

Medina County Opiate Task Force Meeting

October 27, 2017 Minutes

Phillip Titterington welcomed the cross section of community leaders in attendance. He shared that he is proud of the community for coming together, and pleased with all of the hard work of the Opiate Task Force subcommittees. Since the creation of the Opiate Task Force in February 2017, we are able to illustrate the required OhioMHAS continuum of care services that are available in Medina County. These services are provided by our contract agencies along with independent agencies and include more choices for all services, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT).

Krista Wasowski offered opiate statistics as of October 26th for deaths occurring in Medina County. For 2017 we have had 24 confirmed heroin related deaths and 13 other drugs. There are 15 cases pending with the coroner, which may or may not be drug related. The handout provided at the meeting will be included with the minutes. <http://www.medinahhealth.org/article/data-reports>

Robby's Recovery Center – Judge Joyce Kimbler spoke on behalf of Stefanie Robinson and explained that the center is open 7 days a week 9a-9p with over 19 programs. The local community has embraced the center and it is flourishing. The building is a warm and welcoming place for people to connect. In January the educational component with the culinary program is hoping to open. Please see Robby's Facebook page for details: <https://www.facebook.com/robbyrecoverycenter/>

Opiate Response Team – Mark Trew, Alternative Paths CEO introduced the project, along with Gayle Houk who will be coordinating the project. The response team will meet with individuals who have experienced an overdose to assess his/her needs and engage him/her in appropriate treatment with a chemical dependency treatment provider. At this time referrals are being accepted from law enforcement, local hospitals, emergency departments and community members through the Alternative Paths website: www.alternativepaths.org. The response team is comprised of a community behavioral health provider and law enforcement representative. Interaction upon referral will be in a mutually agreed upon location. The clinician will track the progress of the client for a 30-day period. A state grant and the ADAMH Board fund this program.

Cathy's House - Linda Robertson presented information on this sober residence located at 515 W. Liberty Street in Medina for men and women over the age of 18. The house provides a safe place where residents can begin building a strong foundation to live life sober. There is space for 6 women and 10 men with referrals being accepted from jail, drug court, treatment centers, and walk-in. Treatment does not occur here, but there are AA meetings daily on-site. Cathy's House has collaborated with Robby's Recovery Center to offer AA meetings at various times that are convenient for all who need to attend. A minimum 3 days of sobriety is required before entering, and ongoing sobriety is required. Residents are required to work and sign a \$300/month rental agreement. Rent payments, private donations, ADAMH Board and MCDAC support the facility. www.cathyshouse.org At the meeting there was concern about the difficulty women are having with remaining sober. It was suggested that Jo, the female house manager be asked to attend a subcommittee meeting to discuss the needs of women in our Medina County communities.

Community Assessment & Treatment Services (CATS) – Robert Neuman, CATS Development Director spoke about the 5,700sf 16-bed residential facility that is being built within the former Wadsworth-Rittman Hospital. CATS and Summa Health recently announced the renovation plan and the intention of opening the male inpatient treatment facility by March 1, 2018. Mr. Neumann lives in Medina County and was a probation officer for 10 years. He thanked Matt Hiscock and Mayor Laubaugh for their work to bring the center to Wadsworth. Federal limits currently make 16 beds the maximum allowed under Medicaid, but if that were to change there is additional space that could be considered for expansion.

Subcommittee Reports

Health, Safety & Intervention Subcommittee – Krista Wasowski reported that law enforcement members of the committee continue to monitor the immunity from prosecution provision in Ohio law and are interested in the Opiate Response Team and working with Alternative Paths to get the process in use for Medina County. Next meeting: November 22nd, 9:30 a.m., Montville Township Hall.

Treatment Access & Availability Subcommittee – Mark Trew reported that the last subcommittee meeting discussion focused on Medicaid advocacy and its importance in ensuring access to services. There was also discussion regarding new services available in the county. The group talked about the possibility of getting consumers and community members together in small focus groups to discuss issues with access and services. Task force members asked for an estimate of the number of people in our county who are in treatment/recovery. Mr. Trew estimated that 5,000-6,000 people have been treated through Alternative Paths.

Prevention, Education, Advocacy and Family Support – Kristen Hildreth reported that two previously separate committees have joined together to maximize efforts. Several items were discussed, including working with faith-based entities to provide training (e.g., Family Matters), developing a speaker's bureau, support for "grandfamilies", and developing a social media presence for the Task Force. Ohio Citizen Advocates for Addiction Recovery (OCAAR) will provide training on social media at the next meeting. There is discussion of developing a Facebook page. The group felt social media was a way to get information out to a large number of people about what is happening across all the subcommittees. Next meeting: Tuesday, November 14th 9:30am Medina Library

Initiatives

Withdrawal Management update – Phillip Titterington shared that regionally there is an exploration occurring for expanding the number of withdrawal management detox beds. There are four providers in the region who are completing an RFI (request for information) that detail their current capacity and expansion capability. \$1M in state funding was allocated in the most recent state budget to increase the number of detox beds.

Naloxone – Krista Wasowski introduced Holly Phillips, lead nurse for the Project DAWN program. The Health Department offers Tuesday evening walk-in training from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and can schedule small groups with advance notice. 330-723-9688 ext. 609

Vivitrol – The Health Department has partnered with Alternative Paths to provide medication assisted treatment (MAT). This increases MAT providers to at least four in the county. Residents are able to apply for Medicaid on-site and will also be assisted with applying for rebates or other special programs to defray the cost of the medication.

Needle disposal – A concern was expressed about needles being found near some public buildings. The installation of locking disposal boxes is in process, but Krista also asked that any other agency or citizen with concerns please contact her at the Health Department to discuss this issue.

Next Full Task Force Meeting: Friday, March 2, 2018
Location TBA