received a grant to give provide funding to support this effort.

LEAD OVERVIEW

- Police led diversion program.
- In the justice system desire is to have as many off ramps as possible but in general we do not equip police officers with the tools they need to intervene.
- They have much more info about the person they are dealing with for people who will treat them later in the process.
- Public health resources as back up
- Mostly used for trespassing, low level offenses, or other situations where they think a referral to LEAD is appropriate.
- Call LEAD team get them help and go on their way. The person gets into the system of care and is diverted. Saves \$\$

- Social contact referral – an officer who in the normal course of his/her duties sees a vulnerable person and calls the LEAD team.
- Easy and simple.
- This program starts with officers. What you are building is a service infrastructure. Later we layer on other services and agencies.
- The State is encouraging jurisdictions to explore how this will work for each county but to look to this evidence-based program allowing officers to use their digression at the scene.
- In 2020 with this grant, the state hopes that through the fall 9 sites will be working on this program and can share information with each other about implementation and best practices. How they implement will vary jurisdiction to jurisdiction.
- Harford and Carroll are launching later this month.
- State's role is to provide support and funding. It is out of the box so assessment is important, and they also want to provide the runway to mitigate risk, start up, plan programming by offering assistance.
- This started in Seattle in 2011. Baltimore City program has operated for 2 years and is succeeding there. Washington County launched in August.

Discussion:

Roe asked how we connect the current services we already have in place. Daniel said we are already doing a lot of this work but that it is not organized. The program is really a framework for making this happen.

Barbara has collaborated in different states who have implemented LEAD or similar programs. Typically a more compassionate and effective system including saving of public funds.

Steve Olson, LEAD Program leader in Baltimore City works in Inner Harbor. He had a brother who had SUD. Finally decided to help his brother and realized it was not as easy as he thought. He learned about the short falls of the existing system by trying to help his brother. His brother's death helped him open his mind to other options.

Recently Barbara was in DC to testify before a congressional committee where she met up with law enforcement men from PAARI. PAARI is a similar program in the Northeast.

Are people instantly eligible who are stopped by the police?

Daniel said we customize and Lisa Meyers and Rich Gibson will get input from their teams and make decisions about this. Typically, it will apply to low level offenses. Officers can use their discretion. Recommend data oversight, project management and review to revise program, over time, based on weekly arrest records.

Warrants pose a special issue but there can be work-arounds if these situations might be applicable for a LEAD referral. If not, connect on the back end to these services.

Erik asked if there were automatic parameters that would disqualify someone. Yes, most say bonded offenses, probation and parole violations. There are copies of sample policies if anyone wants to look at them.

What happens if the suspect does not follow through? Daniel said failure is loosely defined, especially with behavioral health or SUD issues. Relapse is part of the disease. But again, re-iterated that we define what participation means. If they come in for an appointment after referral they are considered “in the program”. Have a year and a day to re-file charges if they are dropped. Compliance is quite different from a drug court. Some people need this.

Several peer review studies have evaluated this intervention. Compassionate services have been shown to work well. Harm reduction is not the traditional approach to criminal justice and buy in can take time. This is another reason to operate by consensus and start slow and small.

In Baltimore City, some of the most vulnerable (people in the Lexington Market area with severe co-occurring disorders, homeless and with high overdose rates) upwards of 90% participated and relapse stats were lower as well.

Laura asked how long the training takes? Train law enforcement and service providers independently. Start with our “Champions” – 2 or 3 officers Chief Meyers designates who are key. Get 1 ½ day training. Then a day long training to “Power Users” – officers working in higher areas of need. Then shorter trainings at Roll Call meetings for all officers.

For service providers, day long training, customized for case managers and peers.

Barbara will get additional questions to Daniel. Said she thought it was important for us to understand these programs. Daniel appreciates the input of our council as the program rolls out. Stressed that they need to involve the people they are serving as well. (“Nothing about us without us.”)

Jack said that to pilot this program would be easy as we only have 7 arrests a day in Howard County.

Barbara commented that areas like Hagerstown who are leading the way in this program can guide us. They are doing it on a shoestring and have far fewer resources than we do. Great that they are leading the way in this area.

No additional information on the residential Treatment Program. Contract is still being negotiated. Beth asked if this had pushed back date of opening and Barbara indicated that is her assumption. Delphi has a program to do an implementation in communities but want to work with the OCCC to help them reach residents. They are focused on administrative issues like zoning, permits, licenses, etc.

MDH Regrounding Our Response (ROR) Program

There are five areas of focus as a baseline for dealing with SUD/MH/Co-occurring disorders:

- Social Determinants of Health - Liesele
- Drug User Health – Joan, Cindy, Howie
- MAT – medication for addiction treatment – Barbara
- Adverse Childhood Experiences ?
- Stages of Change ?

Peer Recovery Specialists at the Detention Center are Master Presenters on several topics as well

Master Presenters are trained to do a one- or 3-hour presentation. Ideas for sharing include may present as a 6-week series. Would want to offer this especially if the council goes away to provide a basis for reducing stigma and establishing a base of understand the complexities of SUD.

The other thing we want to focus on is our First Responder recognition event, or smaller efforts along this line of thinking. Teron has an idea that in lieu of a county-wide event, we could work with our businesses and ask them to donate or sponsor on an individual precinct basis. And have the County Executive provide proclamations at each one to thank them for their service.

- Barbara has spoken with the police department, FRS who are interested. Needs to contact Fire Chief, Sherriff's offices. For compassion fatigue, Liesele thought we could partner with Warrior Canine Connection or PAWS to have them come in at roll call for this thank you as well. They would help us with this. Also thought about taking dogs into recovery houses to interact with residents.
- Cindy suggested that the CE set up a day to acknowledge First responders and, on this day, business partners give away meals to them for free.

No response yet to our OCCC interim report but they are appreciative of having this to put things into perspective. Her sense is that they have been so busy getting things set up for 2020 that they appreciated the info. We have either 3 months or if extended for another year, March 31st of 2021 to complete our work. What to prioritize?

- Ask our committees what we can do in the next 3 months? Barbara asked committee chairs to send her a report about what we can do in 3 months or a year.

Laura suggested we add reflective gear to the guys who walk along Route 108 from The Howard House.

Next Graduation for Drug Court is May 6th. Looking for sponsors for the event. Questions were raised about qualifications for drug court. HoCo residents only. Individuals talk with the Judge every other week. The parameters of the court were discussed. Cindy mentioned they need gift certificates as rewards for those doing well in the program. (WHERE TO SEND?) Liesele mentioned 275 people have graduated in the 16 years people have been in the program. The hope is that this prevents crime in the future or commit a crime that injures someone. Teron says people stay in treatment longer who are in this program and may be more likely to go into sober living.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Harbinson