

Belchertown Opioid Awareness Group
Informal introductory meeting, May 25, 2016, 9am



Members present: Craig Bodamer, Phyllis Ducomb, Judy Metcalf, Archie Archible, Jill Panto, Kevin Pacunas

The following items were discussed as points of information and/or future focus:

One of the most pressing local needs is support for families dealing with addiction, as well as support for those in recovery to maintain their sobriety.

Some pushback is building surrounding the use of taxpayer money to support the use of Narcan, as well as chronic pain sufferers who feel that they are being inconvenienced by more stringent regulations surrounding prescriptions of opioid pain medications. Part of the mission of this group will be to bring education and awareness surrounding opioid misuse, hopefully helping to alleviate some of the pushback.

Judy will contact Clean Slate in Ware to see if anyone there might be interested in participating in our group.

Jill will contact Reverend Knapp from BUCC for the next meeting. The Reverend has expressed interest in the group, but is waiting to see what our schedule will be before she commits.

Valley Human Services does counseling in Ware.

When the Board of Health installs the needle disposal box in town hall, this group will help to get word out.

It is possible to dispose of drugs that may be found by citizens, or that may be unneeded, in the police station's drug takeback box.

Kevin had previously talked about creating a "Don't Start" prevention campaign for the school system. We will begin work on that asap, hopefully bringing ideas to the next meeting.

Phyllis updated us on the Life Skills curriculum which is being introduced in 5th grade this school year. Next year, the program will be used in 5th and 6th, and the curriculum will be strengthened as far as level of potential use for the grade level.

Phyllis also talked about the Prevention Needs Assessment that has been performed 4 times, with grades 7, 9, and 11. The current Superintendent has shared the information, and Phyllis will bring the data to the next meeting so that we can utilize it to tailor our prevention planning.

Next year, SBIRT will be put into place for 7th graders. All 7th graders will be asked specific evidence-based questions to assess which students are the most at-risk. School nurses will be doing the

assessments, and details of next steps with at-risk youth are being worked out. One of those details is where to refer a child to who needs immediate help.

CVS carries Narcan, and makes it available to people without a prescription, but not all employees are aware of that fact and people are being turned away without it. Craig will find out if the Stop & Shop pharmacy has a standing order for Narcan, and we hope to have the local pharmacists come to a future meeting to discuss.

Jill will look into the State's "Stop the Stigma" campaign to see if the Town can sign on board officially.

Kevin will contact Amy from "The Sentinel" to update her on our first meeting, and was named the Public Information Officer.

The Police Department's role in the epidemic was discussed briefly, with the point made that some departments still believe that arrest is the necessary answer. Kevin believes that our PD is currently on board with helping those who are addicted.

Phyllis will contact the Griswold Center to find out exactly what they offer surrounding substance use disorder, and to what age levels.

The group floated ideas for an official title of this task force, we will take it up at the next meeting.

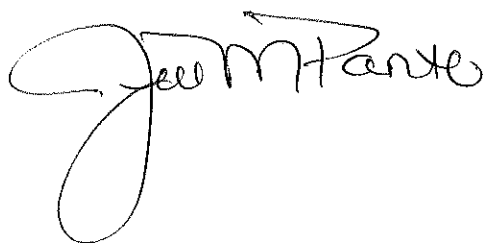
Judy will bring the "clearing house" catalog to the next meeting so that we can access some reference materials for public reference.

Creating a one page reference document for the community was discussed with items such as when Narcan trainings will be held, where drugs and needles can be disposed of, etc.

The group will also distribute information on proper tracking, storage and disposal of medications. Information will be put together to show on the public access channel, to distribute through schools and the Recreation Department and the Senior Center.

Fundraising was briefly talked about for purposes such as Safe meds boxes for seniors and free Narcan for those who participate in trainings.

Approved: ~~6~~-0-0 on Sept 13, 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean M. Rando". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large loop at the bottom.