

## **CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEROIN/OPIOID TASK FORCE**

September 30, 2016, 10:00 a.m., Meeting

Good Times of Olean, 800R East State Street, Olean, NY 14760

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor Bill Aiello, City of Olean

Robert Bell, City of Olean Fire Chief  
Derah Black-Day, CARES Dir. Of Program Oper.  
John Congdon, Regional EMS Coordinator  
Jacqueline Shine Dixon, BRMC Dir. Of Beh. Health  
Andrew Dombek, NYS Parole Officer  
Jene Gardner, CARES Clinical Director  
Ashley Halloran, Olean General Hospital Pharmacist  
Heidi Hartley, District Director  
Cindy Irish, Parent  
Donna Kahm, So. Tier Health Care Syst. Pres. /CEO  
Michael Kalsman, MD, SNI Medical Director  
Angie Kennedy, Seneca Strong  
Sue Labuhn, Legislator  
Debra Lacher, Cattaraugus County Health Dept.  
Henri Lamothe, MD, ER Director  
Bob Lent, United Pentecostal Church  
Rachel Linderman, CARES Comm. Coordinator

Cathy Mackay, Cattaraugus County Director of Aging  
Pastor Dodi Mcintyre  
Lisa McPherson, Olean General Hospital BHU Mgr.  
Mary O'Leary, Catt. County Comm. Svcs. Director  
Mike Prutsman, CARES Executive Director  
Jeff Rowley, City of Olean Chief of Police  
Julie Schmidt, NY Senate District Coordinator  
Megan Schmitt, TLC Health Substance Abuse Coord.  
Kim Shay, Olean Medical Group Director of Nursing  
Gina Smith, Psychologist  
Brad Spink, Funeral Director/Coroner  
Tony Turano, Dep. Commissioner of Soc. Services  
Howie VanRensaleer, Jr., Coroner  
Donna Vickman, Cattaraugus County Legislator  
Kevin Watkins, MD, Catt. County Public Health Dir.  
Troy Westfall, Chief of Police Salamanca  
Peter Wilson, Seneca Strong  
Ann, Zimmerman, MD, UPC Medical Dir.

Mary O'Leary, Director of Community Services welcomed everyone to the Heroin/Opioid Task Force meeting.

### **Committee Reports:**

Data Surveillance/Naloxone Access Funding – Donna Kahm reported highlights of the committee report, she stated that since the last task force meeting in July, there was only (2) reports of Narcan usage. She noted that the committee believes that the reason for the decrease in the number of calls for heroin/opioid overdoses, is due to law enforcement doing a tremendous job getting the drugs off the streets and the fact that people are entering into treatment.

Narcan training has been provided to several organizations and facilities throughout the county:

- The Olean Food Pantry
- The Community Wellness Fair (including (15) St. Bonaventure Security Officers were trained)
- Vic Vena Pharmacy
- Total Senior Care
- Friendship Ambulance
- Winning Back Olean
- Cattaraugus Community Action
- Council on Addiction and Recovery Services (CARES)
- Olean Police Department (One of their trainers have been trained, and the rest will be done in November)

One question that has come up is lack of transportation to treatment facilities. Donna followed up with Trans Am and All Star Emergency Medical Services, both agencies have indicated that if it is considered medically necessary, there should be no issue with transportation to a detox center from the emergency room.

-Donna was also asked to bring information in on Seneca Strong and she arranged for Angie Kennedy to come in and do a presentation today for the taskforce.

-Donna provided updated data forms for everyone in attendance. There have been a total of (51) cases of Narcan usage as of 9/27/16. This surpasses 2015 totals which were a total of (42) cases.

-She stated that Southern Tier Overdose Prevention Program (STOPP) is still waiting for a shipment of more Narcan, which is out about 2 ½ months from when it was ordered.

-Several EMS agencies Narcan kits will be expiring, and STOPP is making it a priority to exchange out their kits before distributing kits to new trainees.

#### Parent Support Committee – Mayor Bill Aiello

- Discussions continue on where to get assistance for parents and teens.
  - A.) CARES currently does not have a 24 hour treatment care center available.
  - B.) Mayor Bill Aiello asked if there will be a (25) bed adolescent facility opening in Weston Mills. Mike Prutsman stated that will depend on whether a grant that has been applied for is received.
  - C.) Pastor Steve Beattie of the United Pentecostal Church has 3 acres of land given to the church that they would like to transform into a facility, or respite home to help with this need in the community. Further investigation is needed and he will work with Cindy Irish (Parent) to develop a plan.
- Mayor Aiello informed the taskforce that the City is organizing an additional site for a drug drop box-possibly outside the City Building.
- Discussion about creating an app, or providing a pamphlet with available resources specific to each community.
- Mayor Aiello remarked that it is an eye opener when you look at (32) children placed in foster care in 2013, compared to (74) in 2014 directly due to the Heroin/Opioid epidemic.
- Mayor Aiello reminded the task force that Narcan training for Olean police officers will begin next month.
- Mayor Aiello remarked that the day detox starts, we need continual treatment and placement in a program and there is still a need for more support groups and a continuum of support after treatment.
- Mayor Aiello also stated that the committee felt that there is a need for a parent’s respite facility.
- Mayor Aiello suggested a need for legislation that would mandate treatment after entry into hospital.

Dr. Watkins interjected that there is a new respite facility called the “Eagles Nest”. Mary O’Leary stated that the facility is through Housing Options Made Easy (HOME). This respite house was developed between Cattaraugus and Chautauqua County through the office of Mental Health funding. This large beautiful home which has been renovated is available for up to a (7) day stay but not available more than (21) days in any one calendar year. They have a van that will transport a person to their facility. This facility is located on East Second Street in Jamestown.

Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI) Committee – Troy Westfall reported no real changes in PAARI since the last task force meeting in July therefore committee did not meet. PAARI was set up as a stop gap measure and now many more resources are available. The PAARI program is still working, and still available but able to hand individuals to the next resource more readily. Retraining officers will need to take place within the whole PARRI program in order to update their Narcan status.

Provider Education Committee – Dr. Kalsman reported that the committee is:

- Working on setting up a list serve for all providers within the Cattaraugus County area, currently the list includes most of the physicians and the ancillary providers in the area. The committee would eventually like to include Dentists and Pharmacists to the list.
- Looking to hold provider's education (i.e. Continuing Medical Education (CME)'s, opioid guidelines, etc.) by winter, would like to bring in outside experts to conduct the CME's as opposed to local experts.
- Looking at the possibility of setting up a multi-disciplinary pain program for the community. The committee is entertaining ideas about other services that can be provided to patients other than opiate pain medicine. This includes cognitive behavioral therapies, integrative therapies, acupuncture, massage, and other therapies that have been helpful. Unfortunately, many insurances companies don't reimburse for these types of therapies.

OASAS Committee –Mike Prutsman, reported that:

- CARES is looking at a residential redesign model to add additional beds to its facility. This redesign model will allow someone being discharged from detox, to enter into this program for stabilization. The individual would remain in stabilization for 7-10 days, after which the individual would enter the preventative program which can last from 3 months to a year. CARES currently has (33) beds and has put in an application for (37) additional beds giving the agency a total of (70) beds if the application process goes well. Award notification will be made in mid-November. Ground breaking would then take place March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Primary needs are beds for women.
- Providing intake training to PAARI officers so referrals can be made seamlessly to CARES.
- Recovery coach program is being put in place. This is similar to a life coach, or peer who helps with case management, and connecting residents to resources.

Dr. Watkins asked about the chances of being awarded the funding for the additional beds. Mr. Prutsman stated that the agency was told to submit the Request for Proposal (RFP) because these grants were written for agencies and communities like CARES and Cattaraugus County, and this seems to indicate that the chances of being awarded this funding is very good.

Mary O'Leary asked if there were parent/family support groups in this part of the county. Prutsman responded that CARES has begun to offer a family support group at its facility. The support group runs for 8 weeks in Olean. Announcements of this support group has been advertised in the newspapers, social media and on the radio. There is no charge to attend the family support group.

Report of Statistical Data:

- Sheriff's Office- Christa Heckathorn reported:
  - Opioid overdoses are significantly down.
  - The Drug Task force did a search warrant in Salamanca that netted 3.5 grams of Heroin which also tested positive on the fentanyl side.
  - Significant number of methamphetamine labs are being discovered.
  - The Sheriff's department is onboard with conducting its PARRI program in conjunction with CARES. There will be a press release in the near future.

- Social Services- Tony Turano reported:
  - In August the department had (34) reports, July (39) and June (18) with specific ties to parents with drug or alcohol issues. Social Services is projecting a \$600,000 higher foster care costs.
  - Public assistance to safety net program has (410) individuals in that program which is very small compared to our other programs. Eighty-nine of those are receiving some kind of substance abuse treatment and (30) of those in August were getting inpatient services.
  
- Probation- Mike Sharbaugh reported:
  - The department has seen a decrease in overdoses and no overdose deaths since our last task force meeting.
  - All officers are trained and equipped with Narcan and no officer has needed to use the drug since the last task force meeting. The department's officers has started to co-facilitate a treatment group with CARES.
  
- Health Dept.-Dr. Watkins reported:
  - No overdose deaths from Heroin/Opioid use since the last task force meeting.
  - Surveillance data from hospital shows (3) overdoses reported in the ER.
  
- Community Services:-Mary O'Leary reported:
  - A number of individuals coming into the department with Mental Health diagnosis, during the assessment, are found to have some kind of substance abuse disorder. They are advised that they need substance abuse treatment before their Mental Health treatment. Some are willing to go to CARES and others opt to remain just under Mental Health treatment.
  - Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS), program which is the old continuing day treatment program has (20-22) participants and is now more focused on recovery.
  - Clinics are seeing a little over (100) identified clients that have a substance abuse diagnosis. The clinic has over (1,800) participants and it is difficult to separate true numbers of opioid addictions.
  - A new report tracking secondary diagnosis will run monthly and this system should help to deliver better numbers for the task force.

OASAS RFP's: Mary O'Leary reported she was seriously considering applying for the last of the following (3) grants:

- Peer Engagement Services-goal is to become a resource to individuals and families that present in various settings such as the emergency departments due to their substance abuse. This peer will help individuals to navigate through the system. Seneca Strong currently has a great peer engagement service and they may serve as a model. Mrs. O'Leary stated she would love to collaborate with other counties if possible.
- Community Coalitions-goal is to support or establish community coalitions and partnerships that would coordinate community resources addressing substance abuse prevention, treatment, recovery efforts, respond to community specific concerns and to increase cross sector collaboration with prevention, treatment, and recovery. Up to a \$100,000.00 is available for this funding.
- Family Support Navigator Service-This grant will be for a person who can help the family, or individual to get through the system, and this funding is available to Counties only. The application is due the end of January 2017. Heidi Hartley and Julie Schmidt both offered to help with support for this grant request.

SENECA STRONG: Angie Kennedy and Pete Wilson from Seneca Strong shared information on the peer engagement services which started May of this year, through their agency.

- Since June (127) outreaches have been completed (50% of these individuals have been engaged in either inpatient or outpatient services).
- Support groups are available.
- Set up mock bedroom to teach parents what to look for in their children's rooms.
- Twelve peers have been trained and are available.
- Staying engaged with individuals when they return from rehab with life skills.
- Looking at providing transitional housing as a step down program.
- Referral program allows them to meet the client face to face in their own environment.

Cindy Irish shared that it would be very helpful if the task force could put in place a program like Seneca Strong has outlined. More intensive support is needed for the person once they leave rehab. Other needs include a 24/7 hotline, and a case manager for the entire county.

DEATH CERTIFICATES: Brad Spink, coroner, spoke regarding the rumor of death certificates being incorrectly filled out due to the influence of families. Unnatural deaths need to be investigated by an autopsy, toxicology or a physical review of the scene. Influence by families will not happen in these cases as there is hard evidence or definitive facts. In a natural death situation there can be a gray area where family may have influence on how the form is completed. These forms are legal documents, and there are (4) county coroners who complete these forms. Dr. Zimmerman added that although physicians are required to fill out death certificates, they should have prior training to complete them properly. Dr. Watkins interjected that he would see that this training takes place with Dr. Henri Lamothe's assistance. Brad Spink volunteered to assist with this training as well. Cathy Mackay asked if state reports were generated from just the primary cause of death or if secondary causes of death were taken into consideration. Dr. Watkins stated that yes state reports do take secondary causes of death into consideration. Mr. VanRensaleer Jr, coroner, agreed that it is in the best interest of everyone to fill the form out as completely as possible. Mr. VanRensaleer Jr. reported that at a recent County Coroner's and Medical Examiners Conference a discussion was held regarding signing off on death certificates when opioids are involved. He stated that a huge debate ensued regarding signing death certificates as a homicide when it is a drug related death, they were told it will be very sticky to label a death a homicide in these cases.

ALGORITHM OF ACTION PLAN: Updated information-

- Dr. Watkins spoke with Jessica Pirro from the call center in Erie County. They are willing to open up a crisis hotline for Cattaraugus County but it will be at a cost. They are willing to do a proposal but would need specifics to generate this proposal.
- Family Navigator grant that is being submitted will provide the Case Manager that is needed for this county.
- Possible CME trainings are being developed by the Provider's Education Committee.
- Free CME's are available for medical providers.
- CDC has developed state mandated protocol for chronic opiate prescriptions.
- Raw data coming from county departments, and community based organizations are most helpful.
- Sheriff's department is getting involved in the PAARI program.
- Seneca Strong update provided by Angie Kennedy is encouraging.

- CARES is hoping to open up about (25) more beds.
- Parent Support Groups being held by both CARES and Cindy Irish.
- The Southern Tier Overdose Prevention Program (STOPP) has trained 847 individuals and distributed 669 Narcan kits.
- Education- CDC brochures have been distributed to providers within our community
- Seneca Strong has opioid materials for distribution.
- CARES also has pamphlets.
- Updated resource list includes a new drop box at the Olean Police Station and also Salamanca Police Station. These are 24/7 drop off areas.

Dr. Kalsman asked why pharmacies could not be eligible for drop boxes. Ashley Halloran, Pharmacist stated that it is illegal to take any medications back into what is considered a closed system unless you are registered for the reverse distribution law. Due to the complexity of this law most pharmacies chose not to register.

Next meeting scheduled for November: