



Opiate Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2017

In Attendance: Alex Reuther, Amy Foley, Angela Livesay, Cathy Krieg, Diane Flowers, Elizabeth Appelma, Gretchen Behimer, Jackie Lindner, Jaime Lutson, Jamie Smith, Jeff Sellars, Jessica Johnson, Jill Gomez, Jill Wallace-Cooper, Karen Scherra, Kathleen Williams, Keith Robinson, Lee Ann Watson, Mary Wolff, Megan Barrett, Michelle Lydenberg, Sherri Corn, Tracie Sellars, Tyra Scherer, Ronda Doll, Rhonda Burkheimer, Paula Gibson, Ann Pullem, Kayla Scoumis

I. Introduction and Review of Minutes – *Lee Ann Watson*

All in attendance introduced themselves. Minutes from October 12th, 2017 were reviewed and approved without amendments.

II. Subcommittee Updates –

- a. Prevention:** Mary Wolff reported that the Recommendations to the President by the Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis focus largely on prevention. She explained the recommendations specifically state that prevention efforts should be strengthened and should be broad, not just focused on one substance. Michelle Lydenberg reported that Partners for a Drug Free Milford and Miami Twp. held their first Hidden in Plain Sight event and are planning more in the coming months.

- b. Marketing:** Amy Foley reported that OTF's monthly Facebook Live video views have almost doubled since the first month. She asked members in attendance to brainstorm topic ideas for future sessions that would engage the community a little bit more. There are currently several advertisements for OTF throughout the community including: multiple billboards, CTC bus ads, Eastgate Mall directory ads, ads in the Clermont Sun and the Community Press, and a 15 second ad running at the Milford movie theatre. Kroger Pharmacy in Amelia and Miami Twp. (Milford/Mulberry location) will also have pharmacy bags printed with the OTF website and drop box locations soon.

- c. **Harm Reduction:** Jackie Lindner reported that CCPH is taking steps to move forward with a syringe services program in Clermont County. A public forum will take place on November 30, 2017 and members are encouraged to attend and show their support. A link to a survey that will be used to collect feedback from the community is on the CCPH website. There will be room for up to eight tables if any OTF member organizations would like to attend and share their information with the public at the forum. Anyone interested should contact Tyra Scherer. Mercy Health Foundation also submitted a grant application today to the Syringe Access Fund for syringe services program funding.
- d. **Treatment:** Jessica Johnson reported that the last treatment subcommittee meeting focused largely on Clermont Mercy and CCPH's collaborative effort for a syringe services program. She also stated there was a discussion surrounding QRT expansion and referring people to treatment.
- e. **Advocacy:** Karen Scherra explained that President Trump has declared a nationwide public health emergency to address the opioid crisis, however there are minimal funds available in the emergency fund and we need congress to appropriate more funds. Karen also reported that there will be a lot of discussion surrounding funding sources for CRC for the upcoming year. The county is facing a huge increase in costs and has exceeded their budget for CRC this year. This is mostly due to increased numbers of people in treatment and people requiring treatment for longer periods of time.

III. **Task Force Member Updates –**

Lee Ann Watson reported that she, Jackie Lindner, and Tyra Scherer attended a Community Collective Impact Model for Change learning community training in early November for the grant Mental Health and Recovery Board received. She explained that there are multiple models that they will combine to create a tool for OTF to use moving forward.

IV. **Presentation: “What is Residential?” – Ann Pullem, Medical Coordinator, Adams Recovery Center–Goshen and Kayla Scoumis, Clinical Supervisor, Adams Recovery Center–New Richmond**

Ann and Kayla from Adams Recovery Center (ARC) presented on the topic “What is Residential?” ARC has two residential facilities; one for men in New Richmond with 32 beds and one for women in Goshen with 30 beds. Everyone's length of stay will vary based on individual progress and needs, but clients typically spend 90 to 180 days in treatment. Both the male and female programs mirror one another and include five hours of group programming per day, individual counseling sessions, and a family group session on Saturdays. Time is rarely spent talking about specific substances, instead ARC's program uses

cognitive behavioral therapy which focuses largely on changing thoughts and behaviors. ARC's program is based on a community model that emphasizes accountability and self-discipline.

The majority of ARC's clients have Medicaid although they accept private insurance and self-pay as well. ARC recognizes that overall health is important, therefore nurses help clients find medical care and assist with scheduling appointments while in treatment. Post treatment, a care coordinator works with each client individually to help find housing, search for a job, find schooling options, etc. Ann and Kayla both explained that no one graduates from ARC without a plan in place for what's next.

Clients begin treatment by going through the intake process. If there is a wait list, the intake coordinator can refer clients to outpatient treatment options and other resources in the meantime. Ann explained that while they are not a medical facility and do not have a detox program, people often come into their program detoxing. ARC provides over the counter medications to treat various withdrawal symptoms and encourages clients who are detoxing to be comfortable but continue with as much of the normal routine as possible. ARC does have an optional MAT program that is typically coordinated so it's available on the first or second day a client is checked in. If an individual needs to detox from a substance that has dangerous withdrawal symptoms, such as alcohol or benzodiazepines, they are referred to a medical facility. ARC coordinates with the medical provider and holds the client's spot while in detox. ARC is also not a mental health facility and can only allow patients with a co-occurring diagnosis if it's mild to moderate and being managed.

Ann and Kayla ended their presentation by stating that every employee at ARC is passionate about their work and cares about each client.

V. **Action Items and Review of Upcoming Meetings** – Lee Ann Watson

Next month we will discuss OTF's progress this year and take a look at the recommendations to the President for addressing the opioid crisis.

Next Meeting:

December 14, 2017

Topic:

Review of 2017 Accomplishments

Discussion of Recommendations by the President's Opioid Commission