

Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) Meeting Minutes

Alliance Meeting Name:	<i>Overdose Prevention Team Operations Section-Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement Branches</i>	Meeting Location:	<i>Hybrid- Wicomico County Health Dept and Google Meets</i>
Meeting Date:	<i>December 5, 2024</i>	Minutes Recorder:	<i>Jessica Sexauer/Juleanna Willis</i>
Meeting Time:	<i>9:30-11:00 am</i>	Minutes Reviewer:	<i>Michelle Hardy</i>
Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:	<p>Staff: <i>Jessica Sexauer (WiCHD)</i></p> <p>PREVENTION and EDUCATION <i>Jessica Taylor (WiCHD- LBHA)</i> <i>Takeisha Collins (WiCHD-Prevention & Com.)</i> <i>Jason Sammons (Wicomico DSS)</i> <i>Penny Walters (Wor-Wic Comm College)</i> <i>Danielle Thomas (WiCHD-Youth Edu./LBHA)</i> <i>Courtney Aley (Wicomico DSS)</i></p> <p>TREATMENT and RECOVERY <i>Lore' Chamber(St. James Zion House)</i> <i>Joel Beiler (Coastal Hospice)</i></p> <p>ENFORCEMENT and PUBLIC SAFETY <i>Christopher Truitt (SBY Fire Dept. EMS)</i> <i>Jamie Greve (Wicomico Sheriff's Department)</i></p> <p>GUESTS <i>Avery Meyer (Maryland Office of Overdose Response)</i></p> <p><i>Jovan Twilley (Salisbury University)</i> <i>Michelle Hardy (WiCHD-LBHA)</i> <i>Meredith Miller (Wicomico Public Schools)</i> <i>Jessica Lewis (LMB)</i> <i>Cindy Shifler (WiCHD)</i> <i>Stephanie King (LMB)</i></p> <p><i>Katherine Jones (Bay Area CIL)</i> <i>Lisa Campbell (Recovery Resource)</i></p>		

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TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica Sexauer welcomed attendees and everyone introduced themselves. ● Julie Willis approved November meeting minutes and Jason Sammons seconded. Meeting minutes were then unanimously approved. 	
Overdose Prevention Coordinator Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Michelle Hardy introduced the new OPT Coordinator, Juleanna Willis. She will be in the position full time by January 2025. 	
<i>Status Update on Current RPF</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The RFP for the harm reduction vending machine closes on Dec 17th. ● The vending machines will not ask for any demographic information. ● Vending locations will be Tidal Health Crisis Center, Wicomico Public Library, Wor-Wic Community College, Deers Head, Healthport, and Lower Shore Friends. ● A pre-proposal meeting was scheduled on November 19th. ● The review committee will review proposals and Jessica S. will work on contacting those people that are going to be scoring the RFPS. 	
<i>Opioid Restitution Fund Community Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica reminded the group there are local funds available for proposals to be submitted utilizing direct Opioid Restitution Fund allocations. Anyone with ideas or interest should contact Matthew McConaughy. 	
<i>Residential service Needs Assessment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica Sexauer reported Wicomico County LBHA has secured funding to complete a needs assessment for SUD residential services to support pregnant women, and women with children. The health department will be working with BEACON on this project. The project will need to be reviewed by SU's IRB and MDH's IRB. The 	

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	<p>project proposals have been submitted to both IRBs and we are waiting for approval to move forward.</p>	
<p><i>Presentation on Community Reinvestment & Repair Fund</i> <i>Stephanie King (LMB)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On May 2nd the governor signed the Cannabis Reform Act into law and then the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund was established to provide financial support to community based organizations to serve the communities that were disproportionately affected by arrests for cannabis. Two organizations were awarded funds, RRC and the Child & Family Center. The RRC will do peer support resources and CFC will do early childhood ACES. The board will vote on 6 new proposals next Thursday. 	
<p><i>Professional Development Training Needs</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie is researching and looking for feedback on topics that are relevant to current issues and concerns. Some topics include ethics training, motivational interviewing, implicit bias, MAT education, marijuana legalization, etc. Please email any ideas or topics to juleanna.willis@maryland.gov. 	
<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p><i>Wicomico Health Dept. (LBHA Special Programs)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jessica T and Danielle are planning a Mental Health (Adult) First Aid Training for Jan. 31, 2025 and are looking for a venue. The Overdose Fatality Review Team has formed a subcommittee and is in need of a governing committee to help promote effective change. A state of the OFR address will be held on Jan. 28, 2025 which will be hosted by Tidal Health. They are seeking to secure a keynote speaker from the sheriff's department to discuss the implementation of the task force. A color run is being planned for the spring, April 26th, for mental health and suicide awareness prevention. Dr. Fingerhood has been requested as a speaker for the learning collaborative which will be held in the spring. 	

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Wor-Wic Community College

- Penny reported planning activities for next semester. Trying to secure funding to bring Tony Hoffman to the area. She will not know until January if funding will be secured to bring him to the area, but he is interested in coming. If anyone would like to partner to extend his visit to other venue's please let Penny know.
- Penny also expressed interest in bringing back "lunch and learn" training events in the spring.
- A request has been put in to host a mental health (adult) first aid training.

Wicomico County Sheriff's Office

- Jamie reported that a new task force between the Sheriff's Office and SPD has been formed called the Joint Community Action Team (JCAT) which they hope will create a more cohesive presence to go after dealers in the area and not have to worry about jurisdictions.
- Jamie will speak with Tony Glenn to help put Jessica T in contact with someone for the state of the OFR.
- Statistics for November were: 62 overdoses, which is down 25% from 2023. 39 non-fatal and 23 fatal (a 5% increase from 2023).
- No overdoses currently for December.

Wicomico DSS-In Home

- There were 10 newborn assessments completed in November. Two were prescribed methadone and the others were smoking exposures.
- So far for December there have been 3 marijuana cases.

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

- The Opioid Restitution Fund Advisory Council has published their recommendations this year & have sent those to the governor.
- The state discretionary award letters were sent out Nov. 26th and 28 projects were selected for a totaling funding amount of 14 million.

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- There is a new benefit screening tool available on the MD Think platform that helps screen people to see if they are eligible for services such as SNAP, TCA, WIC, medical assistance, etc.
- Another dashboard has also been created specifically to address cannabis trends. <https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/Pages/mdh-dashboards.aspx#drugs-nonfatal-overdoses>

Salisbury University

- The new CHOW cohort will be finishing in February and will start again in October 2025. If anyone who is a community health worker (mental health, substance abuse, etc) and is interested in receiving state certification please reach out.

Coastal Hospice

- There are support groups being offered for grief counseling. The next group will meet on Dec. 11th. Please visit Coastalhospice.org for more details.
- They now have two full time grief counselors, Nicole Long and Rachel Gully.
- A kids grief group camp will be held in June 2025.

Wicomico Health Dept.- OMPP

- Current plans are being made for the Go Red event which will take place in Somerset County
- An anti-stigma workshop has been suggested.
- Provided naloxone training at the library where 7 people were trained.
- Takiesha is seeking to connect with coastal hospice to provide education on medication sharing and safe storage.
- Possibly partnership with DJS and schools to provide substance misuse education to students.
- Takiesha is also reaching out to local hotel chains for Naloxone training opportunities.

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	<p><i>Wicomico Health Dept-ATOD Prevention</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DART program has seen an increase in attendance. 29 students attended their last meeting. The group meets monthly and will discuss a variety of topics including sex, mental health, suicide, etc. Transportation is provided and a snack. • There may be a chance to attend a youth coalition training in July in Tennessee. <p><i>Bay Area CIL</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through partnering with Baltimore City Dept. of Aging, there are opportunities to provide free durable medical equipment, ex. wheelchairs, for those in the community. The only request is for the recipient to sign a waiver of liability. Please contact 443-260-0822 if there are any questions. 	
Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no meeting in Jan. 2025. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year! 	
NEXT MEETING	February 6, 2024	