



Join Together Atlantic County

Atlantic County Government Offices
101 S. Shore Rd, Shoreview Building
Northfield, NJ 08225
March 12th 2019
11:00am – 1:00pm

Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Capt. Bruce DeShields (ACPO), Sgt. Michael Gilmore (ACSD)

Govt Agency: Assemb. John Armato (NJ State Legis.), Bob Widitz (Atl. Co. Sub. Abuse Services)

School: Loretta Grisi-Dicker (Atlantic Cape Community College), Patty Weeks (Stockton University)

Youth Service Org: John Roy (Cape Atlantic Inc.)

Healthcare: Lisa Celebre & Dylan Wulderk (AtlantiCare), Stephanie Weaver (SJFMC)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Victoria Reigle (Helping Hands), Lindsay Dragon (Legacy Treatment Services), Joanna Garofolo (JBRC), Michael DiMarco (Pro Recovery Solutions)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer: Mohammad Ullah (AmeriCorps VISTA)

Other Org.: Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Ken Litwak (800Gambler), Wynston Whitlow (Beh. Crossroads), Natalia Wilber, Ashley Sullivan & Nikki Nichols (Cape Assist), Scott Grass (Hope One), Katie Gallagher (SNJPC), Barbara Sorace (Private practice), Rachel Campbell (SJAA), Marianne Eisenhauer (AtlantiCare STEPS), Kurt Ohlson (CODI), Carlo Favretto (Tobacco Free for a Healthy NJ)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Bob Zlotnick, Kathy McFadden, Brian Wilson, Ashley Rhea

Guest/Other: Rhonda Fitzgerald, Charles Kerley, & Jake Straughn (Community members)

Introductions/Sign-in, Review Minutes:

Opened with Ice breaker

Motion to approve minutes from last meeting – 1st Dylan Wulderk 2nd Captain Bruce DeShields

Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:

DFC- Laurie reported that APR will be reapplying for the DFC grant which will be good for five years. This is the grant that we previously had for five years that came to an end in the Fall. Laurie was notified that the Office of National Drug Control Policy is creating a new partnership to oversee the grant, as well as the CARA Grant. Once they create this partnership, the RFP will be available for APR to reapply.

AmeriCorps- Laurie reported that they will be reapplying for this grant which will specifically target opioids. We will inform you as to what the plan is as it gets closer.

STOP ACT- This grant focuses on underage drinking. Laurie reported each year they are required to submit an action plan and budget for this grant. Both the action plan and budget were already submitted with minimal changes from last year's submission. We previously had in this grant several town hall meetings, prom presentations, and parent presentations. We reduced the number of these to include a new initiative that was added to the action plan. This intervention is to disseminate information at local tuxedo rentals, dress shops and florists for their teen customers about underage drinking during prom season.

Opiate Athlete Grant- This grant focuses on targeting coaches, athletic directors, and anyone working with youth athletes. Laurie reported that APR was finally sent the requirements for this grant. Last year, the grant was utilized to create an opioid athlete toolkit with NJPN. APR/JTAC also sponsored the Opiate Athlete Breakfast in December. Laurie mentioned that this was a small grant and that they will be offering technical assistance and presentations to high school athletic teams during the fall and spring season.

CARA Grant- This grant focuses on opioids. Just as we do for the STOP ACT grant we are required to submit an action plan and budget each year for the following year, these have been completed and submitted. Most of the interventions under this grant will be discussed later in the meeting.

PFS – This is the Partnership for Success Grant, which previously focused on opioid, tobacco and underage drinking prevention. Laurie reported that they now have received the requirements for that grant as well. There is now more of a focus on working with the Children's System of Care. John Roy explained that the Children's System of Care is an organization that serves to provide behavioral health, substance use, and other services to anyone between the ages of 5 and 21. They work on developing a service plan that meets individual needs for a certain child and family by asking questions to the parent or guardian. More information can be found on www.performcarenj.org.

Committee/Work Group Updates:

Laurie reported that she emailed a google form for coalition members to sign up for committees and work groups. She stated that some group members reached out to her saying that they were not able to open the google form, so the form will be sent out again. Laurie mentioned that being in a committee or work group will not be a lot of work. Most correspondence will take place through email.

Stand Up and Rebel:

Carlo Favretto reported that there are four main high school locations for SUAR (Buena, Pleasantville, Oakcrest, and Egg Harbor Township). Their county meeting was a few weeks ago where a Youth Tobacco Action Group kickoff event took place. There were about 27 youth in attendance from all SUAR high schools. The main focus was to give additional education about vaping. This month, SUAR groups will be participating in Kick Butts Day. Last week, Buena hosted a Kick Butts Day activity, where Carlo presented a video called Juulers against Juul in regards to vaping education. Additionally, students went out around the school to clean up cigarette butts and Juul pods.

The Egg Harbor Township HS SUAR group will be having their Sticker Shock event where they will be labeling packages at local liquor stores with stickers that reminds customers that it is illegal to purchase/provide alcohol to anyone under the age of 21. The stickers also lists fines and penalties. We try and have the sticker shock campaign around holidays that we know a lot of drinking may occur. This sticker shock is being held now in anticipation for the upcoming St Patricks' Day weekend. The Oakcrest SUAR group is currently working on a PSA targeting opioids. Buena SUAR will be working on a prescription drugs PowerPoint that will be presented at the Youth Summit in April. SUAR youth groups meet after school or at night.

Opiate Task Force:

Next meeting – Thursday 5/2/19

Naloxone/Narcan- Laurie reported that Ashley Rhea attended a Narcan training at the ETTC building. There had been questions as to how the schools were getting trained since the State of New Jersey mandated all schools to have Narcan training. Ashley found out that Urban Treatments, who did the training she attended, has a grant to train all the schools. A problem is the financial costs of Naloxone kits. Bob Widitz reported that there will be more funding available for county-wide Narcan programs through grants. Bob also stated that one of the things they are allowed to do now under early intervention is Narcan trainings. The biggest challenge is not in training people, but in supplying them with the Narcan, but stated that these additional funds will help with that issue.

AC LEAD (Atlantic County Law Early Diversion)- Captain Bruce DeShields reported that due to the setup of the Drug Court program individuals were overlooked because of the nature of their charges. Because of this, the Prosecutor's Office will be collaborating with the Sherriff's Office and other law enforcement departments to start the AC LEAD program where an individual who is arrested with a 3rd degree drug possession charge will be offered the option to seek treatment. The process includes the arresting officer contacting the Prosecutor's Office and asking for confirmation of other outstanding issues with the individual. If given approval, the officer will contact the Sheriff's Department and connect the individual with a recovery specialist. The criminal charge will be held by the Prosecutor's office for six months. If the individual completes the program and continues to seek treatment, their charges will be dropped. Captain DeShields hopes to have this program launched officially by April 1st.

HOPE ONE- Scott Gras is the coordinator of Atlantic County Hope One. Scott reported that HOPE ONE visits neighborhoods at least twice a week, as a resource for anyone dealing with a substance use or mental health disorder. Scott mentioned that there has been an increase in the number of individuals seeking help. Overall, this program has been successful in providing help to individuals no matter if they have insurance or not, Hope One is able to help. Kurt from CODI reported that as a result of what Scott and Hope One are doing he had a women come into his building seeking help and Hope One was able to get her help and a bed within two hours without insurance. Kurt stated that they have the connections

to resources and its working. Scott also introduced Sgt. Michael Gilmore with the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department who is in charge of Hope One Project and the officer that Scott reports to on a daily basis.

Prescription bags- Laurie reported that JTAC purchased about 5000 prescription bags with information on proper disposal. Smaller pharmacies, such as Bunting Family Pharmacy, will participate in distributing these bags. If anyone has a good relationship with their pharmacy and wants them to participate in this initiative please have them contact JTAC to retrieve bags. Senator John Armato reported that there is a current bill that will mandate anyone who dispenses opioids to be required to provide information on how to dispose of those opioids if not used. Laurie stated that she thought this was already a state law.

Deterra/Green Teams- Brian Wilson reported that he has been working on disseminating hundreds of Deterra drug deactivation bags throughout the county. Brian stated that he recently reached out to Atlantic County Municipal Green Teams, who provide environmentally friendly initiatives in their communities. Brian served on Egg Harbor Township Green Team and had a contact through that where he was able to make contact with all of the Green Teams. EHT, Hammonton, and Egg Harbor City Green Teams have replied back and are willing to distribute Deterra bags at different community events. Green Teams that show interest will receive one full case of Deterra which is approximately 100 bags.

Prescription Drop Boxes – Brian Wilson reported that he met with the Public Safety Director of Stockton University in regards to placing a drop box within their department. Brian stated that the Director has concerns with the size of the box, their department is very small. The Director asked about a smaller drop box that can be mounted to the wall. Brian reached out to Partnership for a Drug-Free NJ to see if they can provide a drop box like that, and is waiting for a response.

Not Even Once Program- Laurie reported that the Egg Harbor Township Police Department is doing this program for senior students in Egg Harbor Township High School. This is a six module program that will last about 8 weeks. The Egg Harbor Township Police have several people that are in recovery or that work in local treatment centers to come and help with the program. Sean Kolins from Seabrook is one of our members that is assisting in the program.

Lisa Celebre asked where unused medications and needles can be disposed. Brian replied informing everyone that AtlantiCare, Shore Medical and HOPE ONE take needles/sharps back. Along with that, he stated that there is a list of locations and phone numbers of organizations that take needles/sharps back on the JTAC website along with Hope One location and times.

Interventions/Updates:

Stockton University Recovery Housing - Mohammad Ullah reported that his focus now is diverted to promoting the program and providing information to anyone who may be interested in being in this program. He contacted the Raymond J. Lesniak Recovery High School and is currently in the process of scheduling an open house with the students, and also an info session on the Recovery Housing Program.

Stockton Service Learning – We are about half way through the semester. We currently have four different groups working on specific projects. The four different groups are Vaping Awareness Campaign, Strangers Project, Above the Influence and an annual Youth Summit presentation.

Vaping Awareness Campaign – Laurie reported that Carlo presented to the service learning class at Stockton about vaping. The class stated that they believe about 80% of the Stockton student population

vapes. The students are working on educating students on campus about the harm caused by vaping and the Atlantic Quit Center

Strangers Project – Mo reported that the students will be working on this project again this semester. Last semester, the students successfully had a display up of peoples' thoughts/stories about addiction on Stockton's campus. The students will be doing the same project and JTAC will also be working on expanding this project to a county-wide level by displaying the Strangers Project at local libraries.

ATI Group – This is a national social media campaign to post positive messages, statistics, and facts that will combat peer pressure. Students also incorporated a white board project where they walk around campus and ask students to write down their natural high on the white board and then have their picture taken to be uploaded to the many different social media platforms that they are utilizing.

Youth Summit Group – The annual Youth Summit will take place at Stockton University on April 10th. A group in the service learning class will be presenting that day on peer pressure. They will be presenting information on refusal skills and tips on what to do in certain situations.

Youth Summit – The “Living Above the Influence” annual Spring Youth Summit will take place at Stockton University on Wednesday, April 10th. This event is being sponsored by Atlantic Prevention Resources, Join Together Atlantic County, and the Wellness Center at Stockton University.

Physician 5 minute Visits – Ashley Rhea has been working on this project as part of the CARA grant. She visited physician offices and provided information about proper drug disposal and opioid prevention. She also gave information about medicine lock boxes and where they can get them. On top of visiting physician offices, Ashley visited pediatricians to give information about the CRAFFT screening tool which is an intervention under the STOP ACT grant. This tool is a drug and alcohol screening tool for early intervention.

Treatment Guides – Laurie reported that APR is currently updating the treatment resource guide. If anyone has any updates on certain locations and treatment centers, they can contact Brian Wilson.

Senior Presentations – Brian reported that he has been visiting senior nutrition sites throughout Atlantic County and giving short presentations on proper drug disposal and properly securing medicine. So far, he has visited sites in Northfield, Pleasantville, Buena, and Hammonton. Brian has plans on visiting a number of additional locations in the coming weeks.

Middle School PSA Contest – Laurie reported that this is up and running at the moment. The focus of this contest is to target underage drinking by contest entries informing parents of the consequences for providing alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

Town Hall Meetings:

Laurie reported that with multiple grants, JTAC will do parent presentations, town hall meetings, and pre-prom programs. Buena will have their Parent Pre-Prom workshop taking place next week March 21st which we will be presenting at. Laurie will send out flyers and information about any upcoming events. On April 9th, Bob Zlotnick will be doing a town hall meeting on his radio show about underage drinking. On May 2nd, Oakcrest High School will be having a Pre-Prom program which will include information about underage drinking and a “Hidden in Place Sight” interactive program that allows parents to go into a mock bedroom and locate areas where alcohol and other drugs may be hidden. The event will be

open to the entire Greater Egg Harbor Regional School District as well as 8th grader parents in hopes to have a larger turnout compared to last year. Knock Out Opioid Abuse Town Hall Meeting will be held in Galloway on May 7th. It will take place at the Galloway Township Senior Center located on the White Horse Pike.

Tobacco Update:

Quit Center – Carlo reported that the Quit Center is now open and running and has been very busy. They currently have over 30 applicants. A flyer was handed out regarding more information about the center. They are open to more applicants. Community groups will be starting in April. There is a new phone number for the Quit Center (609)804-QUIT.

Youth Tobacco Grant – Carlo reported that he has been giving vaping presentations to different schools and organizations. Many of the presentation have been created by youth for youth. There also will be a Train the Trainer event for the southern region. Over 450 people were interested overall in New Jersey. There is a cap of 75 people for the southern region. Registration is available on TobaccoFreeNJ.com. This is a free event that includes adult and youth vaping presentations.

College Grant – Carlo has attended the Eliminate Tobacco Use Northeast College Summit on March 1st. It was held at Brookdale Community College, which is the only college with a tobacco free campus in New Jersey. Many colleges and universities from around the county attended this summit. They are working on creating a college advisory board that allows them to give input on how they have been combatting tobacco on their campus.

Workplace/Housing – Oanh from APR has been contacting multi-unit houses in Atlantic County and has been asking about their current policies and what she can provide to them in terms of signage and resources to make their communities also smoke/vape free.

Ordinances – Carlo reported that a lot of municipalities in Atlantic County are starting to propose ordinances to combat the vaping epidemic. Carlo has been going to many municipal meetings and bringing resources that will allow them to take action. One ordinance that is popular in the municipality level is having licensing fees on e-cig or vape retailers. If the retailer doesn't want to pay then they choose not to sell those products anymore. Most municipalities will also hopefully take action and ban flavorings in their town.

Tobacco Forum – This event will take place on March 22nd. You can register online at TobaccoFreeNJ.com as well.

CAB:

Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition - Logic Models – Laurie reported that she and Natalia from Cape May are still waiting for the logic models to be approved. An addition to the logic model was to train schools and resilience teams in how to deal with students who have adverse childhood experiences.

Cross County underage drinking Campaign (prom outreach) – Natalie reported that Cape May County and Atlantic County will be working with Salem, Cumberland, and Gloucester County to take more initiative and educate the youth about underage drinking, especially during prom and graduation times. Many times students from other counties come to the shore after graduation and rent homes to celebrate. We would like to keep the message consistent across these areas. A tagline that will most likely be used for this initiative will be "Do You Want the Best Night of Your Life to be Your Worst?" We

will be distributing information to local florist, tuxedo rentals, nail salons and dress shops for prom season and to realtors for rentals.

New Business:

TIPS Training – Laurie reported that she is doing this training later in the day. TIPS training is a responsible beverage server training that will be completed later today at the Somers Point Fire Department. Gregory's, Mickey & Minnie's, and Passions Vines will be in attendance.

We Check for 21 Conference – Laurie reported that more information will be sent out before the next coalition meeting. This will take place in June around the same time that Cape May holds their We Check for 21 in case anyone misses one we can direct them to the other.

Peer Ed Jeopardy – Peer Educators from Stockton University will be going to local high schools to play Jeopardy and educate students on Nicotine, underage drinking, the Good Samaritan Law, and other substance misuse topics. They will first go to Buena HS and then hopefully Absegami High School. They will be presenting the game to the service learning class beforehand to practice.

Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:

Human Trafficking March 30th – This is an open event at the Hess School auditorium.

AtlantiCare Addiction Conf. April 12th - Lisa Celebre reported that AtlantiCare is hosting its first annual Addictions Conference at the Carriage House in Galloway on Friday April 12th from 7:30am to 4pm. Registration links were attached to the email that Laurie has sent out. Six contact hours have been approved for nurses who attend. There will also be a certificate of attendance that will be handed out at the conclusion of the event which you can use for your CPS.

Peer Recovery Summit May 9th – Laurie reported that this is a free event at the Sheraton. You can register at NJPN.org.

NJPN Conference May 10th – This will take place in Convention Center in Atlantic City. You can reg. for this also at njpn.org.

JTAC shirts – If you had been an active member last year we have shirts for you that were ordered in December. We will distribute them after the meeting.

ACCC Class – Loretta reported that they ACCC is offering courses that include certifications in certain programs, such as Microsoft Office. In the event that if a student is not able to finish school, these courses will help them develop more skills and have a certification they can put on their resume. She is asking for scholarship sources that might be available to pay for these certifications please let Loretta know. Also asked for treatment providers to make this information available to any clients that would be interested in going back to school but cannot go full-time. A flyer was passed around.

Recovery Mass - Loretta reported that this is open to everyone no matter of religious affiliation. They are also starting a Bible study group with a Recovery Bible. Laurie mentioned that an intern will be working on a resource list of faith based meetings and activities so she will include these events.

Jake Straughn – Just wanted to make everyone was aware of the adolescent treatment providers. Legacy Treatment (Northfield), Amethyst (Atlantic City, Somers Point and Hammonton), and two out of

county that will serve our youth, Center for Family Services (Williamstown), and Families Matter (Villas). Bob Z. From APR announced that they will be applying for adolescent treatment.

Assemb. John Armato reported that he is working on a bill that will have more information on discharge papers to anyone who is discharged from a hospital with opioids prescribed to them. There will be an additional page with information about what to look for and how to monitor it and what to do with them when they are done. He mentions that other states provide more information than New Jersey does. Also he informed the group of a possible upcoming vote on the legalization of marijuana and encouraged everyone to contact their representatives and let them know your opinion.

Barbara Sorace –She is a treatment provider for gambling disorders. If anyone would like to seek treatment contact her at (609) 287-5468. She offers a full assessment for free. If someone does show that they require treatment, they will be offered 26 free sessions.

Lisa Celebre – AtlantiCare Behavioral Health is working together with their medical services to provide better care. AtlantiCare now has 5 licensed therapists at their primary service locations. AtlantiCare is also hiring recovery specialists for their hospitals. She also mentioned that on March 21st, the Life Center is offering gambling screenings from 10am to 2pm.

Kelsie Custodio (Recovery Centers of America) – Kelsie stated that RCA hosts monthly free CEU events, the next one is on on March 27th at 8:30am – 12:30pm about ethics and substance use disorders. 3 contact credits. Flyer will be sent to Laurie to share with the group.

Michael DiMarco – Behavioral Crossroads has up to 60 slots for Buprenorphine maintenance.

Kurt from CODI – Kurt reports that CODI has housing available for chronically homeless people. Applications are available on www.NJcodi.org.

Stephanie Weaver from Southern Family Medical Centers – Stephanie reported that they have been working on monthly initiatives to educate their patients on resources that are available. Their next event is Prescription Drug Take Back Day and will be handing out information and Detera drug deactivation bags.

Lindsay Dragon – Legacy Treatment Services is expanding in Northfield and will be opening a new office. The office is located directly across from their other office in the same building. They are currently hiring LCSW and Director. Email Lindsey if you or anyone else is interested.

Helping Hands is offering mental health outpatient services at their Galloway location. They are accepting Medicaid.

South Jersey AIDS Alliance will be having their AIDS walk in Atlantic City on May 5th. More information will be on www.njaims.org on how to register.

Cape May County Healthy Community Coalition – Natalia reported that they are offering resiliency training to school districts in their county and as well as Atlantic County. The Atlantic County site will be at Stockton University. The goal is to create a resiliency team that will consist of an administrator, nurse, and/or teacher who will be trained in dealing with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). They also will

learn how stress affects the brain of a child. They are creating stress response systems which can help children in coping with stress.

Ken Litwak (800 Gambler) – March 12th is Gambling Disorder Screen Day. Today, is used to raise awareness and provide screenings for those who have a gambling disorder. Ken reported that March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month. He provided a screening tool called the Live Bet Screen. This is simply 2 questions which touches 4 DSM criteria. This tool will not, however, diagnose a gambling disorder. The first question asked is “Have you lied to anyone important to you about your gambling?” This is an important question because lying is considered one of the criteria of the disorder. The other question is “Have you felt the need to bet more and more money?” This touches on the 2 criteria of chasing losses and tolerance. If you get one positive from either question, the person may require a more in-depth screening. Ken also mentioned that the South Oaks Gambling Screen is the gold standard for gambling screening. 800-Gambler also requires their treatment providers to use this screening tool. Ken also reported that there will be a training for counseling in ACCC Atlantic City campus in the last week of May and every Friday in June. 800 Gambler now has 24 treatment providers.

Next meeting –Tuesday, May 14th, 2019

Motion to adjourn meeting – 1st Rhonda Fitzgerald 2nd Kathy McFadden