

3/7/23 Opioid Abatement Committee

Present:

Amy Malone – Rochester City Councilor

Nicole Rodler – Rochester PD Juvenile Diversion Coordinator

Ashley Wright – Strafford County Public Health Network

Raymond Negron – Executive Director at Positive Transitions

Michelle Halligan Foley - Rochester Career & Technology Education Director

Palana Belken – NH Harm Reduction Coalition

Cindy Cunningham – Nurse Manager, Frisbie Memorial Hospital

4:36 Meeting started

Malone stated that Rodler did research on the core strategies list of opioid remediation uses

Halligan-Foley asked if they are doing prevention PreK-12 or just high school. Wright stated that they have seen a lot with the United Way starting at a small age

There was talk of Samantha Skunk and possibly bringing that training back since funding stopped for it.

Malone stated any training that encourages teenagers to be on the lookout for their peers is a no brainer. If there is someone that can look out for the signs, they are putting little helpers everywhere.

There was talk about NAMI Connections (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and bringing it to the school. Malone stated that if they look at the list of remediation uses from Rodler, it would fall under prevention. She stated that if they want this to be in the schools, what are the actions steps and what do they need to know about NAMI Connects. Halligan-Foley stated that she could bring it to the wellness committee and come up with a proposal. She would like training in the elementary level because they are missing that piece as Too Good For Drugs curriculum/training is no longer in the schools. Halligan-Foley stated she will get a summary of what the curriculum is covering and go from there and see where it falls and what ages to be taught.

Halligan-Foley stated that they have never been able to get the peer to peer support off the ground so this group is great

Wright stated that the general focus area from the mental health alliance community was mental health, first aid training, peer to peer support, affordable housing, housing

first initiatives and advocacy for legislation, mentorship through community engagement and education on mental health.

Rodler stated that the Mental Health Committee talked about media and Celeste has agreed to take it on personally not through her city job

Looking at the list of opioid remediation uses, Rodler stated that Frisbie no longer has a baby section so they can get rid of section D. Cunningham stated that Frisbie will still have Harbor Womens Health which does pre and post partum care

Wright asked Rodler if she researched the vending machine. Rodler stated it's \$8,000 fully wrapped and has research on cities that put them in and evidence based proof on having them

Malone asked if Dover has deployed the syringe box yet and Wright stated not yet but should be soon

Looking at the list, Malone stated that the mobile health care van can possibly start up. Rodler stated that when she talked to Corinne, there was no doctor that could work Rochester. Wright stated that she thinks that there is no doctor available for the day and time of the Rochester stop. Malone stated they needed to get people to use this service to get people to extend it.

There was talk of oral care and fixing what drugs have done to a person's mouth and teeth. Rodler stated that oral health care would be a good use of the money as teeth can be taken out but can't be put in. The cost is about \$1200-\$1500 for dentures.

Malone asked Negron how many people does he think have had dental issues that impact them. Ray stated at least one-third. Wright stated that there is a shortage of dentists. Not enough places take Medicaid. Goodwin has a program to become a medical assistant and it would be great to start one for dentistry.

Malone stated they want to encourage dentists to work in Rochester. But until they have someone here in Rochester they should figure out how much it would cost to transport and fix a person's teeth. Wright stated they can figure out the logistics and where it would it come from. Would it be welfare. If they can establish programs and find the opportunities and help the needs of people who are trying to better themselves.

Cunningham stated that there are a significant amount of people that come to the ER with dental pain because they don't have a dentist and nobody is taking new clients

Negron asked that what they are missing is a dentist. Malone stated yes. Negron stated he would start talking to someone in Manchester

Wright stated they can meet short term needs but they need long term solutions. That's why she likes the work plan approach. Malone stated she likes the work plan approach and does find that a good way to approach the next few months

Wright stated that they have the bones, the parameter. They have what they want to focus on and all the info and data. When they talk about what they want to do it's a matter of putting it on paper and what is the end product...when are they going to say this is done. They will want to create a structure and system that will sustain this type of work like getting a dental provider that is provided through this program for the next five years. Then when that funding is gone it is hopefully continued from another entity. If they want to create a work plan they take all the things they want to do and categorize them and look at what are the big goals, short term goals and what are the sustainable pieces.

Negron stated there are many things they are trying to implement. But what about on an individual basis. They take a guy and find what he needs and give him everything he needs and push him towards success. He thinks that would give them more success stories. Malone stated she doesn't think they could do an IEP for every resident but does think they could identify some people for that

Wright stated that making evaluation plans for those things would be important. And for tracking purposes, individual results would be great for that. They would never know if someone took a pamphlet from the naloxone vending machine and got help.

Rodler stated that the money will not fund an individual but will fund the process

Malone stated that they take their group and talk to them and see what they need and get that level of voice from the individuals. They've been incarcerated, homeless, teeth problems...they need that piece

Wright stated that care coordination is in all of their programs. She asked if the money can fund a community coordinator to help with case management. A core part of community health work is helping people apply for programs. If that is something that this group wants to pursue she feel that will open other doors for more to happen. Wright then asked if ASERT was coming to Rochester as it is all about care coordination

Malone stated that have a great start on the categories. They know they want to invest in prevention and helping young people. Also, when the opioids have affected them and they need help - helping them get back their lives

Halligan-Foley stated to talk to people that have success stories and ask them what happened to them that made them succeed and go from there

Negron stated if they could make an anonymous survey and give to the house operators for sober living houses

Malone stated that they need the prevention. Halligan-Foley stated they need the prevention because parents are using

Malone stated that the Planning Department gave her a brochure on Community Heart and Soul that they will talk about next month

Halligan-Foley asked if Malone would present to the City Council or would a couple members from the committee present. Malone stated she thinks it would need to be a few from here. Halligan-Foley stated that she thinks they all should be there

Malone stated that next month they will hash out a work plan. She would like to meet earlier to have longer time to discuss. 4/4/23 doesn't work so the meeting is going to be moved to 4/11/23 at 3:30

Adjourned at 5:48