

Opioid Awareness Group Meeting
December 20, 2016



Present: Phyllis Ducomb, Craig Bodamer, Kim Dion, Kevin Pacunas, Jay Krol, Judy Metcalf, Jill Panto

Further discussion on creating PSA's:

Lev Louraine of TV5 has agreed to help produce local PSA's for the Community Channel. There are many videos on this subject that have been released by the State. TV5 could perhaps air them from time to time, but there is value in having local people present the information with references to local resources. (I.E. local meetings, etc)

The Board of Health has a carton of family prevention videos that they will distribute to the library and other public areas.

The DA's office has printed posters that we could also post in public places, such as public restrooms, etc. to create awareness.

We will post resources as printed in the Opioid Task Force (Franklin County) and the Quaboag Hills CCSUTF publications on the Belchertown web page. Kim will send the electronic versions to Jill.

Police responses to overdoses were discussed. Information gathered by Tapestry reveals that some police departments in the area are confiscating "rigs", drugs AND Narcan on overdose calls, causing witnesses of overdoses to often refuse to call 911. Narcan should never be taken away and taking needles is not going to curb use. We hope to discuss local protocol for od response with the Chief of Police and encourage training of entire department on same. We want to help clarify the importance of calling 911, and alleviate fears of doing so with the Good Samaritan Law PSA and column sharing this information.

Amy Henderson has agreed to publish a monthly column from our group in "The Sentinel." It must be no more than 600-800 words, and she would like to have us commit to submitting one monthly, rather than sporadically. Perhaps we can ask Hampshire HOPE to share some of the articles they've had printed in "The Gazette" to fill in here and there, along with our own. We will shoot for the first Thursday of each month for our column, which must be submitted the Monday before. Kim will take care of submission.

Subjects:

Personal story: Parental impact Jill

Education/prevention (including safe storage) Judy

Harm Reduction Kim

Good Samaritan Jay/Kevin

Veterans' Access: Archie?

Narcan info, effectiveness, etc. Craig

We will host a Community Panel in March at the JBMS cafeteria. Gail Gramarossa will be asked to be the moderator, with panelists given 3-5 minutes to present on their topic. Dinner will be included. Potential subjects/presenters:

Harm Reduction: Kim Dion

MAT: Therapist (Jessica Burgess Wise? Peter Wood?)

Good Samaritan Law: BPD

Parental: Teeka Brown

Public Health/Prevention: Phyllis/Judy

Narcan training to follow.

Jill will get contact info for Reverend Haqq to see if he would be interested in participating in our group.

Chief Pronovost, Reverend Haqq & Amy Henderson will be invited to next meeting. (Perhaps Lew Louraine, as well.) Proposed date, Jan 10 or 11.

Kim will contact Cherry Sullivan at Hampshire HOPE to request posters, and use of columns already used.

Kevin will invite Chief P. to the next meeting, and will begin a draft of a Good Sam transcript, encouraging both the public at large, and co-users not to be afraid to get involved when witnessing overdose.

We noted that having “suspected overdose” reported in the paper at a specific address is another deterrent to calling 911. Could the log show medical call, with details in the reporting software, where it’s not necessarily turned over to the reporter?

Phyllis will contact Gail Gramarossa to ask her to be the moderator at the community panel and get her available dates. Jay Krol will reserve JBMS cafeteria once we know the date.

Jill will write the first column for “The Sentinel”, discussing parental impact.