



CECIL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

JOHN M. BYERS HEALTH CENTER • 401 BOW STREET • ELKTON, MD 21921

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CECIL COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE COUNCIL (DAAC) MEETING MINUTES FOR April 3, 2019

Meeting Location: Cecil County Health Department, Auditorium

Members In Attendance: John Bennett, Ken Collins, Joe Fisona, Jack Foreaker, Laurie Humphries, Sheri Lazarus, Mike Massuli, Corrie McCall, Dr. Alan McCarthy, John Roush, Jr., Dr. James Ziccardi.

Others In Attendance: Michael Bassler, Virgil Boysaw, Jr., Lauren Brewer, Lori Brown, Courtney Butash, Katie Carroll, Ryan Cochran, Daniel Coulter, Beth Creek, Mary Gamble, Jackie Hartman, Tahia Jones, Kelsey Meis, Jen Padgett, Domenica Personti, Jennifer Pinato, Sean Randall, Betty Rogers, Maj. George Stanko, Kari Wiechel.

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:

- Provided an introduction to the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council (DAAC). Explained that in 1999, the former Health Officer, Dr. Bailey, created a set of task forces to address health issues in Cecil County. In 2005, by an act of the general assembly, the DAAC was formed with membership made up by statute specifically of elected officials and individuals involved with addressing substance use disorders. The council was one of the original task forces created with the intent to include a diverse group of stakeholders entrusted to share what each agency was doing to address substance abuse issues in our county. Mr. Bennett is one of the original members of the task force. Calendar year 2019 marks the 20th year working to address these health issues.

Board of Health Report – Laurie Humphries, Acting Health Officer:

- No report at this time.

County Executive Report – Dr. Alan McCarthy:

- Reported that we are in the midst of a drug crisis that includes children growing up in utero from pregnant women addicted to substances. We need to dedicate resources to prevention, continue to expand treatment resources, and provide skills for individuals to move forward in recovery. Expressed appreciation for the strong collaboration of all agency efforts.
- Stated that Cecil County is one of the first counties to bring a suit against manufacturers of opioids. The suit was expanded to include Pharmaceutical companies. If Cecil County receives money from the lawsuit, it will be devoted to providing services to Cecil County residents.

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- Discussion: John Bennett extended appreciation to Dr. McCarthy for his report and support, and applauded his administration for efforts to bring new employment opportunities to Cecil County.

County Health Officer Report – Laurie Humphries, Acting Health Officer:

- Tobacco 21 bill passed the House and Senate and on its way to the Governor’s Office. The bill includes vaping products but not for active military. It is not anticipated that Governor Hogan will veto the bill.
- The Opioid Operational Command Center’s (OCCC) new director, Steve Shue, is scheduled to visit Cecil County on June 11, 2019 to meet with county officials.
- The Cecil County Health Department (CCHD) was awarded a new grant of \$600,000 for two years through the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission. The Office of the Public Defender will partner with us to implement the project which includes screening pre-trial detainees for substance use disorders.
- Discussion: Ken Collins shared that with the Office of the Public Defender, we had also applied to SAMHSA for federal funding to implement the same project. That federal grant application was also recently approved. We elected to utilize the Community Health Resources Commission funding for Cecil County, and with SAMHSA approval, offered the federal grant to Harford County to implement.

Other Committee/ Sub-Committee Reports:

- No report at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS:

Youth Prevention Efforts in Cecil County - Virgil Boysaw, Jr., Coordinator, Drug Free Communities Coalition (DFC), Cecil County Health Department.

- Sixty-four students from six county high schools attended the Fall 2018 Cecil County Student Leadership Summit. During the Summit, eight short substance use prevention Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos were created by students. On March 28, 2019, the videos were officially unveiled during the Cecil County Public Library - 2019 Teen Film Festival. Three of the PSA videos were awarded the top three prizes at the Festival.
- Students from the NorthBay Summit were invited to start a Cecil County Youth Coalition. The Youth Coalition is currently active, and meets monthly at Youth Empowerment Source offices. Goals of the youth coalition include a reduction in opioid overdose rates and an annual Youth Prevention Rally. Additionally, Cecil County School of Technology started a Prevention Club with over 60 youth attending the first meeting.
- Beth Creek of Youth Empowerment Source shared that in support of the student goals, the Youth Coalition organized the first annual 2019 Youth Prevention Rally. The event is scheduled for May 11, 2019 at Cecil College, Milburn Stone Theater, 1 Seahawk Dr., North East, MD. All encouraged to attend.
- During the 2019 CADCA Forum in National Harbor, nine students from all six high schools attended. All nine students received Over-The-Counter Medicine Safety Training during the Forum. The nine students will train additional youth to also facilitate OTC education classes. OTC will be offered by students to all Cecil County 6th graders during their visits to NorthBay during the 2020 school year.

- Appreciation was extended to (a) Recovery Centers of America for sponsoring youth attendance and training at CADCA Mid-Year Conference, (b) to Cecil County Public Schools for administering a Drug Free Communities Core Measure Survey to 2,200 students, and (c) to the CCHD for its strong support and collaborative efforts.

Expansion of Local Treatment Resources– Mary Gamble, Brantwood Family Services

- Brantwood Family Services is expected to open in late June/early July 2019, in the renovated Brantwood club house. The program is accredited and will provide Level 3.1 residential treatment center for pregnant and young women with children. The eight bed facility will have an anticipated six months maximum length of stay. The program will provide: mental health and substance abuse counseling, case management, Peer and family support, transportation, and other resources.
- Discussion: The facility will be located next to the new Brantwood Park and across from Haven House on Augustine Herman Highway.

Update on Recovery Centers of America at Bracebridge – Domenica Personti, Recovery Centers of America

- Recovery Centers of America (RCA) has 108 detox and residential treatment beds. Accepts admissions and provides transportation 24/7. An in-network provider accepting most major insurance carriers, the program incorporates medication assisted treatment and detox of pregnant women, provides. Additional services include: yoga and meditation, holistic wellness, and parenting skills training. Specialized programs for college and professional athletes as well as addressing trauma with first responders is planned.
- Available scholarship beds increased up to four per month with Cecil County residents given first preference.
- RCA partners with non-profits on harm reduction and health and wellness fairs. Ms. Personti shared her strong prevention background which included working in SPF-Sig and Block Grants, CADCA conferences, HIV prevention, syringe exchange program, Naloxone program, women and children’s program, and Naloxone policy program.
- Use of the RCA 600 acre facility to host training and community events was offered to DAAC members.
- RCA is currently searching for locations to open outpatient services in other towns.
- Contact and additional information available on the program’s website:
<https://recoverycentersofamerica.com/locations/bracebridge-hall/>

Cecil County Harm Reduction Services – Katie Carroll, Cecil County Health Department

- Ms. Carroll was recently hired as the Cecil County Harm Reduction Care Coordinator. She explained that harm reduction services are a set of practical strategies that may or may not apply to people participating in high risk behavior with the goal to improve their health, their family’s health and overall health of the community. The Harm Reduction program started on April 1, 2019, partnering with community-based organizations to provide street outreach aimed at reaching people where they are and sharing resources including: encouraging HIV and Hepatitis-C testing, care navigation, overdose response education and Naloxone training to individuals in the community.
- The Harm Reduction program is increasing capacity by building relationships with agencies, treatment providers, and communities. One example included CCHD timely response to a

resident who reached out for help to remove syringes from the wooded area around her neighborhood.

- Based on efforts since April 1st, six individuals reported entering into medication assisted (MAT) and residential treatment. Invited stakeholders to partner with the program.

START Program – Lauren Brewer, Department of Social Services

- In partnership between the Department of Social Services and CCHD, Cecil County intendeds to initiate a START (Sobriety, Treatment and Recovery Teams) program during FY2020. The program will serve families with children 0-5 years of age where parental substance use or abuse is an identified factor. Enrollment will be voluntary and intensive program utilizing evidence-based practices with the goal to mitigate systems issues in the community by keeping children in the home while the caregiver is engaged in treatment. The START team will include a child welfare worker from the Department of Social Services (DSS) and a Peer Recovery Support Specialist (PRS) from CCHD who will work together with identified families. Initially, the focus will be on substance abuse informed case referrals. The project will incorporate regular home visits by the DSS worker and Peer staff.
- START programs in other states have seen successful outcomes with mothers reaching sobriety at twice the rate and reduced likelihood of receiving foster care than if not engaged in a program.

Update Due for the Cecil County “Plans, Strategies and Priorities for Meeting the Identified Needs of the General Public and the Criminal Justice System for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Evaluation, Prevention, and Treatment – Ken Collins, Cecil County Health Department

- The DAAC plan currently includes nine goals and 46 objectives. The plan guides how we develop and expand resources for addictions and other behavioral health services. During DAAC meetings, presentations are scheduled that align to the goals and objectives of the plan. For example, our presentations today document progress toward several goals and objectives:
 - The introduction to Brantwood Family Services, and the update on Recovery Centers of America at Bracebridge are both aligned with Goal 1, Objective A - improving access to residential treatment services;
 - The update on youth prevention efforts connects with Goal 3, Objective E - increasing protective factors and resiliency to prevent or delay initiation of substance use or high risk behaviors among youth in Cecil County;
 - Discussion on the START program aligns with Goal 7, Objective C - expanding services and supports for parents who use and abuse alcohol and other drugs;
 - The update on harm reduction services links with Goal 9, Objective E - reducing incidents of fatal and non-fatal overdoses and increasing overdose prevention and education and related outreach to individuals and groups identified as high risk.
- Our DAAC is responsible for updating the local plan every two years. To help facilitate the update, we will convene a Strategic Plan Workgroup. This group will meet during the next two months to develop and update the plans, strategies and priorities for the DAAC. The workgroup is open to all interested community members; all present were encouraged to participate. [A sign-up list was distributed.] Based on the Workgroup’s effort, the recommended update will then be forward to the DAAC membership for review and approval during our next meeting.
- Discussion: John Bennett reported that all Health Department grant funding is based on the DAAC plan. Laurie Humphries shared that strategies and priorities of the DAAC plan align

with the Community Health Advisory Council (CHAC) plan. DAAC is a task force of the CHAC. Substance use is one of the top priorities that will be addressed by the Community Health Improvement Plan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

REVIEW OF MEETING MINUTES FROM – June 21, 2018, September 27, 2018, and December 20, 2018

- Sheri Lazarus motioned to approve the meeting minutes of June 21, 2018, September 27, 2018 and December 20, 2018. Ken Collins seconded. Minutes from the DAAC meetings of June 21, 2018, September 27, 2018 and December 20, 2018 were approved and adopted unanimously with no revisions.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CAUSE:

Laurie Humphries, Cecil County Health Department

- Reported that Drug Free Cecil Coalition received the Harland Graf Award. Beth Creek and Virgil Boysaw, Jr. will accept the award at the Union Hospital awards ceremony on April 10, 2019. A monetary stipend was part of the award and will be earmarked for the Youth Rally.

Joe Fisona

- Reported Fentanyl is being mixed with cocaine.
- Shared information about a program started in Bel Air called Drug Abatement Response Team (DART) which has proven successful in reducing repeated overdose incidents.

John Roush, Jr., Cecil County Public Schools

- Reported that Cecil County Public Schools received a policy development grant through the Maryland State Department of Education to address opioids and provide Narcan Training. Received a \$51,000 grant which was given to the YES agency to support the Drug Free Cecil Youth Prevention Coalition activities. The funding will help cover the cost for the July 2019 CADCA Mid-Year conference in Dallas and enhancing the student-developed PSA products.

Jack Foreaker, Haven House

- Haven House achieved national accreditation through ACHC, and is working to obtain Medicaid funding for level-3.1 residential treatment services. Haven House also applied for status as level-4 recovery house.
- Father Martin's Ashley Youth Program will restart next weekend.
- Mr. Foreaker produces a traveling Recovery show which performed to a sold out audience in Ocean City, Maryland. The show is scheduled to perform in Astoria, New York on April 27th and at the Pennsylvania State Convention in August of 2019.
- On March 15th, Mr. Foreaker celebrated his 34th year working at Haven House and on March 27th, he celebrated 38 years in recovery. [Congratulations Jack!]
- Haven House received an award at the Voices of Hope Annual Gratitude Banquet in April.

Maj. George Stanko, Cecil County Sheriff's Office

- Reported that fatal overdoses have recently decreased. However, noted that the total overdose incident rate has remained similar to last year. Noted a recent increase in overdose incidents within the past month.

Sheri Lazarus, Cecil County Circuit Court

- Reported the number of individuals in Drug Court is decreasing due to the Reinvestment Act which lessens the sentences on drug possession cases.
- Effective July 1, 2019, Drug Court will expand to District Court and Circuit Court. This will allow individuals with five or less convictions to do post plea pre-sentencing. On completion of their treatment program, Drug Court participants will receive Probation Before Judgement instead of a conviction on their record.
- Ms. Lazarus's team is working on ways to develop sanctions that are more recovery-focused; less than 4% of the 63,000 tests conducted annually of individuals in the Drug Court program test positive for substance use.

Mike Massuli, Cecil County Health Department

- Reported on success of the Cecil County Local Care Team (LCT). With the LCT, several families are engaged in recovery support services.

Dr. James Ziccardi

- Reported on data in regards to impaired physicians. Reported an epidemic in physician burnout. Noted that the suicide rate for female physicians is 2.6 times the normal population and 1.5 times more than male physicians. Substance use disorders are also a concern. The Maryland Physicians Health Program has a successful active program for physicians in recovery. Dr. Ziccardi has been a resource for these physicians.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jackie Hartman, Cecil County Health Department

- On April 27, 2018 from 10 am – 2 pm is the DEA National Drug Take Back Day. Unused and/or expired medicine will be accepted at any of the following seven participating Cecil County law enforcement agencies: Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Elkton Police Department, Maryland State Police Barrack "F" in North East, Maryland State Police JFK in Perryville, North East Police Department, Perryville Police Department and Rising Sun Police Department. Liquids and sharps are not accepted. A flyer listing the drop box locations including hours of operation is available upon request.

Jen Padgett, Cecil County Health Department

- The Cecil County Tobacco Task Force is collaborating with treatment and healthcare providers to conduct Train the Trainer for Tobacco Cessation training to expand tobacco cessation services. Ms. Padgett also works with the youth to address youth vape use.

Dr. Alan McCarthy, County Executive

- Asked about outcomes of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). Laurie Humphries will send data to Dr. McCarthy showing a significant reduction in opioids prescribed.

- Sheri Lazarus asked if there was any correlation to an increase in prescribing non opioid drugs such as Adderall, Lirica, Galvapentin, and Xanax among others which have seen a recent increase in abuse.
- Discussion: Ms. Personti commented on the need to focus on mental health services, compassion, connection, untreated mental illness and trauma-affected individuals.

Ryan Cochran, Voices of Hope for Cecil County

- Voices of Hope (VOH) advocates for recovery services, and offers: harm reduction outreach; a homeless outreach program at the Mary Randall Center and the Paris Foundation; and funding for aftercare and recovery houses in the area including a partnership with the Oxford Houses. VOH also works with CCHD for the Outreach to Survivor of Overdose program. VOH plans to increase partnerships with Haven House and the CCHD.

Adjourned: 4:30 PM.

Submitted by Jackie Hartman