

Opiate Task Force Meeting Minutes – 3/10/2023

Krista Wasowski

- Welcome. This group collaborating is very valuable. No current update.

Phillip Titterington

- Sports betting was introduced in Ohio in January, with more than \$1.1 billion being waged during the first month.
 - o Gambling addiction impacts many, and Alternative Paths has four individuals who have become, or are in the process of becoming certified to provide gambling treatment.
- The ADAMH Board has secured additional State Opioid Response (SOS) funding, which is approximately \$500,000 for primarily recovery supports, services, and programming.
- One Ohio Update
 - o Each region has a governing board for the OneOhio Trust and Mr. Titterington and Ms. Robinson will represent Medina County on the Technical Planning Committee.
 - o It is anticipated that in November 2023, dollars could be pushed out to each region.

Darren Stout – Drug Task Force (DTF)

- Drug Task Force has had 189 felony criminal investigations.
- 96 outside agency calls for assistance from DTF.
- 163 felony drug charges filed, with at least four being from fatal overdoses.
- Good year in investigating and determining sources of drugs.
- 11 misdemeanor charges.
- Drug seizures
 - o (Most to least) marijuana, meth, Fentanyl derivatives, cocaine.
 - o He noted that there was a significant decrease in Fentanyl derivatives from last year to this year. He stated 100 grams were seized, compared to the last year when multiple thousands of grams were seized. He voiced concern about the resurgence of cocaine.
 - o Seized 11 firearms.
 - o 43% decrease in fatal overdoses, which is a strong reduction for the state. He noted that collaborations are working.
 - o 6,000 pounds of unused medications received from Drug Take Back Days and D.U.M.P. sites, with 50,000 pounds received since 2011.
 - o April 22, 2023 is the next National Drug Take Back Day – location in Wadsworth.

- There is a list of all D.U.M.P. locations on the Drug Task Force, ADAMH Board, and MCHD websites.
- Medina County DTF was named a pilot agency for the MX908 program – which is a portable mass spectrometer used by BCI, Ohio Highway patrol, and coroners to analyze drugs in-house so that results can be used in court. Over 600 tests have been done so far and results are back in days rather than weeks.
 - Meth, marked pills, and cocaine can be tested.
 - Getting people certified to use the equipment.
- Started referral process for the Drug Task Force to be able to make non-overdose related referrals to Alternative Paths.
 - Not just opiate based.
 - Felony level with no extensive criminal charges, or if below criminal thresholds they can be referred to AP.
 - Called a deflection program.
 - Trying to increase outreach programs.
 - Can't arrest our way out of the problem, can't treat our way out of the problem, we have to all work together.
- Xylazine has not been seen in our community.
- Robo-tripping – overdosing on cough syrup, can cause lethargy and death, new bulletin.
- There is consideration of placing a Naloxone vending machine at the Medina County Sheriff's Office. Naloxone would be of no cost and available and accessible to the public. This is preliminary and in the works.

Melissa Romain – OhioGuidestone

- OhioGuidestone has increased work with Juvenile court.
- OhioGuidestone is relaunching their adolescent IOP program for youth and young adults (age 14 up to 21).
- Work with adult court is increasing.
- Planning to provide summer youth prevention groups at the ADAMH Board's new Youth Resiliency & Counseling Center (YRCC).

Stefanie Robinson - Hope Recovery Community (HRC)

- HRC has been in existence for four years, and are now located in Medina, Brunswick, and Wadsworth.
- The newest initiative is the farm project at the Brown-Trump Homestead in partnership with Medina County Park District, Cathy's House, and the ADAMH Board.
- Snapshot of recovery programming offered:
 - Open 100 hours a week with lots of programming to fill gaps.
 - 30-35 groups happening every week.
 - Prosocial, traditional and non-traditional meetings.

- Anyone can stop by.
- Spent six months under construction while completing the capital expansion from the ADAMH Board, which is now 99% complete.
- The old meeting space held 32 people, and the new space will hold 75 people.
- If you build it they will come. In the winter there was nowhere to go.
- Downstairs there will be a rec center to relax.
- 40 referrals a month.
- 3000-4000 recovery touches every month.
- People are much more recovery ready when released from jail.
- What we are all doing is working.
- Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative
 - Partnership with Economic Group.
 - Medina is the first county in Ohio to have a program like this.
- The new initiative at the farm is a massive collaboration opportunity.
 - Training programs for skill building (gardening, landscaping, bee-keeping, chicken care, goat care, orchard care, maintenance).
 - Innovative programs.
 - Finding purpose and value.
 - Everything generated from the farm will go back to the recovery community or will go to Feeding Medina County.
 - Life Skills (workforce, sustainable recovery, skills assessments, resume, interview ready, budgeting, etc.)
 - Four Dimensions of Recovery – Community, Health, Home, Purpose.
 - Information on the website to come.
- Data collection tool for recovery community who are doing non-clinical work.
 - Building data tool now.

Kelsey Vasicek – Opiate Response Team

- Opiate Response Team referrals
 - Larger quantity of individuals with Suboxone as the only drug used.
 - Larger percentage of individuals entering the jail who are receiving MAT.
 - 553 referrals last year, with only one duplicate.
 - Made contact with 95%, unable to contact 3%, 2% denied contact.
- Community referrals – 52 in past 12 months.
 - Contact info is less reliable – 50% contact rate.
 - 65% attend assessments, and they are more likely to attend if they have an immunity letter.
- Ohio Deflection Association (QRT conference) – need data to be able to run a program.
 - New referral list online for referrals from Drug Task Force.
 - Learned about what other organizations are doing.

- Problem Gambling Network of Ohio (PGNO) – 5 staff members attended. Two have received the Gambling endorsement, and another two will soon be certified.
 - o All individuals are screened for gambling at the jail and at the time of an AP assessment.
- Community Outreach
 - o Medina County Career Center – talked to first responders about QRT and Opiates.
 - o Senior Bake Off.
 - o Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) did their weeklong training to support referrals.
- Loss team update
 - o Can call the hotline.
 - o Crisis text line.
 - o August through December 2021, the team received nine call outs and provided 17 follow-ups.
 - o January through December 2022, the team received 15 initial call outs and provided 18 follow-ups.
 - o So far in 2023 – there has been four initial call outs, and four follow-ups.
 - o Families have been very receptive and are reaching out before follow-up points.
 - o We have seen them getting into agencies.
 - o Police, the Coroner’s office, and the schools have been receptive and are receiving debriefing opportunities.

Jon DeMell – Cathy’s House

- Five individuals moved from Cathy’s House to the new farm recovery house, which is Level 2 housing.
 - o Others have expressed an interest.
- All the beds at Cathy’s House are full, with a waitlist of 30+.
- OhioMHAS is coming out next to tour the farm and Hope Recovery Community.
- Ohio Recovery Housing will be out to certify the farm
- Will be attending an Ohio Recovery Housing Conference in Columbus next week.
- What is the criteria for the farm versus Cathy’s House?
 - o Currently piloting the program to determine the program needs.
 - o Individuals can request to be at the farm. If they are housed there, they must be willing to work there.
 - o The farm project is a partnership the park district and is also being supported by the ADAMH Board.
 - o If you know local connections with farms for future collaboration.
 - Compost
 - Woodchips
 - Fencing

Mike Metcalf – Health Department

Survey results

- Majority agree that the task force addresses more than just Opiates.
- Other Drugs, Recovery and Treatment, New resources.
- Yes change the name from the majority.
- Moving towards disease model rather than using the word addiction or abuse.
- Additional insights please let us know.

Skip Sipos - Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) - See Plan attached

- Clarify confusion about Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority relative to the emergency shelter.
- Looking for support and advocacy and participating in initiatives.
- Medina County has relied on churches or others to support homelessness.
- In 2005, the Medina County Housing Network was formed.
- February 2021 a group of clergy and nonprofit entities asked the mayor about homelessness.
- March 2021 – State Representative Sharon Ray contacted him to see how much funding is needed for a homeless shelter.
 - o Wanted to take time to study next steps → Action Steps.
 - o Coordinated Community Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness.
 - o Need to create permanent supportive housing.
 - o Land by Juvenile Detention Center being developed:
 - For ten units of permanent supportive housing.
 - \$500,000 funding.
 - Needed zoning changes → received great support for zoning change.
 - Additional funding from the city was provided by ARPA funding.
 - o Looking at using MMHA current offices as emergency shelter.
 - Looking for land to replace his office space; 9-10,000 sq. ft.
 - 2 million dollars or so currently.
 - o Medina Interfaith Coalition on Affordable Housing.
 - Mission of creating additional affordable housing units in the area.
 - o Challenges ahead:
 - Finding space for current offices.
 - This initiative cannot fail right now.
 - Please give thought on how to support efforts, should community pushback occur.
 - o Emergency Shelter:
 - 90-100 day stays possible, to be able to get opportunities for success.
 - Emergency Food and Shelter Program.
 - Provide wraparound services.

- Operation Homes has filled a need, but is not accessible to all.

Next Meeting is June 9, 2023

Public Comment - None