

Family, Support & Advocacy Subcommittee 03/20/17

Attendees

Jeff Felton, Medina County JFS
Steve Hambley, State Representative
Jennifer Hoff, Robby's Voice
Lisa Homody, St. Ambrose Church
Michelle Kipfstuhl, Catholic Charities
Cindy McQuown, Cornerstone
Melissa Pearce, Community Action
Rebecca Rak, Brunswick Police Department
Tiffany Shelton, ADAMH Board
Loreen Simpson, Society for Handicapped Citizens

Stigma

As a barrier to treatment.
Addiction seen as a moral choice.
Awareness is improved, but stigma is still there.
Can we break through to make people understand it could be anyone?
What is our community's theory of addiction?

Educational Awareness

Pointing out that it is not a moral choice.
Make the community aware of programs, peer support.

Schools

Could we be missing an opportunity to provide more education in schools?
-MCDAC has funded at least one prevention person in each school.
St. Ambrose is increasing their education and awareness in the schools.
Consider youth-oriented peer support- as discussed at Junior Leadership Opiate Seminar on 3/18.

Impact on Youth

Where do kids go for help if they're living in drug-using homes?
In some homes, children are being trained to administer Narcan.
-In these cases, law enforcement may never become aware of any issue because police/emergency department may not be called.
Kinship Navigator Bill passed to assist family members caring for children of opiate users.
Can childcare assistance be provided to grandparents and others caring for children of opiate users.
How can children redirect energy towards positive extra-curricular activities?
-Iceland prevention ideas;
-they raised the smoking/drinking age.
-financed extra-curricular activities for each child.
-4H Healthy Living Advocates
-help peers identify ways to keep from using.
-may be support for youth whose families are not engaged.
Lack of parent groups.

Bystander Intervention Training

Used for Domestic Violence situations, but can it be applied to drug use or other situations?

Community Supports

12 step club in Brunswick as a safe place for holidays and evenings.

Peer recovery opportunities.

Cathy's House- can we look at what needs their client's have?

Robby's Voice- working to open a Center for Continued Recovery.

-resources can be difficult to find.

Families

There is an increase in families seeking services in relation to their or a loved one's AoD use.

Should our focus be on the families?

Joint groups that include family and the individual struggling with AoD use can be most helpful.

-Robby's Voice is doing a combined group that has had success.

12 Step Programming

There has been success with NA and Naranon partnering with meetings in the same locations.

Childcare is an issue for individuals looking to attend meetings and/or treatment.

Churches are a resource.

Libraries are a resource.

Chairperson

Jennifer Hoff and Cindy McQuown have agreed to be co-chairpersons for this subcommittee meeting.

GOALS FOR OUR COMMITTEE

-Look at the family impact; Identify ways to increase assistance to family members seeking help for a loved one, by also providing support to them.

-Work to increase support groups in Medina County; consider a SOLACE group.

-Create a resource list of current 12 step groups/support groups offered and publicize it so people know they have options.

-Work to collaborate with libraries and churches since they are a great resource located in each community.

-Find out what families want and need as resources.

-Look for ways to increase prevention efforts.

Next Meeting- April 17th at 10:00 am at the Human Services Building

**Tiffany Shelton LISW-S, LICDC
Planning & Program Director
Medina County ADAMH Board**