

## **ALLEGANY COUNTY HEROIN & OPIOID ABUSE AD HOC COMMITTEE**

**February 1, 2018**

**NOT APPROVED**

**Committee Members Present:** J. Hopkins (Chairman), M. Biddle, J. Chaffee, V. Grant, G. Muscato, W. Penman, B. Riehle, R. Root, C. Zenoski (Absent: L. Ballengee, A. Buchholz, M. Carbone, M. Chamberlain, L. Haggstrom, C. Ivers, K. LaForge, K. Monroe, T. O'Grady)

**Others Present:** A. Jones, C. Jones, S. Markajani, C. Mastin, T. Rodgers, R. Starks, P. Stockin, M. Washer, R. Whitney, C. Whitwood

**Media Present:** K. Kellogg – *Olean Times Herald*

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Ad Hoc Committee Chair Judy Hopkins.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The November 9, 2017, Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Committee minutes were approved on a motion made by Mr. Penman, seconded by Mr. Root, and carried. Committee Chair Hopkins stated at the last meeting we talked about the prevalence of heroin and opioids in certain populations and how much we see it in our young population, adding that while it was stated that the 18 to 21 age population experiences a great issue with tobacco and alcohol, heroin and opioid addiction is still a huge issue for the 19 to 35 age population. William Penman stated that the most recent risk and protective survey done in February 2017 showed the percentage of high school kids using heroin and/or opioids under 1 percent; therefore, in high schools, the numbers are very small. Mr. Penman noted that Committee Chair Hopkins is correct in stating the issue lies within the 19-35 age range. Ravo Root supported Mr. Penman's comments stating that tobacco and alcohol are the more prevalent drugs, adding that he appreciates New York State working to educate our youth as well as our community because it gives us the opportunity to intervene and keep them away from these drugs. Committee Chair Hopkins stated we are seeing a consistency in statistics that state tobacco and alcohol are gateway drugs that lead to more serious and dangerous drugs. Terrence Rodgers stated that while it's good news that our numbers are low for high school kids, the percentage of students who are addicted is still important.

### **"Voices of Allegany County"**

Committee Chair Hopkins stated the Cuba, NY, showing went very well, and they plan to hold the next showing in Fillmore, NY.

### **2018-2019 Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Strategic Sharpening Plan**

Ardent Solutions Executive Director Carrie Whitwood thanked all who attended the meeting to go over the 2018-2019 Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Strategic Sharpening Plan. Ms. Whitwood discussed some minor changes that were made to the plan. The committee discussed some minor changes that were going to be made to the plan. Committee Chair Hopkins stated that our contract with Ardent Solutions, who has been our facilitator, ends on March 26, and the County is looking into developing a plan that will sustain the efforts of the heroin and opioid taskforce. Mr. Rodgers expressed concern that the Ad Hoc Committee is being dissolved after the contract expires. Mr. Rodgers continued that there are a lot of people falling through the cracks and with addiction being generational, we need to think about the mothers and fathers struggling right now because their children are who will struggle next. Mr. Rodgers went on to say it's vital we continue to do this, and he hopes we can continue to take it seriously and not lose our momentum or all of the hard work we have done. Committee Chair Hopkins stated this work, as

well as the support of our Legislature will continue, and this issue is not being dropped by any means. Dr. Root affirmed Mr. Rodgers' concerns and stated they have seen a gradual increase in students experiencing trauma, and next year Fillmore Central School will be hiring a full-time Social Worker to help combat this issue.

The committee read through and discussed the following strategic priorities laid out in the plan:

**Strategic Priority 1:** To continuously reassess administrative structures to keep pace with changes in the environment while providing a sound infrastructure that supports the operation of the initiatives and to ensure sustainability of local efforts to address the heroin and opioid crisis.

**Strategic Priority 2:** To build a strong, dedicated workforce of professionals representing all sectors that can directly impact the heroin and opioid crisis in Allegany County through increased professional development training, skill building, and best-practice strategies. Casey Jones of Transformation Initiative stated that the submitted draft focuses primarily on only professionals being trauma-informed, rather than working towards having a trauma-informed community which will educate everyone. Mr. Jones referenced several activities he has been involved in where the focus is on the community rather than the workforce. Mr. Rodgers suggested including survivors of trauma as part of the process because we hear what the underlying reasons are for why they are abusing drugs, adding it's vital to know what has happened to them so we can help prevent them from using again. Social Services Commissioner Vicki Grant stated it should be looked at as "what happened to you not what's wrong with you."

**Strategic Priority 3:** To increase awareness of, and access to, primary and secondary prevention efforts leading to a decrease in use, misuse, and abuse of heroin and opioids, enable people who start misusing opioids to quickly quit, and expand harm reduction practices with opioid misuse.

**Strategic Priority 4:** To support long-term recovery for individuals struggling with heroin and opioid addiction and provide resources for those impacted by a loved-one's addiction. Committee Chair Hopkins referred to a drug program provided in Ross County, Ohio, through their Sheriff's Department that offers a treatment-based alternative to prison for low-level, non-violent offenders with substance abuse issues. Through comprehensive supervision, random drug testing, treatment services, frequent interaction with the judge, and immediate sanctions and incentives, offenders are given an opportunity to turn around their lives and become drug free. Sheriff Whitney stated they have started talking about having a program similar to this, and have reached out to Literacy West who has space available. It is in the very early stages, and all of the details have not been finalized.

## **Tobacco 21**

Jon Chaffee stated on February 12, 2018, at the Crossroads Center they will be presenting to the Board of Legislators on Tobacco 21. They will be discussing several different factors including tobacco rates for our County, financial issues, and laws currently in place. There will also be a panel to discuss tobacco and how it affects the brain. Dr. Kevin Watkins from Cattaraugus County will be presenting on the Native Reservation issue, and Vincent Horrigan, previous County Executive from Chautauqua County, who has 20+ years of experience with the military, will be discussing the military exemption issue and why there should not be one. Legislator Stockin stated he was pleased that this issue was tabled last year because there were many strong opinions from different Board members that would have prevented this from being

passed. Committee Chair Hopkins stated that Mr. Chaffee and PPAC are taking an excellent approach with Tobacco 21 because the education and awareness needs to come first and then a solid decision can be made, adding that it needs to be stressed that the state wants to see more counties passing this amendment before the state steps in and deals with it. A motion was made by Mr. Penman, seconded by Mrs. Grant, and carried for the Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Committee to support the Tobacco 21 Legislation increasing the purchase from 18 to 21 years of age. (Abstain: J. Chaffee)

### **Pill Drop**

Sheriff Whitney stated the next Pill Drop will be Saturday, April 28, 2018, and the location is to be determined. Mr. Penman asked if they have thought about putting a drop box here at the County building. Sheriff Whitney stated they haven't discussed that yet and he will try; however, he does not see it happening. Sheriff Whitney continued that they are seeing a drop in collection at the semi-annual events because of the many drop box locations throughout the County. Mr. Chaffee added that they use the semi-annual events to help educate where the drop boxes are located throughout the County.

### **Narcan Training**

Mr. Penman announced a free Narcan training that will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the ACASA Center on 2956 Airway Road, Wellsville, NY 14895. This training will teach you how recognize and respond to an opioid overdose and how to administer Narcan. Committee Chair Hopkins stated she has attended a training, and while she hopes to never have to use her Narcan kit, it's good to have the knowledge and training.

### **Mission Genesee Valley**

Casey Jones of Transformation Initiative announced that Mission Genesee Valley, a coalition of Allegany County churches and Christian organizations, have been given use of a storefront next to McDonalds in Wellsville. Mr. Jones is chairman of the planning group for this project, and they will be meeting every week to develop a plan. The first goal is related to early child development with the second being distribution of resources to those in need. Mr. Jones noted that they are not seeking to conflict with other services or take away from what this Ad Hoc Committee is trying to accomplish.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Heroin & Opioid Ad Hoc Committee meeting will be held in April with the date to be determined.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m. on a motion made by Mr. Penman, seconded by Mrs. Riehle, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Meghan Washer, Secretary to Clerk of the Board  
Allegany County Board of Legislators