



Opiate Task Force Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2018

In Attendance: *Alex Reuther, Amy Foley, Bill Stearns, Cathy Krieg, Dan Bielecki, Deborah Clepper, Ed Humphrey, Gretchen Behimer, Heather Cokl, Jaime Lutson, Jamie Smith, Janie Steele, Melissa Funke, Melissa Cole, Nan Cahall, Nick Kelly, Sarah Nerad, Jerry Wittmeyer, Jessica Johnson, Jill Wallace-Cooper, Joe Palmer, Julianne Nesbit, Julie Frey, Karen Scherra, Kathleen Williams, Laura Hutzel, Laura Stith, Lee Ann Watson, Lora Moore, Lori Watkins, Sherry Donaworth, Steve Haynes, Tina Fischer, Tracie Sellars, Tyra Scherer, William Bockhorst, David Painter, Brett Phillips, Laura Huddleston, Nichole McClure, Cheryl Richards, Jeff Richards, Steven Gehler, Jerry McBride, Darren Miller*

I. Introduction and Review of Minutes – Lee Ann Watson, OTF Co-Chair

- a. All in attendance introduced themselves.

II. Panel discussion of the potential impact of Ohio Issue 1 in Clermont County –

Judge Jerry McBride, Clermont County Common Pleas Court; Darren Miller, Clermont County Prosecutor's Office; Sheriff Steve Leahy, Clermont County Sheriff's Office; Karen Scherra, Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board; Commissioner Ed Humphrey, Clermont County Board of County Commissioners

- a. The panelists discussed the potential effects Issue 1 would have on the local criminal justice system, treatment programs and recovery services, and in the community overall. All panelists stressed the importance of voting in opposition of the constitutional amendment due to a variety of concerns.
- b. Key points addressed during the panel discussion:
- Issue 1 is a proposed constitutional amendment and would be very difficult to reverse if it passes.
 - The criminal justice system in Clermont County already has interventions in place for treatment in lieu of conviction, but this amendment would hinder the ability to do that effectively.

- Issue 1 would make the community less safe by allowing criminals to be released early and not allowing them to be sent back to jail if they violate probation/community control (unless they were to commit a new, separate crime).
 - The jail would see a huge increase in the number of inmates leading to overcrowding and unsafe conditions; therefore, to effectively house the increase in inmates the County would have to add \$1 million to the current budget.
 - The shift in cost to the County system as opposed to the state would likely hinder programs locally such as CASC.
 - Proponents of Issue 1 claim the amendment would save the state \$100 million; however, the Ohio Office of Budget Management confirmed that would not be the case.
 - The promise of seeing money on a local level for treatment is highly unlikely since the potential money saved will be awarded in grant funding – not a set allocation for each jurisdiction.
 - The County is responsible for funding the agencies that will be highly impacted if Issue 1 passes, and would likely have to turn to the County residents to fund the added costs.
- c. Open discussion took place. Several OTF members and representatives from community agencies and organizations expressed their opposition to Issue 1.
 - d. Lee Ann Watson asked members if they wanted to take an official position on Issue 1. Tracie Sellars motioned for the OTF to take an official position in opposition of Issue 1; seconded by Ed Humphrey; all present voted, “I,” and the motion carried.

III. Subcommittee Updates –

- a. **Marketing** – *Amy Foley*; Interact for Health is going to be working on a regional marketing campaign and will be conducting a focus group as part of the development phase. She will forward the information to the marketing committee.
- b. **Harm Reduction** – *Tyra Scherer*; During the November OTF meeting, Julianne Nesbit will present data on the first six months of the syringe services program in Clermont County.
- c. **ACEs** – *Angie Livesay*; The ACEs subcommittee began distributing the survey for kinship/substitute care providers. Eleven substitute care providers have completed the survey at this time. The goal is to survey 150 families. Hard copies of the survey are available in addition to the Survey Monkey link.

IV. Action Items and Review of Upcoming Meetings – *Lee Ann Watson, OTF Co-Chair*

- a. Tyra Scherer will email the official position statement to all members. Amy Foley will post the statement on the OTF website and social media. All members were encouraged to share with their networks.
- b. The next OTF meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2018.

List of handouts that were available to attendees:

- "Issue One is Bad for the Citizens of Ohio," Judge Jerry McBride
- "Analysis of Why Issue One Should be Opposed," Judge Jerry McBride
- Resolution Opposing the Proposed Amendment to the Ohio Constitution known as Issue One, Clermont County Board of County Commissioners
- PowerPoint Presentation, "Neighborhood Safety, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Amendment – Issue 1"
- Article, "State Fiscal Analysis of Issue 1 Casts Doubt on Potential Savings"
- "Issue 1 Quiz: How Should You Vote on November 6?," Provided by Sheriff Steve Leahy
- Official Position Statement from the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board
- "The Hidden Disaster of State Issue 1," Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor
- "State Issue 1: Reduces Prison Time for Dangerous Criminals," and "State Issue 1: Undermines Treatment," Ohio Prosecuting Attorney Association, Provided by Darren Miller

***If you would like a copy of any of the handouts, email Tyra Scherer or Lee Ann Watson.*