

BROOME OPIOID ABUSE COUNCIL
May 1, 2015

Present: Jill Alford-Hammitt, Fred Akshar, Sean Britton, Katie Cusano, Alan Hertel, Karel Kurst-Swanger, Carole Cassidy for Gerald Mollen, Dennis O'Keefe, Gabe Osterhout, Debra Preston, Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, Lorraine Wilmot

Absent: Tina Barber, John Bernardo, Allen Buyck, Brett Chellis, Claudia Edwards, David Harder, Arthur Johnson, Lee Livermore,
Dr. Peter Ronan

Karel Kurst-Swanger called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

A parent attended the meeting to share her family's seven-year struggle with their drug-addicted daughter. Their daughter became addicted to pain medication following surgery and progressed to using heroin. Her daughter's neurosurgeon prescribed pain medication for a time and then referred her to a pain medication clinic. There was no discussion about the risks of becoming addicted to this medication. Physicians need to be educated on how to discuss pain management with their patients. There is very little taught in medical school about addictions. She suggested that patients be tested to see if their level of pain medication is where it should be. It took six months to get her into a treatment program when they became aware that their daughter was addicted. She did not have success at the New Horizons outpatient clinic and spent one month in an inpatient setting. A problem with the system is that you have to fail in an outpatient setting before you can get into an inpatient facility. This parent felt that there needs to be a better relationship between law enforcement and the community on this issue. She thinks that the STAP Program to train family members and friends on how to administer Naloxone is an important program and that physicians need to be made aware that it exists. There is an issue with the availability of AA/NA meetings in the rural areas.

Community Education Committee: Committee members are: Jill Alford-Hammitt (Team Leader); Theresa Rajner (Deposit High School Principal); Joe Gonzalez (I'm Dope Without Dope); Michael Barton (Dreams Over Drugs); Kelly Musa (Dreams Over Drugs); Tom DeLucia (Dentist/Dreams Over Drugs); Name of Parent Redacted (Parent); and John Barry (STAP). Community presentations have been held in Windsor, Binghamton, Whitney Point and Deposit. Debra Preston is working with a Legislator to schedule a community education session for the Towns of Binghamton, Kirkwood and Conklin.

Fred suggested that we spend more time explaining the Good Samaritan Law so that people know they are protected and will call for help when a friend or family member is overdosing. He will provide BOAC members with a copy of the law. Federal regulations (42 CFR) regarding confidentiality for chemical dependency are more stringent than HIPAA. This law was put into place so people could access treatment without fear of being arrested or having their children taken away from them. It was suggested that we put together a PSA on the Good Samaritan Law. Repetitive messages are needed to advise people not to use alone and not to abandon someone. Billboards could be helpful. Jill said they educate people about the Good Samaritan Law when they provide Naloxone trainings.

We need a message in the schools about the harmful effects of drugs and how you become chemically dependent. An effective strategy may be to have students hear from their peers. The most used drugs in the community are alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Marijuana is being legalized in some states and people do not believe it is harmful so the harmful effects need to be emphasized. In addition, a message

should be delivered through social media to reach young adults. Parents need to be made aware that deals are going on through Facebook. Katie suggested we utilize a video by Kevin McCauley which describes how the brain chemistry changes with drug usage.

Law enforcement refers people to Drug Court, but it is voluntary. Carole said it has been her experience that people in Drug Court who have a support system most often do not come back. They have discussed starting a support group for families to have someone to talk to when they are in crisis. There is discussion about having community health advocate positions through DSRIP. Perhaps they will be able to help support families. A suggestion was made that a single number to call is needed to refer someone for an assessment or treatment. Katie said there are resources in the community but people don't know where to start – they can call 211 or First Call for Help for referrals. There is discussion about a walk-in center with a mental health component as an alternative to CPEP or the emergency room. Families Anonymous is a group that can help parents; information can be found online.

Education of Medical Professionals Committee: Committee members are: Dr. Christopher Ryan, Raymond Serowik, and Sean Britton (Team Leaders); Kevin Hastings (Osteopathic Pain Management Services); Dr. Ronan (UHS); and Michelle Newkirk (Pharmacist's Association). It was suggested that neurosurgeons, orthopedic surgeons, and dentists be at the top of the list for education regarding pain medication and addiction. Dr. Ryan said that marketing changes prescription practices. Salesmen lobby physicians to prescribe their drugs. We need a similar technique to change that behavior. Dr. Ryan feels that one-on-one detailing about opiate addiction would be a very effective practice with physicians. The committee would like to move forward with academic detailing and visits to practices to discuss prescribing techniques. Dr. Ryan does not feel that group education sessions will change behavior. It is well demonstrated that one-on-one face time with physicians gets the message across. Physicians recognize the problem but they need to do something to assist patients in managing their pain. Most are reluctant to prescribe large quantities of medication. Physicians cannot send someone directly to an alternative because of wait times to access treatment.

Treatment and Prevention Committee: Committee members are: Katie Cusano (Team Leader); Alan Wilmarth (UHS); Alecia Furney (UHC); Andrea Nagle (UHC); Brian Mooney (OASES); Carmela Pirich (ACBC); Colleen O'Neil (CDSU, BC Mental Health); Jason Garnar (BC Legislature); Jill Alford-Hammit (Lourdes); John Barry (STAP); Joseph Gonzalez (I'm Dope Without Dope); Kellie Musa (Dreams Over Drugs); Kip Kettle (UHS); Maralena Dropp (BC Mental Health); Michael Barton (Dreams Over Drugs); Michele Napolitano (Fairview Recovery Services); Nancy Johnson (YWCA); and Tom DeLucia (Dreams Over Drugs).

There is a very short waiting list right now for ACBC and UHS and emergencies can get in immediately. The Detox Center closed in 2010 and ACC is trying to manage all the people who would have utilized the Detox Center. That has been an issue. Fairview Recovery Services only has 18 beds. The patient has to call every hour upon the hour to see if a treatment slot opens up. Young adults typically have a hard time calling for help. Probation will initiate the call and hand the phone off to the patient. There is no case management available other than the Health Homes; DSRIP is changing everything. There have been backlogs in the system but they are trying to address them.

A handout was provided on caseload for each Probation Officer for 1/1/15-3/31/15 with information on what drugs their clients tested positive for. Most probationers are abusing alcohol and some type of drug. The most abused drug among juveniles is marijuana and some kids are testing positive for Spice and K2, which can be bought over the counter at convenience stores. They are getting new tests in June

that will test for designer drugs. The nature of the drug problem has changed. In 2013, there were 68,000 prescriptions written for hydrocodone and 47,000 for oxycodone in Broome County. Broome County ranks 10th of 62 counties in New York State for the number of prescriptions written.

Katie is currently working on a grant to SAMSHA to enhance services available to Drug Court participants.

Law Enforcement Committee: Committee members are: Fred Akshar (Team Leader); Carole Cassidy (DA's Office); Scott Baker (BC Legislature); and Jack Collins (Binghamton Police Department). Their first meeting is scheduled for next Monday. There is a very aggressive 16 member task force. Data redacted as is confidential material from law enforcement investigation(s).

The application was submitted yesterday for designation as a high intensity drug trafficking area. Senator Schumer is optimistic about Broome County receiving this designation.

The next BOAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the Broome County Health Department. Another family member will be invited to tell their story. Dr. Ryan will present the spatial analysis for Naloxone administration. Karel will not be able to attend the next meeting. Claudia Edwards or Katie Cusano will facilitate the meeting.