

## **BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL**

**March 4, 2016**

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Sean Britton, Diane Brown, Carole Cassidy, Katie Cusano, Alan Hertel, Lee Livermore, Kate Newcomb, Kimberly Newell, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Raymond Serowik, Susan Wheeler, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Tina Barber, John Bernardo, Allen Buyck, Stephen Cornwell, Claudia Edwards, David Harder, Arthur Johnson, Jerry Marinich, Dennis O'Keefe, Dr. Peter Ronan, Dr. Christopher Ryan

### Announcements:

- The County Executive thanked everyone for all the work being done in the community to combat this issue. She requested that the BOAC symbol be placed on flyers to acknowledge BOAC's contributions to the community awareness events.
- Carole Cassidy would like to streamline the format for meetings and requested that BOAC members contact her at 778-2958 if they want something on the meeting agenda. Carole asked BOAC members if they would like to hear from a person in recovery to better understand how an individual makes it through recovery in Broome County. That will be an agenda item at a future meeting.

### Community Education Committee:

- Jill presented to the Communication Association of the Southern Tier and the Rotary; both were well received.
- Jill would like additional school district representation on the committee. She presented to the BOCES Assistant Superintendent's Committee and (related that) schools are reaching out to Lisa Strahley at SUNY Broome about solution deliberation training.
- Committee members discussed bringing Dr. Kolodny to Broome County. They want to find funding to cover costs so the event is free to anyone who wants to attend. Diane Brown said she thought the Community Foundation for SCNY could provide that funding. The date is June 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Forum. Carole is working on getting continuing education credits for doctors and substance abuse counselors who attend.
- The parent wallet cards are almost finished.
- Lourdes Substance Abuse Prevention program will be working on a social norms misperception campaign to emphasize the positives to alter behavior and teens perceptions that everyone is drinking, smoking, or using prescription drugs or illegal drugs.

### Law Enforcement Committee:

- The only police agency that expressed interest in having a drug drop-off box was Chief Dodge from Johnson City. It was suggested that the box at the Broome County Library be moved there. Kate Newcomb will follow up with him.
- Kate provided an update regarding the Sheriff's Office plan to assist addicts with getting into treatment. The Sheriff has agreed to provide transportation within Broome County for individuals seeking substance abuse treatment who call or come to the Sheriff's Office. A "file" check will be conducted to ensure that the person is not trying to circumvent the criminal justice system. The Sheriff's Office will utilize volunteers who have been screened and currently work with inmates at the Broome County jail and volunteers working at United Health Services who meet NYS Department of Health regulations. The individual will be transported to the Addiction Crisis Center if a bed is available. If a bed is not immediately available, they will be taken to Binghamton General Hospital. There will be triage to determine if the person is under the influence or in withdrawal. Depending on the individual needs of the person, he or she may be kept in an observation bed or, if medically stable, may return home while waiting to get into treatment. A care navigator (employee of Binghamton General Hospital) will keep in communication with the individual until they get into treatment.

- NYS OASAS requires licensed facilities to use a client placement tool online to determine what level of care an individual needs and whether inpatient, outpatient, or intensive residential treatment would be most beneficial. Area emergency room staff will be educated to make sure they know what to do when someone seeking substance abuse treatment presents at the ER. The County plan is still being finalized and will enhance services already available in the community.
- There is concern about discharge planning for individuals who return from long-term treatment in other states. We have supportive living for outpatient treatment and a day rehabilitation program at ACBC.
- Kimberly Newell, the Binghamton Adult Treatment Court Coordinator, related that approximately six defendants accepted drug court offers since the first of the year and Drug Court received approximately thirty referrals last month. There was some pushback from the Bureau of Justice Administration for the initial training plan. Two trainings will be held this year and two next year. Training will be available to treatment providers. Drug Court will get an additional staff person. People going through Drug Court have rapid access to treatment. There is a separate court session for DWI cases in Drug Court; discussion continues on this subject.

#### Treatment and Prevention Committee:

- NYS OASAS was going to provide funding for a Family Navigator and Peer Advocate; however, that funding is tied up in the budget negotiations.
- The grant application for Drug-Free Communities Support Program funding (\$125,000 annually for five years) will be submitted by the March 18<sup>th</sup> deadline. \$125,000 in-kind matching funds are required.
- The committee advocated with Assemblywoman Lupardo's office for additional funding for the student assistance program for counseling in schools.
- John Barry attended the last meeting and discussed Ithaca's plan. There are a lot of other proposals in addition to the safe injection site.
- Katie started a Facebook group (Living in the Light of Recovery in Broome County) which is intended to provide information in a positive manner. People are posting inspirational messages. She will put a link to treatment providers.
- Fairview received money from the City of Binghamton to hire another case manager.

#### Education of Medical Professionals Committee:

- Debra Preston, John Bernardo and representatives from the Health Department met with Wegman's to see if they would install a drug take-back box and they are considering placing one in their pharmacy.
- The contract for academic detailing is being voted on at the March legislative session and we expect the program to begin in April.
- Ray has finished compiling data from Naloxone administrations reports from police departments participating in the County program. There have been 51 reports of Naloxone administration received for the last 24 months, with the busiest months being May and July 2015. Reports are received from the Binghamton, Johnson City and Vestal Police Departments, and the Broome County Sheriff's Office. Endicott, Deposit and Binghamton University Police, Broome Security, SUNY Broome Public Safety, the Deposit School District, and Broome County Emergency Services also participate in the program. The New York State Police have their own program, and have not shared their data with us.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2016 in Conference Room A at the Broome County Health Department.