

BOAT Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2019



Present: Gail Gramarossa, Kevin Pacunas, Carrie Latulippe, Neil Lozier, Jill Panto, Nehr Jenkins – QHSUA

Minutes review – tabled for future meeting

DART Update – Current OD mapping was reviewed – CT had double the normal number of overdoses in the preceding 24 hours, which can indicate a similar experience locally, soon. There were two reports of PCP overdoses in the area, which is unusual.

Belchertown's DART report shows one overdose death last week, possibly/probably heroin. There have been multiple EMS calls for marijuana reactions. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of an increased number of calls for service related to marijuana legalization and retail establishments opening in town. It was mentioned that the local zoning/regulations for marijuana businesses may warrant review, including requirements for the staff for those locations to be well trained.

The group discussed updating the name of the task force to allow the opportunity to expand services to addictions to substances other than opioids that are affecting the community. Nehr had previously suggested keeping BOAT, and using the acronym to stand for: Belchertown Overcoming Addiction Together. Kevin made a motion to request that the Board of Selectmen approve the change, Carrie seconded. The vote was 5-0-0 in favor. A letter will be drafted to the Board of Selectmen to make the request.

Drug use recognition presentation – Det. Peter Buck will be presenting on this subject on Oct 1, at 6:30pm, in the BHS Auditorium. Gail will ask Supt. Cameron for permission to use the local PNAS results to start the presentation, in order to provide context for the broader discussion. Posters will be distributed around town, and signs will be looked into to place around town, especially during the Fair. An ad will be placed in "The Sentinel". We will request that the Rec Department spread the word to coaches, volunteers, etc. Gail will request help from the school department for spreading the word. Churches will be notified.

Drug Free Communities grant – We will invite the Superintendent of Schools, Town Administrator, Selectmen, and the Police Chief to our Nov. 14 meeting to discuss whether Belchertown can/should apply for our own DFC grant.

Next meeting, Oct 10, 9am. Belchertown PD Community Room.

*Minutes accepted 1/24/2020*

*Vote 5-0-4*

*Panto*