

1/3/23 Opioid Abatement Committee

Present:

Amy Malone – Rochester City Councilor

Dana Berlin – Rochester City Councilor

Nicole Rodler – Rochester PD Juvenile Diversion Coordinator

Ashley Wright – Strafford County Public Health Network

Marcella – intern at Waypoint

Raymond Negron - Executive Director at Positive Transitions

Cora Long – Strafford County Public Health Network

4:39 Meeting started

Malone stated that this meeting's discussion would be about the syringe drop box. She knows it is a low hanging fruit but it would be good for the city. She stated they should go through Dover's proposal and see what they can transfer to Rochester, what needs to change, and when they will present to council if the committee is going to fund it

Wright stated that the purpose of the drop box proposal in Dover was that there had been complaints of improper disposed syringes. The idea was to take control of the situation before the narrative got bad. They met with people from the Portland Public Health Syringe Service Program and other communities that have one. The purpose outlines the need for sharps disposal to improve community health and safety

Malone asked how locations were decided. Wright stated that they did a social media audit and looked at complaints, what the community was saying, and where police got a lot of calls to. They went for a collaborative approach with having the police department's support

Wright went over the Dover proposal step by step from the document.

Questions that were asked during Wright's overview:

Negron asked who would be installing the drop boxes. Wright stated that because they would be going on city property, they would work with the city and see if DPW could and if not they would contract out. Negron stated that he had guys in his program that could if needed

Long asked if the HRETA Project be okay taking on Rochester as they are in Dover. Wright stated that they might and they can reach out to them

Rodler asked if Wright could give them a price on how much the syringe box wraps are when they are completed. Wright stated yes and that Belken is managing it and can let

her know. Wright stated their total budget was \$5100 and she don't anticipate them using all of that

Rodler asked Wright if SOS would be able to empty Rochester's boxes also. Wright stated that she wasn't sure what their capacity is but they could talk to John Burns

Rodler asked if SOS has to pay for the disposal. Wright stated that they will reimburse them for the disposal cost. Malone stated that they should budget for that too because asking nonprofits to do more without a financial reimbursement is hard

Wright got to the end of the proposal and stated for something so simple they wanted to make sure it outlined everything. Malone stated that they need that piece because they need to show others what they use the money for. Wright stated it's wordy but it's straightforward. Malone stated they covered everything. Wright stated it was a group project with Belken and Adriane Apicelli with the HRETA Project.

Malone verified everyone was still in agreement to go forward with this pilot plan. She stated she didn't want to reinvent the wheel so if they can go through the Dover proposal and see what needs to be changed for Rochester. One would be to identify Rochester stakeholders and invite them in for a conversation. The only person Malone stated she has been able to get representation from was Ramsey from Frisbie Memorial Hospital.

Looking at Dover's proposal and the help they received from SOS, Malone stated they should talk to John Burns about what he can help with. However, knowing that this might be too much of a capacity for him, they should identify a second or third. Wright stated they should look at Frisbie or a city entity that already works with sharp disposal. Rodler stated the city doesn't do sharp disposals and they pay somebody to dispose. Wright stated there are regulations about the transportation of sharps. Malone stated that Negron does have people that could do it and if we could do some sort of reimbursement. Negron stated if they didn't have anyone volunteer he was going to suggest someone from his group. Wright stated she would ask the Fire Department and see if they have anyone

Malone stated that looking at Dover's proposed budget they would do the same thing plus the cost of the boxes

Long stated that they should really talk with someone at Frisbie about helping. Negron stated he has talked to Tim Jones at Frisbie prior and would reach out to him. Malone asked Negron to talk to him and see if someone would come here for meetings and if there is a way to talk to someone to see if they could take any piece of this project - not money contributions, in-kind services

Wright stated she will update on Dover's status but the drop boxes should be all set and out by the end of the month

Negron stated that Manna Meals and United Methodist Church is where a lot of people who could use these boxes would be and asked if they should talk to them. Wright stated that the boxes don't need to be on city property and they want them to be visible and accessible. However not near where someone would be sitting having lunch. Rodler stated somewhere like the commons near the porta potties. Malone stated they should try and identify five high traffic locations and Rodler will run a report to identify them.

Malone stated to recap:

- Negron will talk to Tim Jones at Frisbie
- Rodler will pull data and talk to Erin Nasino (Community Outreach Coordinator) about high traffic spots
- Negron will talk to his guys about high traffic spots

Malone stated she thinks they should start with getting five boxes. Wright agreed and stated they can then figure out what works and work out any kinks. Rodler stated she would like to put one by the railroad tracks

Negron asked how a person would know where a box is located and Wright stated that would be the marketing

Malone stated it was 5:30PM and was the consensus that everyone feels good about where they are at on this

Malone stated that Dale-Hogan and the school wanted to talk about vape detection at the February meeting. There are prevention pieces if someone gets caught, but they would need the wrap around services to make it part of this committee

Wright asked if a student isn't able to be in juvenile diversion, what other policies can they put in place for kids found vaping, drinking, or smoking. What can they create that would be restorative practices. Rodler stated that they could do restorative practices that could help pay for the vape prevention program

Wright stated she didn't want to put everything on the school but they can do early interventions and preventions. Even if they can't use the money to buy the vape detectors, in looking at the programs, what can they buy and pay for while they have this funding to find a sustainable way to keep the detectors in the school

Long suggested they contract with someone to do in school trainings like Prime for Life. For example when a student gets caught, they have to go through the program for five weeks every Thursday after school

Wright suggested that if they did an in house diversion it would shorten the student's suspensions. They could use the funds to pay for the staff time. If they did that for a couple years and then see how they could find the money to do this long term. Like "Life of a Raider" program. Have it be for everybody but the target be for the kids that need it

Malone stated she doesn't like when the funding runs out so the programs keep changing. She think that's a great idea and she knows they want to add things in the school and create opportunities out of school. Malone suggested they tie it into Teen Night and stated there's a reason why Waypoint is in the school three times a week

Adjourned 5:45