



## Join Together Atlantic County

Virtual Zoom Meeting – July 13, 2021

11:00am – 12:00pm

### Attendance/Sectors & Agencies Represented:

Youth:

Parents:

Law Enforcement: Lindsey Komar (HopeOne/AC LEAD, Atl. Cnty Sheriff's Depart)

Govt Agency: Assemb. John Armato (NJ Legislature), Angelo Ragonesi (NJ DMHAS), Sofia Noncent-Johnson (NJ DCF)

School: Donna McElroy (ACCC)

Youth Service Org: Kathryn Saxton-Granato (Atl. County CIACC), John Roy (Cape Atlantic INK)

Healthcare: Scott Gras and Dylan Wulderk (AtlantiCare), Lisa Celebre (AtlantiCare Behavioral Health), Jody Fernandez (Southern Jersey Perinatal Cooperative)

Religious/Fraternal Org.:

Business: Mike Devaney (Calico Enterprises), Victoria Reigle (Helping Hand Behavioral Health)

Media:

Civic/Volunteer:

Other Org.: Sean Kolins (Seabrook), Jesse Dariano (All Roads Recovery Center, JBRC), Gretchen Halfpenny (Overdose Fatality Review Team)

Staff: Laurie Smith, Brian Wilson, Bob Zlotnick, Amber Cutano (JTAC/APR)

Guest/Other: Ebony Hicks (Intern ACCC)

**Introductions/Minutes:**

Laurie opened the meeting, welcomed the attendees and introductions were made. Minutes from the May meeting were approved via email and will be posted on our website [jtacnj.org](http://jtacnj.org). Vice-chair person Sean Kolins facilitated the meeting.

**Internal Coalition Business/Grant Updates:**

Grants: Drug Free Communities (DFC)- we are still waiting on the year 8 renewal, it will not be out until late July/August. STOP ACT (underage drinking) – will be ending soon but we will continue with underage drinking initiatives under other grants. CARA (opioid prevention)- we filed a no-cost extension so we could continue to use the funds under this grant because it had ended. Opiate Athlete grant with the state has ended but we believe it may be continuing through other funding.

Committees: Membership Committee did meet and Ebony Hicks, ACCC intern is working on going onto other coalition's websites to see if they have membership packets or by-laws to help update our information. Marketing and Media Committee met and discussed upcoming things to do. Movie theater ads were put on hold due to no price difference, lower attendance and less movies being played. We will be looking at doing the ads in a few months. We also will be setting up some new billboards (PSA contest winner, JTAC, and opioids). Planning and sustainability committees will be done through email since Laurie will be doing the sustainability plan for year 7 reporting of the DFC grant. Strategic Planning Committee takes projects discussed at coalition meetings and puts them into our grants. Laurie will email some members to discuss.

CADCA Mid-Year Conference: Brian, Amber and some other staff are attending virtually this week. The conference will be recorded and available until August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Communications: Brian sends out Thursday emails. Amber does a great job with the quarterly JTAC newsletter. If you have anything to share, reach out to Amber or Brian.

**Cape Atlantic Bridge Coalition (CAB):** Regional grant in combination with Cape May County.

School Resiliency Teams (SRTs)- Laurie is currently doing a 3-day training this week and a refresher for existing teams on July 16<sup>th</sup>. The presenters are Dr. Lori Desautels, Butler University and Michael McKnight, NJ Dept. of Education. It is going really well and they have about 367 total attendees which includes Atlantic and Cape May counties along with some others within the state. There are about 188 attendees on Zoom (some are school groups participating together in their schools) and about 70 people are in person in Cape May. There are some Atlantic County schools who previously did not already have teams, in attendance this week.

**Partnership for Success (PFS):** State grant with part of the focus working with the Children's System of Care (CSOC), specifically the Atlantic County Children's Inter-Agency Coordinating Council.

CIACC Workgroup/Needs Assessment- Amber collected data and organized it but had been put on hold for a little while to look at requirements of grant. There was a logic model training and the workgroup will be meeting again to start working on filling in the forms for the logic model. The focus is on ACE's and substance use disorders. A copy of Step 3, logic model building will be provided in September to the state but is not due until December.

CIACC System Partner Presentations- Next week we will be working on editing and uploading the three presentations that were previously done. There will be a few more presentations being done in the next couple months as well.

**Stand Up and Rebel (SUAR):** Stand Up and Rebel youth met in-person for the first time since last March at outside events -- Tony Canale Park in EHT, and Villa Fazzolari Restaurant's patio in Buena. At these events' youth were able to discuss what they'd like to see in SUAR over the rest of the summer and into the new school year, and seniors were celebrated with a picnic. Seniors also received scholarships for their involvement in Stand Up and Rebel throughout their high school career, and new students were recruited. Our next SUAR meeting will be held on Wednesday 7/21 virtually, and we will prepare for an Ocean City Waterpark trip in August.

**Opioid Task Force:**

Naloxone Trainings- multiple organizations throughout Atlantic County are still offering Naloxone trainings and kits.

Hope One/AC LEAD- Lindsey Komar reported for both programs. AC Lead is slow and they don't currently have anyone in the program. All four participants who completed the program are doing well. In the upcoming weeks, they are planning on going to a training at the Tony Canale Center to inform EMS and law enforcement about the program. Hope One had 122 referrals last month, they are going out a lot more in July and August, check website and Facebook for upcoming events. They did 20 DMI responses last month. They are seeing a significant increase in overdoses so they are trying to push Narcan as much as possible. They just trained the Covenant House staff and will be doing a training for a Stop the Heroin house in Egg Harbor City. Lindsey sent out a flyer for their resource fair on August 13<sup>th</sup> from 12-4 at ACCC, Atlantic City. Reach out to Lindsey for more information.

AtlantiCare's Opioid Overdose Recovery Program (OORP) - Dylan Wulderk reported they have been seeing an increase in calls. They have been following up with patients refusing transports and the number of people refusing has been climbing. They have been having great success with the EMS follow ups and have been making sure that anyone who comes through the program is getting Naloxone.

Overdose Fatality Review Team (OFRT)- Gretchen Halfpenny reported they had a meeting yesterday. To date, they have reviewed ten cases and had a site visit with Department of Health yesterday. They are hopeful that the grant will continue past September which would allow them to continue reviewing cases and be able to make more recommendations.

Ending Stigma and Unlocking Resources was a 2-part virtual event that we cosponsored with AtlantiCare, Seabrook and Atlantic County Dept. of Health Substance Abuse Services. The first session was on June 9<sup>th</sup> and was on the importance of language and how we can remove stigma from addiction. Speakers included Gloria Seel with AtlantiCare, Dr. Ranieri, Seabrook and Chris Macomber, Hope All Day Recovery Center. Session 2 was on stigma and opioid prevention, treatment and recovery resources. It opened with a presentation on stigma and addiction by Gloria Seel, followed by a round table discussion allowing representatives from the different organizations to discuss the programs and services they have available here in Atlantic County. Both of these events were recorded and are on the main page of the JTAC Website.

Opioid Resource Page- Brian and Ebony are working on resources for the JTAC website in the upcoming weeks. They have a list of 25-30 organizations from the resource fair.

South Jersey Aids Alliance/Oasis/Syringe Access Program (SAP)- There has been some talk of the needle exchange/SAP ending so Rachel sent Laurie information that she will be sending out to coalition members soon. The number of people who receive Narcan kits from this program has been over 300 in the first quarter.

### **Interventions/Updates:**

Prescription Drop Boxes- Currently have 25 in the county and all is going well.

Deterra/Locking Medicine Cabinets- We have plenty on hand. If anyone is interested in receiving them, you can contact Brian directly. If organizations want to distribute them they can as well.

Faith-Based Meeting- Our next faith-based meeting will be next Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am – 11am via Zoom. For this meeting, we are inviting the faith-based organizations to attend and share with us the different programs, events and resources they have available pertaining to substance misuse. Amber and Brian will also discuss JTAC and the different initiatives and resources we have available for them.

Ordinance Packet- Ordinance packets were sent out to municipalities. Amber made follow up calls and got information and copies of ordinances relating to the cannabis legislation. Some municipalities are opting in, some are opting out and others are opting in but enacting their own ordinances to set the regulations within their municipality.

PSA Contest- Contest winners were selected, 1<sup>st</sup> place winner was Amanda Brown, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Alder Ave Middle School in EHT, 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner was Taylor Sutton, 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Atlantic Christian School and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner was Kalee Tardiff, 6<sup>th</sup> grader at Atlantic Christian School. Amber met with the winners, took pictures, gave them certificates and gift cards. A press release was done on July 7<sup>th</sup> and an article was put in the newspaper. Amber forwarded the article to the parents of the winners, who were grateful. Laurie, Brian and Amber will be discussing the billboard location for the 1<sup>st</sup> place winner's artwork. We appreciate the help of the schools and coalition members with the contest.

Prom/Graduation Outreach- Amber and Brian stopped by florists, nail salons, and tuxedo and dress shops throughout the county and dropped off informational cards relating to underage drinking prevention and New Jersey's 911 Lifeline legislation. These businesses agreed to distribute the cards by placing them in tuxedo pockets, attaching them to the flowers or leaving them on the counters for prom customers to view. Most businesses we visited were receptive and eager to participate.

We Check for 21- This is a fraudulent ID training given by Joe Vasil with Vasil ID Training. The training is to help those serving/selling alcohol spot a fake ID by learning what to look for to help prevent underage drinking. Like last year, we decided to keep the training virtual. We have recorded it and uploaded it to the JTAC website and it will be available until July 31<sup>st</sup>. There is also a short video on underage drinking. We sent a mailing out to over 300 liquor license establishments and also invited all of the police departments throughout Atlantic County. Any of the establishments that participate are eligible to receive FREE ID checking guides, black lights and additional We Check for 21 material.

Stigma Campaign- ACCC Intern Ebony Hicks researched stigma campaigns across the country and found a lot of different resources. The group that worked on the Ending Stigma and Unlocking Resources event discussed doing a county-wide stigma prevention campaign. This has been done in some other counties, individual municipalities sign on to be stigma-free. The municipalities do different events and help educate the community about substance use disorders along with mental health. The workgroup will be meeting to discuss next steps and go through the different toolkits and materials that Ebony found. If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please reach out to Laurie, Brian or Amber.

TIPS Training- We did two training sessions and about 5-6 different establishments participated. We offered one morning session and one late afternoon session. We did this to try to help accommodate the schedules of bartenders and servers. The flier for these trainings was included with the We Check for 21 mailing and we had other people reach out. We will probably be offering more TIPS trainings around mid to late August.

Sticker Shock- Typically we visit the liquor stores with our youth group and have them label the package goods with bright fluorescent stickers reminding adults it's against the law to purchase alcohol for those under 21. Again though because of COVID, we decided to purchase and label the brown paper bags with the fluorescent stickers and distribute them to liquor stores. We delivered 2,200 bags to 5 different liquor stores between Margate and Ventnor for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday weekend.

Community Resiliency- Last year due to COVID we couldn't do the in-person community resiliency events so we held some virtually. These are similar to the trainings we offer to the schools but are open to different community organizations (Children's System of Care, etc.) throughout the county. We are working with the Atlantic County Sheriff's Department to continue these trainings in late August. We are looking to offer a one day in-person training at Stockton for all community organizations. The training will cover ACE's and how to work with youth who have ACE's and/or have experienced trauma. Like we do with the schools, we will look to create resiliency teams within the community organizations. This would be a two-day training that will be held sometime in late October. The flier will be sent out to everyone and everyone is welcomed to attend. Dr. Lori Desautels, Butler University and Michael McKnight, NJ Dept. of Education will be the presenters. For the one-day training Dr. Lori will be presenting virtually and Michael will be in-person but for the two-day event both presenters will be in-person. If anyone is interested in co-sponsoring any of these events, please reach out to Laurie.

### **Legislation Updates:**

Opioid Legislative Packet- Six bills were recently signed relating to opioids. Brian shared an article relating to them in the chat. One bill requires health insurance (Medicare, etc.) to cover Naloxone without imposing prior authorization requirements. Another was to expand doctors prescribing opioid antidotes. Another was permitting certain paramedics to administer buprenorphine. There was one that directly affects JTAC and it relates to parental consent. Every year we do the PRIDE survey to collect data and in New Jersey, active consent from parents was required in order for students to participate in the surveys. Active consent would mean that the school would need written permission from parents for students to participate in the survey. The new law changes that and matches what most of the country requires which is passive consent. Passive consent means that if a parent doesn't want a child participating in the survey, the parent would actually have to send a letter into the school stating that. The new law will make it much easier for the coalition and the schools to get the surveys done. We didn't do our surveys last year because of the schools being closed with COVID but we have it written in our grants to do the PRIDE surveys this fall. Unfortunately, this legislation doesn't go into effect until

January so we would like to hold off doing them until then if we can. Laurie is going to reach out to the grant monitors to see if she can get this pushed off until January to make it easier and allow for more participation.

Assemblyman Armato reported the assembly is not in session right now, and probably will not go back until the end of September so not many updates. Assemblyman Armato spoke directly to the Governor yesterday relating to the needle exchange program in Atlantic City. The governor wanted to know Assemblyman Armato's position and the Assemblyman let him know his position and the governor shared that he is pro-needle exchange as well. They talked for a while about what the possibilities are and discussed how to figure out a way to do it and get everyone on board. Assemblyman Armato shared with the governor that he was not in favor of a mobile unit and thinks the in-person approach that they do with Oasis is beneficial to those with an opioid use disorder. Assemblyman Armato thinks that having someone to talk to who has information and also has the availability to get them into treatment is paramount right now. Oasis gives out about 1,000 Narcan kits a year and they do STD and AIDS testing and are getting 33% positives right now. A survey was done and about 55-60% of people who use this program are residents of Atlantic City and close to 75% are less than two miles from the exchange. It is not busloads of people coming in from out of town to the city for it. In 2019, the AIDS Alliance gave out around 50,000 condoms and they offer different types of counseling. Assemblyman Armato said this isn't just a drug problem in Atlantic City but also a sex trade problem and both issues need to be addressed. The Assemblyman's office is doing a lot of behind the scenes work to keep this program in Atlantic City. Assemblyman Armato believed the next council meeting is on the 21<sup>st</sup> and he urged everyone to get in contact with the governor's office.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup> Hamilton Township will be having their open public portion relating to cannabis legislation. Laurie will be attending as a resident, not a JTAC member. If anyone is interested in attending these types of meetings, reach out to your municipalities to see what they have going on. Municipalities have until August 21<sup>st</sup> to opt out or they will be automatically be opted in for five years.

### **Tobacco Update:**

General Tobacco Update- Sustainable Jersey Action-Tobacco Free Communities is now active. There will be a Tobacco Free Tuesday webinar on July 27<sup>th</sup> at 10am to share specifics of the action.

Tobacco Free Signage and Tobacco Free Beach Flags are available for municipalities that need them.

Working Well Tobacco Free (Smoke Free AC)- Available to assist worksites of any type in tobacco compliance, cessation services and policy implementation or revision. This year we have added a focus towards supporting Behavioral Health Facilities. Anyone interested, email Ashley for a 1:1 [apushman@atlprev.org](mailto:apushman@atlprev.org).

The Smoke Free AC Coalition held an event on the AC boardwalk June 30<sup>th</sup> that raised a great deal of media attention on the dangers of smoking returning indoors to AC Casinos. Smoking resumed July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, however the coalition is continuing its efforts. @SmokeFreeAC is the FB handle.

Youth/Incorruptible Us- Incorporruptible.us hosted an Incorporruptible.Summer virtual event in June featuring motivational Speaker DeMarco Fomby, inviting Incorporruptible.us members from all across the state. Our graduating seniors received Incorporruptible.us Senior 2021 swag during the month of June, including graduation chords they could wear during their ceremonies to represent the campaign. Incorporruptible.us

is always recruiting youth ages 13-18 to become involved -- please forward all contacts to Carlo Favretto Jr., Cfavretto@atlprev.org

Quit Center- All groups are still virtual. Have a community group on Wednesday nights at 6:30. Also have availability for individual clients. Still providing Over-The-Counter Nicotine Replacement Therapy to clients as needed. Working with Treatment Centers to offer virtual groups to clients interested in quitting. Contact 609-804-QUIT.

Bob asked members if they still wanted a tobacco update at the coalition meeting, two members said yes.

#### **New Business:**

Pharmacy, Veterinarian and Hospice Outreach- In the coming weeks, we will begin our annual outreach to the pharmacies, veterinarians and hospice care providers. Outreach includes us physically visiting them introducing ourselves and the coalition and speaking with them about properly securing and disposing of medications. We then leave them with rack cards, stickers, and posters that have information about properly securing and disposing of drugs for them to distribute to the patients/clients. We also offer them a case of Deterra if interested.

Pain Management and the Opioid Epidemic- Brian shared the flier for this event. It is being held on July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Greate Bay Country Club. This event was supposed to be held in March right before the shut downs occurred. If anyone is interested in attending or setting up a table, please reach out to Laurie.

#### **Upcoming Events/Announcements/Information:**

National Night Out- Atlantic City, Buena Vista & Brigantine will be held August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Hammonton will be the Friday night of that week. Most others were cancelled or are doing smaller events. Check police departments pages to find out further information.

4H Fair- August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day- October 6<sup>th</sup>

All Roads Recovery Center – Open house for new facility is scheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jesse will be sending fliers out once they are done. He also sent Laurie the new schedule for groups which include evening hours, they got a new recovery coach. They have 12 groups per week which range from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and are relating to different topics such as MAT, 12-Steps, Co-Dependency, Faith-Based, etc. They have one Narcan training a month, they had one in June, one on July 26<sup>th</sup> and another on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the center. If anyone needs space to use for meetings or anything, please reach out to Jesse.

**Next meeting:** TBD - September Coalition In-Person Retreat, November 9, 2021

Motion to adjourn meeting 1<sup>st</sup> Name not recorded, 2<sup>nd</sup> John Roy, Meeting Adjourned