



Opiate Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2018

In Attendance: Amy Foley, Angela Livesay, Cathy Krieg, David Painter, Ed Humphrey, Gretchen Behimer, Jackie Lindner, Jaime Lutson, Jamie Smith, Jeff Sellars, Jill Wallace-Cooper, Julianne Nesbit, Karen Scherra, Kathleen Williams, Keith Robinson, Lee Ann Watson, Lori Watkins, Megan Jones, Sherry Donaworth, Tara Wilson, Tony Rees, Tracie Sellars, Pamela Carnes, Tyra Scherer

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

- a. All in attendance introduced themselves. Minutes from December 14, 2017 were reviewed and approved without amendments.
- b. Lt. Tony Rees announced his resignation as co-chair of the Opiate Task Force. Lee Ann Watson presented Lt. Rees with a plaque on behalf of the OTF members thanking him for his time served as the OTF co-chair.
- c. Lee Ann Watson announced Captain Jeff Sellars will be the new co-chair of the Opiate Task Force beginning in February 2018.

II. SFY 2018-19 State Budget Bill – Karen Scherra

The state budget bill designates funds to fight the opioid epidemic and the state mandates that the county Mental Health and Recovery Boards are identified as the entity who will serve as the “hub” agency/organization that will lead the work around the opioid epidemic. Karen asked for the support of the Task Force members in recognizing the Board’s role as the hub. Commissioner Ed Humphrey motioned to appoint the Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board as the hub for the county; seconded by Julianne Nesbit; all present voted, “I,” and the motion carried. Each county Board is required to create a report by January 2020 outlining everything their community has done to fight the opioid epidemic. CCMHRB plans to submit an additional report in January 2019.

III. Appreciation Week – Karen Scherra

Ohio MHAS is planning “Appreciation Week” for the week of April 8 and asking each county Board to participate and host an event in their respective communities. The purpose of Appreciation Week is to show gratitude to everyone in the community who has contributed in efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. The Governor is planning to issue a proclamation on April 8. There are plenty of meetings/events scheduled for that week that can potentially be incorporated in the Appreciation Week activities (County Commissioners Meeting 4/9, CCMHRB Board Meeting 4/9, OTF Meeting 4/12). The OTF is forming an ad-hoc subcommittee for Appreciation Week. If you are interested in helping plan activities contact Karen or Lee Ann.

IV. Goals for 2018 – Lee Ann Watson, Co-Chair

Lee Ann suggested using the handouts listed below as a starting point for developing new strategies for 2018. Hard copies were available for those in attendance.

- OTF Breaking the Cycle
- OTF 2017 Accomplishments
- Recommendations from the President’s Opioid Commission
- Summary of the Recommendations
- Bold Step Suggestions (2014; Ohio Attorney’s General Office visit to New Richmond)
- CCPH’s Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention Program 2017 Annual Summary

Prior to discussing strategies for 2018, Lee Ann Watson reviewed several trends we’ve seen recently:

- Overdose deaths ↓
- Nonfatal overdose numbers ↓
- Mercy Clermont Hospital ED admissions ↑
- Individuals on MAT ↑
- Access to Treatment ↑ (*QRT*)
- Hepatitis C rates are high
- HIV rates ↑
- STDs ↑
- Referrals to treatment ↑
- Number of people in treatment ↑ (*expanded programs at Northland, CRC, etc.*)
- Families are in crisis
- High number of kids involved with CPS
- Increase in meth ↑ (*experienced by law enforcement and treatment providers*)

Several members in attendance identified support for families and children as an important issue that still need to be addressed in our community. Lee Ann suggested forming a subcommittee for family and children support and those in attendance agreed.

Additional suggestions for 2018 strategies include engaging with faith-based organizations/community, establishing recovery housing for women, exploring the idea of

evening OTF meetings or hosting at different locations, and sending a survey to OTF members regarding participation.

Due to time constraints at the meeting, it was agreed upon that further discussion of additional strategies and suggestions should be addressed at each of the subcommittee meetings. The 2018 goals and strategies will be reviewed at the February OTF meeting for approval.

V. Task Force Member Updates –

- a. *Karen Scherra; Advocacy Subcommittee* – Karen explained that the state is likely going to increase/provide funding to counties with the highest overdose deaths rates. Since Clermont county’s rate is going down, we are going to have to try really hard to keep the programs and funding we already have in place. The decrease shows everyone’s efforts are making a positive impact, but we won’t be able to continue our efforts without funding. Julianne Nesbit pointed out that while the number of deaths has decreased, the rate is based on a 6-year average and therefore will take a while to decrease.

VI. OTF Meeting Topic Ideas for 2018 – Lee Ann Watson, Co-Chair

Members were asked to brainstorm topic ideas for the 2018 OTF meetings. Suggestions for future meetings included communication strategies, ACEs training, meth data/information, support for children and families being impacted, syringe services program update, and a faith-based organization representatives panel (Jaime Lutson is planning to reach out to the gentlemen who does Celebrate Recovery with the CASC program).

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

In February, CCPH will be presenting the Overdose Fatality Review for unintentional overdose deaths that occurred between January-June 2017.

Next Meeting:

February 8, 2018

Topic:

Overview of 2018 Goals and Strategies

Overdose Fatality Review – January-June 2017