



**CECIL COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES FOR September 24, 2015**

**Meeting Location:** Cecil County Health Department, 401 Bow Street, Elkton

**Members In Attendance:** Bennett, John; Brown, Tyler; Collins, Ken; Fisona, Joe; Garrity, Stephanie; Isenberg, Howard; Kenly, Tyra; Lazarus, Sherri; Massuli, Mike; Moore, Tari; Russell, Alison; Stanko, George

**Others In Attendance:** Baumgardner, Amy; Boysaw, Virgil; Creek, Beth; Faveroso, Kim; Gulledge, Shelly; Kendrick, Steve; Lam, Clarence, MD; Meck, Charlotte; Merino, Steve; Parkowski, Alexandra; Schuller, Mary; Sears, Bob; Tuerke, Jen; Waddell, Robin; Webner, Karl

**Call to Order:** John Bennett called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

**COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

**Chairperson’s Report, John Bennett:**

- Chairperson Bennett provided an overview of DAAC’s purpose.
- Reminded participants that a majority of DAAC members shall constitute a quorum. Based on the membership of 19, ten DAAC members in attendance form a quorum.
- Proposed an amendment to section 5.2 of the “Operating Rules for the Cecil County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council,” to allow the DAAC chairperson to advocate for programs related to the goals of the local Plan. After some discussion by the members, a motion to vote on the suggested change was made and seconded. Members subsequently voted (7 votes in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstained) to approve the following by-law addition to Chairperson responsibilities as follow: *“The Chair may advocate for programs and services related to the goals and objectives of the local Plan, provided such advocacy does not conflict with the policy and procedures of the Cecil County Board of Health, or the Cecil County DAAC. Such advocacy does not require a formal vote from membership.”*
- Reported on a request by a citizen that DAAC should amend the two-year Strategic Plan to explicitly support the re-opening of the Whitsitt Center’s 40 bed unit. John expressed preference that the Plan not support one specific treatment provider, but rather the support for type of services. DAAC members were invited to discuss and motion for an alternative position. No additional discussion or motion ensued.
- Read letter from the Maryland Healthcare Commission in response to RCA’s request to move forward with renovation for their long term rehabilitation facility and their short term detox program. The letter suggests that RCA may move forward with the renovation

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES . . . . .	410-996-5550	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES . . . . .	410-996-5160
ALCOHOL & DRUG RECOVERY CENTER . . . . .	410-996-5106	HEALTH PROMOTION . . . . .	410-996-5168
OFFICE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS . . . . .	410-996-5113	SPECIAL POPULATIONS MENTAL HEALTH C.S.A. . . . .	410-996-5112
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES . . . . .	410-996-5130	TTY USERS FOR DISABLED: MARYLAND RELAY . . . . .	800-201-7165
DISEASE CONTROL . . . . .	410-996-5100	EN ESPAÑOL . . . . .	410-996-5550 EXT. 4680

for their rehabilitation facility but they were not approved to develop a detoxification program. Additional information will be shared as we learn more.

**Board of Health Report, Stephanie Garrity:**

- Reported on the expected December 31, 2015 expiration of Serenity Health's office lease. Serenity Health continues to search for a new office location to provide services for approximately 450 patients. In the event that a new office location is not obtained, patient care contingency plans are under development with inclusion of officials from Serenity Health, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene-Behavioral Health Administration, Cecil County Government, and the Cecil County Health Department.

**County Executive Report, Tari Moore:**

- Reported on progress with the Mayor's Drug Task Force, including recent discussions on efforts to encourage local judges to increase bail for drug related offenses. In addition, Mary O'Keefe from Congressman Harris' office attended and informed on the recent announcement of funding for High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA); Cecil County was awarded HIDTA designation during the fall of 2013.
- Reported that a number of companies have approached Cecil County about medical cannabis.
- Announced the installation of a new drug take back box at the Cecil County Sheriff's Office. Cecil County currently hosts three drug take back boxes, and a fourth is anticipated. National Drug Take Back is scheduled for September 26, 2015.

**Other Committee/Sub-Committee Reports: Cecil County Fifth Annual 12-Step Recovery Walk, September 26, 2015 - Mike Massuli for Elaine Barclay**

- The Fifth Annual 12-Step-Recovery Walk is scheduled for September 26, 2015. In previous years, the event has been in front of Circuit Court. This year the event will locate around the building, front, side and back. The event will include testimonials from individuals in recovery, Jack Foreaker's puppet shows, a live band and food vendors. The 5K group walk begins at 10:15 am. This event is sponsored by DAAC.

**PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

**Discussion on Needle Exchange Programs - Clarence Lam, MD, MHP, State Delegate, District 12, Maryland General Assembly**

- Discussed benefits of Needle Exchange Programs (NEP), including reduction in spread of infectious diseases, cost effectiveness, as a bridge to treatment, and fewer dirty needles in communities.
- Spoke regarding the myths of NEPs including the false belief that crime will increase, drug use will increase, that children will be encouraged to use drugs, and that law enforcement will oppose.
- Discussed challenges associated with NEPs including the ban on federal funding and public perception.
- Dr. Lam invited Cecil County representatives to visit Baltimore City's Needle Exchange Program to get a better idea of how it works. Dr. Lam presentations included PowerPoint (attached).

**Update from Father Martin's Ashley, Cecil County IOP - Steve Kendrick, COO; Charlotte Meck, Director of Corporate Compliance, Quality and Risk Management**

- Father Martin's Ashley (FMA) is an 85 beds inpatient substance abuse treatment program located in Harford County. Effective November 1, 2015, the residential program will expand to 100 beds.
- In partnership with Upper Chesapeake Hospital, Harford County, FMA opened an intensive outpatient program within the hospital. Patients step down to outpatient care after 8 weeks.
- Planning to develop a similar program on Union Hospital property.
- Also exploring a partnership with Cecil College.

**Unite to Face Addiction Rally, October 4, 2015 - Jen Tuerke for Chelsea Dueitt, Voices of Hope Event Organizer**

- The "Unite to Face Addiction" rally is a "history-making event" scheduled for Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> in Washington DC. Organizers are expecting 60,000 people. The event includes a concert with performances by Joe Walsh, Steven Tyler, Sheryl Crow and many others.
- For the "Unite to Face Addiction" rally, Voices of Hope ranked nationally as the top supporter; Voices identified the highest number of volunteers for attending the event in Washington DC, and will receive special recognition at the event.

**Opioid Misuse Prevention Project/Media Campaign - Alexandra Parkowski, Account Supervisor; Steve Merino, Creative Director, ab+c Creative Intelligence**

- Announced the development of a public awareness campaign focused on opioid misuse prevention in Cecil County, Maryland. The project was developed with *ab+c Creative Intelligence*, a full-service marketing communications agency, and the membership of the Opioid Misuse Prevention Project Coalition/Local Overdose Fatality Review Team. The campaign's website, [www.RewriteYourScript.org](http://www.RewriteYourScript.org), links Cecil County residents with over 100 prevention, treatment and recovery support resources, as well as important information on overdose response, prescription drug drop box locations, and (from Cecil Whig's *Voices of Recovery*) testimonials from local residents who are in recovery.
- The campaign incorporates print ads, billboards, social media, digital efforts, and advertisements in churches, community centers and convenience stores to spread the message about opioid misuse prevention and treatment resources.

**Expansion of Residential Treatment (Whitsitt Center) - Mike Massuli reporting for Andrew Pons, Director, Whitsitt Center**

- Whitsitt Center will begin expansion on October 1, 2015. Will initially add eight new detoxification beds. Expansion to a total of 40 beds will continue as additional staff are hired.
- Expansion should benefit Cecil County residents by reducing wait times for admission and expanding treatment lengths of stay. Historically, Cecil County residents occupied approximately 50% of beds at Whitsitt.

**House of New Heights, Recovery House - John Bennett reported for Steve Jones, Owner/Operator**

- On September 12, 2015, at House of New Heights, County Executive Moore read a County Government proclamation declaring September as Recovery Month in Cecil County. The House of New Heights, the newest of six recovery houses operating in Cecil County, opened February 2015 and provides sober living support for up to eight men.

- County Executive Moore commented on the program's successful efforts to link residents with employment.

## **REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 25, 2015**

Minutes from the DAAC meeting of June 25, 2015 were reviewed and adopted.

### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE:**

**Howard Isenberg, Open Door/Family Services:** Reported on efforts to provide substance abuse treatment in Cecil County. Recently hired another part-time clinical supervisor.

**Sherri Lazarus, Cecil County Adult Drug Treatment Court:** Received funding to hire a part-time Case Manager Supervisor and for a Peer Recovery Specialist. The Drug Court program is currently at capacity with 104 participants. The additional case manager will enable to program to expand to 120.

**Mike Massuli, Cecil County Health Department:** Introduced Amy Baumgardner, new Peer Recovery Advocates Supervisor.

**Ken Collins, Cecil County Health Department:** Informed regarding Amy Baumgardner's efforts to support the Detention Center Re-entry Vivitrol Program.

**John Bennett, Drug & Alcohol Abuse Council:** Referred to a Washington Post article entitled "In Maryland, gambling addiction is growing, but treatment options are not." For a future DAAC meeting, invitation extended to representative of the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling for presentation and comment.

**George Stanko, Director of Law Enforcement for Cecil County Sheriff's Office, for Sheriff Scott Adams:** Reported on September 23, 2015 installation of new prescription drug drop box at the Sheriff's Office, 107 Chesapeake Boulevard.

**Alison Russell, Department of Social Services Supervisor:** Will serve as new DSS representative, replacing Nicole Meekins. Extended appreciation for the opportunity to participate on the LDAAC, and a high regard for positive efforts to impact change.

**Tyler Brown, Acting Field Supervisor for Division of Parole and Probation:** Will serve as new Parole and Probation representative, replacing Donna Lewis.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kelly Frost expressed concern about what is happening in Cecil County, about the motivation of some individuals who serve on the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council, and potential negative impact of needle exchange programs.

Karl Webner commented with regard to concerns expressed over syringe exchange programs and drew comparison to prior similar concerns over the county's Overdose Response Program and increased availability of naloxone. Stated that harm reduction techniques provide a valuable strategy for reducing

harms associated with addiction, and that despite concerns there are no statistics to demonstrate that naloxone availability increases opioid abuse. In contrast, to date, in Cecil County thirty lives have been saved due to the naloxone/ORP efforts.

April Foster reported that her agency, STEPS Recovery Resources, is coordinating a program for parents and children dealing with peer pressure and bullying. Also reported on efforts to become a facilitator for SMART (Self Management and Recovery Training) Recovery. Her first SMART Recovery meeting will be at Janes United Methodist Church on October 10, 2015, and continue weekly thereafter. April spoke regarding attendance at Voices of Hope meetings, the Recovery Walk, and local Health Fairs.

Adjourned: 4:00 PM

Next Meeting: December 10, 2015

Submitted by Alicia O'Connor