Drug Overdose Prevention and Rescue Coalition: Meeting Notes

August 19th, 2015

**Present:** Kate Shay, Erin McDonough, Michelle McKenzie, Jody Rich, Daniel Crenca, David Dorsey, Obed Papp, Lisa Carcifero, Cory Saucier, Leigh Reposa, Shannon Spurlock, Traci, Green, Jenn Koziol, Steve Reid, Jonathan Goyer, Michelle Harter, Sharon Morello, Linda Mahoney, David Martins, Tom Joyce, Thomas Carey, Diane Plante, Dina Morrissey, Beatriz Perez, Sarah Bowman, Deborah Pearlman, Chief Carey, Captain Ricciarelli

**Governor’s New Task Force and Update on Strategic Plan Initiative**

* Task Force met the morning of August 19th. Traci, Jody Rich, Brandon Marshall, Jef Bratberg, and Jon Goyer have been hired to write a strategic plan in 74 days. The plan will be evidence-based with clear measurable objectives, but community-informed. A dashboard will track progress/effectiveness of interventions. Please give your input via interview, phone call, or visit website [www.strategicplanri.org](http://www.strategicplanri.org). This is an opportunity to take advantage of political support and momentum to advance goals of coalition. Each Workgroup will meet with someone from team to give input.
* Our Drug Overdose Prevention and Rescue Coalition has ***not*** been disbanded. We will continue to meet as usual and have the opportunity to give report outs at Governor Task Force meetings.

**Candle Light Vigil**

* There will be a Candle Light Vigil on August 31st to recognize International Overdose Awareness Day at 7:00 PM, 1500 Main St., West Warwick. All are welcome. Flyer will be emailed out; please distribute widely.

**Rally for Recovery**

* The Coalition will host a naloxone distribution table at event. PONI will distribute naloxone, MRC will provide training, CODAC will create a prayer flag. Volunteers are needed to get people to the table and advocate for the Good Samaritan law. Jenn will send out an email to gauge interest.
* There is a Rally4Recovery Kick-off event on September 4th at RI College at 11:00 AM. BHDDH will send out list of events.

**AHRQ Grant**

* Traci and her team received a $1.3 million demonstration grant to determine how pharmacy based naloxone can be more accessible and effective. The team is looking for input from the community; they will form an Advisory Committee. An official email invitation will go out to group.

**Treatment Workgroup**

* Naloxone distribution in treatment centers has lost some momentum and is not sustainable. The Providence Center has developed a successful model that can be replicated. It was suggested that the Treatment Workgroup be reinvigorated. BHDDH will take the lead on this.

**Naloxone Workgroup**

* Met with Jef Bratberg to share suggestions to be included in Governor’s strategic plan. The group suggested sustainability and centralization of naloxone distribution especially for high risk populations including DOC, ED patients, patients coming out of treatment facilities, and needle exchange community.
* School nurse teachers at all public schools (grades 6-12) are required to have naloxone on site. RI DOH is developing a model policy, with input from Naloxone WG. MRC will offer the training. Email Jenn if you would like to provide input on model policy

**First Responder Workgroup**

* Group would like to focus on more prevention in schools using school resource officers and student assistance programs.
* Waiting for final approval from RI DOH on if they will provide Medical Direction for First Responder naloxone (state police supply expires in November).
* The Department of Justice recently provided funding ($1.8 million) to The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (**HIDTA**) programs on the East Coast to connect Public Safety and Public Health to improve communication around drug overdose crisis. The group was not sure where money was going; Jenn will follow up with State Police.

**CDC Grant**

* RI DOH is waiting for final confirmation from CDC on a four year grant to focus on the prevention of Prescription Drug Overdoses. The grant will: (1) Enhance the PDMP and increasing usage (2) Create an electronic drug overdose dashboard (3) Fund recovery coaches in the ED and DOC (4) Provide academic detailing to physicians and pharmacists (5) Policy evaluation (6) Fund mini-grants to community organizations to target prevention campaigns (7) Convene drug overdose death review team to identify trends.

**Data Workgroup**

* Will reconvene in September; will begin development of drug overdose dashboard.
* Group discussed RI DOH’s new policy on only releasing confirmed cases of drug overdose deaths; concerns re: how lack of timely data has impacted momentum of interventions and motivation levels of volunteers.

**Legislative Workgroup**

* Jon Goyer offered to lead a legislative workgroup if there is interest from the group. His vision is to educate folks on the entire process of getting a bill signed, specifically what the action steps are for advocates at every stage of the process. Jenn will send out email to gauge interest and develop email list.
* Good Sam. Law may pass in October, but it will be the version without expanded protection. This group will discuss strategy.

**Potential Items for Governor’s Task Force Report Out**

* Concerns about timely release of drug overdose death data
* Good Samaritan law expiration
* Sustainability of naloxone supply

**Next Meeting**

* To be determined