

## Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) Meeting Minutes

<b>Alliance Meeting Name:</b>	<i>Overdose Prevention Team Operations Section-Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement Branches</i>	<b>Meeting Location:</b>	<i>Hybrid- Wicomico County Health Dept and Google Meets</i>
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<i>May 2, 2024</i>	<b>Minutes Recorder:</b>	<i>Christina Bowie-Simpson</i>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<i>930-1100 am</i>	<b>Minutes Reviewer:</b>	<i>n/a</i>
<b>Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:</b>	<p><b>Staff:</b> Christina Bowie-Simpson (<i>WiCHD</i>), Jessica Sexauer (<i>WiCHD</i>), Matthew McConaguhey (<i>WiCHD</i>)</p> <p><b>PREVENTION and EDUCATION</b></p> <div> <div> <p>Jessica Taylor (<i>WiCHD- LBHA</i>)</p> <p>Nick Thompson (<i>Wic Co Public Schools</i>)</p> <p>Meredith Miller (<i>Wic Co Public Schools</i>)</p> <p>Penny Walters (<i>Wor-Wic Comm College</i>)</p> </div> <div> <p>Jovan Twilley (<i>Salisbury University</i>)</p> <p>Courtney Alley (<i>Wicomico DSS</i>)</p> <p>Tammy Griffin (<i>WiCHD- Prevention</i>)</p> </div> </div> <p><b>TREATMENT and RECOVERY</b></p> <div> <div> <p>Stephen Silberman (<i>Addiction Wellness Center</i>)</p> <p>Tasha Jamison (<i>Wic Co HD</i>)</p> <p>Lisa Campbell (<i>RRC</i>)</p> </div> <div> <p>Tammy Walbert (<i>SWIFT</i>)</p> <p>Lauren Reck (<i>MAT Clinics</i>)</p> </div> </div> <p><b>ENFORCEMENT and PUBLIC SAFETY</b></p> <div> <div> <p>John Dennis (<i>Salisbury Fire Dept</i>)</p> <p>Lindsay Tayman (<i>Drug Court</i>)</p> <p>Jaime Greve (<i>Wic Co Sheriff's Office</i>)</p> </div> <div> <p>Chris Hopkins (<i>Wic Co Emergency Services</i>)</p> </div> </div> <p><b>GUESTS</b></p> <p>Avery Meyer (<i>Maryland Office of Overdose Response</i>) Nicole Erkfitz (<i>Chrysalis House</i>)</p> <p>Jordan (<i>SU student intern</i>)</p>		

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TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crissy Bowie-Simpson welcomed attendees and everyone introduced themselves.</li> <li>• Matthew McConaughy approved March meeting minutes and Lisa Campbell carried. Meeting minutes were then unanimously approved.</li> </ul>	
<b>Chrysalis House Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicole Erkfitz provided information regarding Chrysalis House. This is a treatment house for women and children. They are a 3.3 provider but will be transitioning to a 3.5 due to changes in ASAM criteria. They have recently expanded the number of beds that they offer. They have 50 beds available. They are located in Crownsville MD. They are able to provide tours to those who wish to visit.</li> <li>• Their goal is to empower women and provide them with resources to reintegrate back into the community.</li> <li>• They provide SUD and Mental Health Treatment. They provide case management also. They offer all forms of MOUD. They also assist individuals who wish to wean off of methadone.</li> <li>• Women can bring up to 2 children under the age of 10 to treatment at the facility.</li> <li>• They are 1 of 4 BHA approved programs that will take women and children. They participate solely with Medicaid.</li> <li>• They do not provide detox.</li> <li>• They provide transitional recovery housing. They have 4 houses in the community.</li> <li>• They provide parenting classes and have a full Child Development Center on site.</li> <li>• They have a gym, meditation room and are working on providing even more services.</li> <li>• Women must be 18 years old, the primary diagnosis must be substance use and they must not have used illicit substances in the last 5 days.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They also offer a Healthy Start program. This is a free program for women who are pregnant or those with children under the age of 3. This program is run out of Baltimore MD.</li> <li>• They take court ordered individuals.</li> <li>• Q&amp;A-             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How are the children provided education in the program?- Children of school age will be enrolled in the local school system. There is a drop off and pick up at the house.</li> <li>○ Does Chrysalis provide transportation from the shore? They do provide transportation. If far away they are able to meet individuals halfway. They have traveled to PA to pick up a patient in the past.</li> <li>○ Who can make referrals to the program? Individuals can call to self refer. If they are a part of the pregnant women's program they must go through BHA to sign them up for treatment. This is a quick process.</li> <li>○ Does Chrysalis help patients get back to the Eastern Shore if they would like to return? Yes, they begin discharge planning and case management from day one. If they wish to go back home, they will assist.</li> <li>○ Does Chrysalis provide any beds for uninsured individuals? Patients must have active Medicaid before coming to Chrysalis House. They will assist patients with getting Medicaid if needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Nicole will share the PPT slides.</li> <li>• Contact information: Nicole Erksitz <a href="mailto:nerksitz@chrysalishouses.org">nerksitz@chrysalishouses.org</a> Reynaldo Cox <a href="mailto:rcox@chrysalishouses.org">rcox@chrysalishouses.org</a></li> </ul>	
<b>Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public comments.</li> </ul>	
<b>FY25 Block Grant and Abatement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FY25 Block Grant has been submitted at this time. This grant covers the Opioid Coordinator position, training and education as</li> </ul>	

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<i>Plan Updates</i>	<p>well as support for the Go Purple campaign and advertising. We are waiting on approval from MOOR at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The Abatement Plan is undergoing development. There are 13 criteria/allowable expenses that must be met through use of these funds. Wicomico plans to increase access to Naloxone. This will be done through Naloxone Vending machines. Another priority to be addressed will be within the school system to increase school based education through primary and secondary educational campaigns. Assistance with buprenorphine induction with the SWIFT program and the detention center will also be a focus. At this time recommendations are being accepted and further projects explored.</li><li>● Nick Thompson shared some updates of the plans that they are currently exploring and working to submit for review. He shared that they are working on proposing the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Focusing on a 3 prong approach through education.</li><li>○ Education in pre-k - 12 health classes. They are currently working to include health in gym classes which would include substance misuse education.</li><li>○ They are working to explore the Beyond the Limits program. Crissy asked how Beyond the Limits would satisfy the educational campaign piece and how many students would this reach. He mentioned that debriefing questions could include SUD and how to respond in certain situations. They are also looking into taking students outside of the course and this could include local facilities in the community that address SUD.</li><li>○ Middle school sports have begun and they would like to develop a SUD campaign to incorporate into the new efforts with these sports.</li><li>○ They would also like to bring in the giant lung and giant brain to the schools to help educate the students.</li><li>○ They would like to create a full time position to assist in carrying out these activities.</li></ul></li></ul>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tasha mentioned the need for another program like Center for Clean start. A program like this would be helpful to have on the Eastern Shore since there are no women and children programs located on the Eastern Shore. She also mentioned that a detox facility would be helpful.</li> <li>Penny mentioned that assistance with transportation is always a need.</li> </ul>	
Agency Updates	<p><b><i>Local Behavioral Health Authority- WiCHD</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The LBHA has a new employee, Danielle Thomas who will be an Academic Detailer. She is currently working on her training.</li> <li>The Color Run had approximately 341 people in attendance. It went well and was a great event. Matt Runnels spoke at the event. Tentative date for next year is 4/26/25.</li> <li>8/26/24 will be the Overdose Remembrance Day at Winterplace Park. This will be a more intimate event this year and done on a smaller scale.</li> <li>The LBHA will be taking the lead on the Out of the Darkness Walk. This will be a glow walk and the tentative date is 10-12-24. This will hopefully be held at Winterplace Park. Jess asked they group if they believed Yom Kippur may affect this event and attendance- the group did not believe this would.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Case Management- Wic Co HD</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently working on completing all grants for FY25.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Addiction Wellness Centers</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no updates at this time.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Wicomico County Public Schools</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May is Children's Mental Health Awareness month. There are a lot of activities being held at the different schools. The Children's Mental Health Event will be held at the Salisbury City Park on 5/10/24. Free food, games and vendors will be present.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Maryland's Office of Overdose Response</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MOOR Office is aware of the Sussex County drug alert. They linked the Delaware Dept of Health to Frederick County since their RAD program has seen a similar composition of illicit substances in</li> </ul>	

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their sample. She also noted that Bromazepam, which is a benzodiazepine, was present. Fentanyl is still likely present in this supply so use of Naloxone is still important. Crissy asked if their office will be putting out any type of PR or alert. Avery mentioned that she would let us know if they did.

- MOOR is still working through the FY25 competitive grant proposals. They hope the determinations will be made by the end of May.
- The ORF Advisory Council has begun meeting again. The next meeting will be held on 5/30/24. The Secretary of Health will be in attendance at this meeting. You can find more information regarding this meeting on the [StopOverdose.maryland.gov](https://StopOverdose.maryland.gov) website.

### ***Wicomico County Sheriff's Office***

- Jamie Greve stated that she has seen both X-Ray and Demon labeled baggies of drugs. Worcester County tested this and it came back as 90% Xylazine and 10% Fentanyl. She mentioned that pushing out information for the Harm Reduction Center would be helpful. She mentioned that another drug labeled "homerun" had a similar composition.
- At this time, year to date she shared Wicomico is at 33 total overdoses and 13 of those overdoses have been fatal. Out of these deaths, 9 have been fentanyl related.
- There were 5 total overdoses in April with 2 fatal. This is a decrease in previous months..
- This overdose data includes all law enforcement related responses. This does not include overdoses where law enforcement was not present or did not respond.

### ***MAT Clinics***

- They have hired additional team members to offer SUD treatment. They also have hired a peer who will offer peer recovery services.
- They have received a shipment of Klaxxado which is an 8mg opioid overdose reversal medication. They will be transitioning to using this medication in place of Narcan.

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	<p><b><i>Wicomico Health Dept- Prevention &amp; OMPP</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no updates at this time.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Wor-Wic Community College</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penny is getting ready to plan events for the next Academic year.</li> <li>They will be hosting the Shatter the Stigma Walk on 9/28/24.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Salisbury University- Community Opioid Program</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At this time they are working on applying for grant funds to be able to continue the program. They have completed 4 cohorts at this time.</li> </ul>	
<b>OIT Related Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tri-County Kick-Off for Go Purple will be held on 8/31/24 at the Shorebirds Stadium which is Overdose Awareness Day. We are working on an overdose awareness/memorial video filming project where and the video will be played prior to fireworks at the game. Tony Weeg will be filming this video. We are putting out a call to individuals who have lost a loved one to Overdose who may want to be filmed. This will take place on 6/12/24 at his studio downtown. Crissy will send out a booking option for individuals who may want to participate. The SOBS program will be onsite that day offering support. Worcester Goes Purple will be providing refreshments.</li> <li>The Wicomico Goes Purple website has been updated and looks great. The new rack card is also complete and has been ordered.</li> <li>Stephen Hill, a speaker in recovery, came to Wi-Middle and Wi-Hi as well as Wor-Wic Community College. This was a well received and great presentation. The message was prevention focused.</li> <li>The OPT will be working on getting a van wrapped to advertise the Go Purple messaging and to be used at events. This will be easier to transport than the former OIT trailer. Gardner Signs will be completing this project.</li> </ul>	
<b>Additional Comments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are currently two large banner ads being displayed at the Salisbury Mall. One is for Narcan and one is for the COAT team.</li> <li>Jessica Sexauer shared that the Health Department has received an alert from Sussex County regarding the drug supply and increased overdoses. These bags could indicate “demon or X-ray.” This drug has high levels of Xylazine which is not responsive to Narcan. The Harm Reduction Center is available to the community and is able to test drugs through the Rapid Analysis of Drugs program.</li> <li>The Refresh, Renew, Relax Conference for people in recovery will be held on 5/17/24 at the Civic Center. Registration is full at this time.</li> </ul>	



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<b>NEXT MEETING</b>	<b>June 6, 2024 - 9:30-11:00 am- Hybrid</b> <b>801 North Salisbury Blvd. Suite 202 Salisbury MD 21804 or virtual via Google Meets link:</b> <a href="https://meet.google.com/bga-vuca-jut">meet.google.com/bga-vuca-jut</a>
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