

BARNSTABLE COUNTY REGIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

Date: August 7, 2014, 4:00 PM	MEETING PLACE: Harborview Conference Room, County Complex
NEXT MEETING: September 4, 2014, 4:00 PM, Harborview Conference Room, (top of the hill in the County Complex)	RECORDING: Kathie Callahan, Barnstable County Human Services
PRESENT: Beth Albert, Carl Alves, Ron Bergstrom, Jennifer Cullum, Lisa Guyon, Vaira Harik, Randy Hoskinson, Sheila House, Randy Hunt, Judge John Julian, Samantha Kossow, Mary LeClair, Kate McHugh, Patty Mitrokostas, Heidi Nelson, Kathy Quatromoni, Gail Wilson	
Unable to attend: Karen Cardeira, Sue Rohrbach, Jean Talbert, Tom Guerino, Regina Yaroch, Sheila Lyons, Linell Grundman	
Guests: Carl Alves, Deidre Arvidson, Sean Sheehan, Janis McGrory	

- **Welcome and Introductions:** Beth Albert welcomed the group. Introductions were made by individuals.
- **Minutes of June 2014 Meeting:** **Kathy Quatromoni** motioned to accept the June 5, 2014 minutes, seconded by **Heidi Nelson**, unanimously approved.
- **Staff Updates:** Beth Albert and Samantha Kossow reported on the status of the community report. A small group met to review methodology. Approximately 50% of data collection completed and should be ready at the end of August to release to the community. The report will also be included in the Behavioral Health web-based portal to be released by the Department of Human Services. Key informant interviews have been taking place in many genres. Upon reviewing the information collected many common threads have been observed. Mary LeClair asked if the housing piece had been addressed. The outcome of substance abuse affecting housing issues was addressed in the interview with Heidi Nelson from Duffy Health Center. Vaira Harik is looking at data in terms of costs and productivity, the scope of the problem and costs in different sectors and different substances.
- **District Attorney's Diversion Program – Kathy Quatromoni:** The Juvenile and Youthful Diversion Programs are an innovative national model, which work works with certain first-time offenders and their families by offering an alternative to the court process. The Diversion Program benefits society by dealing early and quickly with delinquent behavior. Early intervention also saves tax dollars by reducing the burden on local police departments as well as the court system. Youth are referred by police, juvenile probation, clerk magistrates and schools through police. The youth then voluntarily participate in appropriate counseling/education and community service projects. In cases of property damage, the youth may also be held responsible for restitution. The the youth successfully completes the 6 month program the District Attorney will not prosecute the case and there will be no court record of that offense.

A client must be between the ages of 7 and 21 and the offense with which he/she is charged must have taken place in Barnstable, Dukes or Nantucket County. Only certain first-time offenders may be offered Diversion. The decision to divert is made by the Assistant District Attorney in concert with Diversion staff, the Clerk/Magistrate, police, schools and probation. An intake meeting is held with the youth and his/her parents/guardians if the youth is under the age of 18. This is a voluntary program so both the youth and the parents/guardians must be willing to participate. This program promotes youth to take responsibility for their actions and sets up a structured and monitored program encouraging the youth towards successful completion of the program. Kathy noted that approximately 1/3 of cases are drug related. Between 225 and 300 kids annually are admitted into the Diversion Program. Approximately 80-85% of participants successfully complete the program and approximately 60% of those participants do not return with new offenses. In 2012 the DA's office also began screening for substance abuse indicators and depression amongst youth. Please contact Kathy Quatromoni with questions at kathy.quatromoni@state.ma.us.

- **Barnstable Drug Court – Judge John Julian:** Judge Reardon initiated the Drug Court in Barnstable County in 1998/1999. Judge Julian joined the Drug Court Staff several years later along with Judge Reilly. Drug court is an opportunity for offenders to turn their lives around and make a choice to improve their lives. In Barnstable County there are a high percentage of cases involving opioid prescription users with the average age of offenders in their mid 20's and 100% on Mass Health. Limited number of treatment and rehabilitation facilities in this area to send these individuals, Reflections in New Bedford and Community Corrections in Hyannis run by probation department, so they wait in jail for 4-6 weeks for placement. There is a great need for dual diagnosis day program in this area that offers case management, compliance monitoring and other needed services.

Key components of Drug Courts, as published by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Drug Court Standards Committee: Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing. They use a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program. Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug and other related treatment and rehabilitation services. Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing. A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance. On-going judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation and operations. Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness.

- **New Business:**

- **Janis McGrory – Fed Up Rally:** According to the CDC, a dramatic increase in opioid prescriptions has led to skyrocketing rates of overdose deaths and addictions. The epidemic is having a catastrophic impact on families and communities and is placing tremendous strain on our health care system, businesses and local and state governments. Janis lost her daughter 3 years ago to addiction and has become very active in promoting prevention and policy change. The 2014 Fed Up! Rally is being held on Sunday, September 28, 2014 at 1:00 PM at the Sylvan Theater, Washington Monument Grounds on the Mall in Washington D.C. and followed by a march to the White House. Fed Up! is a grassroots, family-based coalition, all coming together to make something positive happened out of their pain and tragedy. These families have been ripped apart by opioids and have lost loved ones to death or addiction. They are medical experts and advocates who understand that the root cause of the problem – overprescribing – starts in Washing with our federal government. 100% of the donations they receive are directly applied to managing the costs of holding the Fed Up! Rally. The Fed Up! Coalition is working to find ways to prevent children, friends and understand that the root cause of the problem – overprescribing – starts in Washington with our federal government who need to change the laws governing the Food and Drug Administration. 100% of the donations they receive are directly applied to managing the costs of holding the Fed Up! Rally.

Janis has met with Senator Wolf who is interested in promoting a pharmaceutical company buy-back program. Some communities across the nation have filed lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies for endangering the public. She has also met with other elected officials and the DA's office about the work on this issue taking place across the country. For more information about Fed Up! visit www.feduprally.org.

- **Massachusetts Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) FY15 RFR – Beth Albert:** Beth distributed and discussed the highlights of the Request for Response. MOAPC is funded to address the issue of opioid abuse. Only local municipalities (counties, cities or towns) or applicants working in coordination with municipalities are eligible to receive these grant funds. The amount of this grant is \$100,000 and the deadline for applying is September 5, 2014. The purpose of the funding is to implement local policy, practice, systems and environmental change to prevent the misuse/abuse of opioids, prevent/reduce nonfatal unintentional/undetermined opioid-related hospital encounters and fatal unintentional and undetermined opioid-related poisonings, and increase both the number and capacity of municipalities across the Commonwealth addressing these issues. The program seeks to provide support for groups of neighboring municipalities to enter into formal, long term agreements to share resources and coordinate activities in order to increase the scope of this prevention work and capacity of municipalities to address these issues among their combined populations.

Beth reviewed the criteria and believes that Barnstable County meets the intended criteria. She noted that priority is given to applications that overlay existing local public health collaborative (i.e. Barnstable County Regional Substance Abuse Council); and include at least 3 municipalities with capacity to

address the issue and have experience coordinating initiatives with other municipalities. A public health district (Barnstable County is recognized as such by DPH) that includes several municipalities should focus its efforts in the 2-4 towns at highest risk. Recommended that funds, if received, be used for 1.0 FTE Program Director with certified prevention specialist credentials or working towards this accreditation, who is able to coordinate policy initiatives, enforcement, and meet grant requirements, and a portion of funding to be used for community outreach and public awareness. Suggested that Barnstable County, on behalf of the Regional Substance Abuse Council be the fiscal agent for this funding.

After discussion, **Ron Bergstrom** motioned, seconded by **Kathy Quatromoni** that the County, on behalf of RSAC go forward with the application process and respond to the FY15 MOAPC RFR. Barnstable County would be the fiscal agent if funding is received. Motion unanimously approved.

➤ **Updates from Representatives:**

- Randy Hunt distributed samples of the charcoal activated medication disposal system packets he had discussed at the June meeting. These work with virtually all drugs including opioids and controlled substances. This disposal method helps get medication safely out of a home and out of the environment.
- Carl Alves: There will be a meeting of regional coalitions on September 26th 2014 on Martha's Vineyard.
- Deidre Arvidson: Received a call from Deputy Chief Steven Xiarhos of the Yarmouth Police Department re: requests from the community for disposal procedures of syringes "after hours". Deidre will work with Mike McGuire, Hazardous Waste specialist in the Cooperative Extension, to address this issue.
- Kate McHugh: The Freedom from Addiction Network is hosting Ben Cort on September 11 @ 5:00 PM, at Cape Cod Community College as part of their Fall Prevention Education and Awareness Campaign. Marijuana: Addiction, Mental Health & Policy Forum will be held on September 22nd, 7-9 PM at the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum, admission \$25.00.
- Jen McGrory: Learn to Cope is a support group for parents, family members, spouses, and caregivers who have a family member who is addicted to opiates, alcohol, or other drugs. Learn to Cope offers experienced facilitators, resources, informational material, guest speakers (in long term recovery or professionals in the field), overdose education, and Narcan enrollment at all weekly meetings. Weekly meetings are held on Tuesdays 7:00-8:30 PM at the Yarmouth Police Station, One Brad Erickson Way. For more information call (508) 738-5148.
- Lisa Guyon: 2nd Annual Cape Cod & Islands Behavioral Health Summit: Building Bridges to Recovery is being held on October 3rd from 8 AM – 4:30 PM at the Hyannis Resort and Conference Center. 2014 Focus: Co-occurring Disorders. Continuing Education credits and CMES available.

➤ **Adjournment:** **Mary LeClair** motioned, seconded by **Ron Bergstrom** to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

➤ **Next meeting scheduled for September 4, 2014 @ 4 PM in the Harborview Conference Room in the County Complex**

Respectfully submitted: Kathie Callahan