

Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) Meeting Minutes

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica Sexauer welcomed attendees and everyone introduced themselves. ● Penny Walters approved August meeting minutes and Matthew McConaguhey seconded. Meeting minutes were then unanimously approved. 	
Overdose Prevention Coordinator Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crissy Bowie-Simpson has returned in a part time capacity until the end of October to help carry out Go Purple activities and reports. ● Interviews will be completed this week. Received a lot of applications. Nine candidates were selected for an interview. Depending on the state hiring process may be the end of the year before a person is hired. 	
<i>Opioid Restitution Fund Community Grant</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Non-Litigating Municipality RFP received no community applications. RFP has closed. ● If any are interested please reach out to Hope Balam, or Matthew McConaguhey. ● Working on a RFP to establish Naloxone vending machines in the community. Working on a plan to assist the community schools to establish a life skills curriculum. We are always interested in partnerships. ● We can still work together to find something to benefit the community. 	
<i>Visit with Special Secretary Emily Keller</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica and Crissy met with the Special Secretary Keller this past Friday at Wor Wic Community to highlight their Criminal Justice Academy, Crisis Intervention Team Training and Chemical Dependency Program. Highlighted our Go-Purple Activities Partnership and plans to establish a Naloxone vending machine on campus. We also met with Lower Shore Friends and the Executive Director to highlight the services they are doing related to mental health and substance use prevention and recovery. Lower Shore 	

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	<p>Friends is also going to be a location for a Naloxone vending machine. The visit went very well.</p>	
<p>Recap on Go-Purple Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tri-County Goes Purple Kick-Off event was held on 8/31/24 at the Shorebirds Stadium. The team wore their Go-Purple jerseys. Lots of resources were made available, Played a shortened version of the Overdose Awareness Video prior to the fireworks. Final attendance numbers are pending. ● Shatter the Stigma Walk was held on 9/28/24 at Wor-Wic Community College. Approximately 150 attendees. Crissy is still counting the waivers. Great speakers were great. Successful event. ● Several Go- Purple Activities throughout the county. Partners sent pictures in or posted on social media. Saw a lot of Go-Purple signs around the town and county. Some celebrated Purple Fridays. ● Toiletry drive for recovery has wrapped up. This was in partnership with Worcester Goes Purple. We had 6 various locations and plan to collect the donations this month and distribute them to local organizations and nonprofits. ● Next Year's Go-Purple Kick -Off is pending ● Overdose Awareness Day was held on August 22 at Winterplace Park. Approximately 270 attended. Was a remembrance event. We did Naloxone Training, had a visit from Journey the Pony. Had bereavement and crisis support there. It was a good event. 	
<p>Public Comment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No public comments. 	
<p>Agency Updates</p>	<p>Local Behavioral Health Authority- WiCHD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Harm reduction machine is now up and going at Salisbury University. This was the university's machine and we are just supplying the Naloxone. They have other supplies in the machine for students. ● Out of Darkness Walk on October 12 at Winterplace Park. It is an evening glow event. Goal is to raise \$20,000. Funds can be used for 	

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local initiatives as approved by AFSP. \$8,400 has been raised so far. Anyone can participate after signing a waiver. It is free to all and fundraising is not a requirement. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention is the sponsor of the walk. Funding is held by them and not the health department. Taking submissions for a memorial wall. Will end with a candle memorial.

- Naloxone training for social experience- we have exceeded our performance measure for this goal. We have additional trainers that speak other languages in order to train individuals that speak Spanish, Haitian Creole and French.
- Mountain Manor in Baltimore is now open for inpatient care for 13-21 year old males. Hope to open to females in the near future. This is helping to fill a gap. Accepts Medicaid.
- Tri- County Lower Shore “Operation Greenlight” November 4-11 to light our homes and businesses green to show support for veterans. We also developed a Tri- County Resource Guide for Veterans. Hoping the county and city will do a Proclamation.

HealthPort

- Accepting Children and Adolescents. Implementing two (2) Evidence Based Practices for youth. One is PCIT (Parent Child Interaction Therapy) Targeting 5-10 year olds. Beginning to advertise with the school system.
- Same day appointments for youth and adult intakes and within 1 week for medication management
- Lots of availability in their crisis beds currently for short term mental health crisis.
- Mobile Treatment Team in Worcester County had a good ACT Fidelity Review.

St. James AME Zion

- Was a partner drop off location for the toiletry drive.
- Is a partner in the Lower Shore Veterans Support Workgroup. Promoting Operation Green Light November 4-1.1

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- Healthcare Navigator is George Wilson and he will start attending these meetings going forward.
- Difficult to locate housing and maintain housing for veterans due to the high housing costs especially when there are veterans with a substance abuse history.

Affiliated Sante Group

- no updates given

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response _NEED TO UPDATE

- MDH is reviewing the ORF applications that were submitted. No updates.
- ORF advisory council met and working on recommendations on how to spend the state ORF discretionary funds.

COVE Recovery

- Continuing to offer family programs to connect family members. Trying to engage more people in family sessions.
- Held a Go-Purple Event for past and present clients and families. Nearly 100 attended. Very impactful event.

Wicomico Health Dept-Case Management

- The Harm Reduction Center now has safer smoking and safer snoring kits. Hoping to reach a new demographic. Seeing an increase in Fentanyl in Crack Cocaine. We have already given out a fair amount of supplies. Individuals seem very appreciative of this new resource. It is also starting new conversations and connections with individuals who are actively using and to help keep them safe.
- Have recently been testing drugs that only had heroin in them. Users prefer to use fentanyl and not plain heroin.
- Recently provided 17 Naloxone kits to one location within 2 days where crack/cocaine was being used.
- Received funding notification for SOR IV for the Safe Station program.

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Hudson Behavioral Health

- We are fairly full, but usually have inpatient beds available. Planning for 24 hour admissions is still in the works. Transportation is available. The 3.1 Residential Programs stay full with ongoing waitlists. Have started taking some after hour admissions.
- Overall very busy.

Adult Drug Court

- 4 Graduating from Drug Court tomorrow.
- They currently have 31 active participants in the program with 3 admission pending.
- Pending the mentor court application. Submitted application in March. Went through the first review process. We had a site visit on August 23rd. A determination will be made by November 15. They were very pleased with our court. Impressed with our law enforcement team involvement and our team as a whole and the services that are provided.
- Will be doing a presentation at the Statewide Drug Court Symposium. November 20-21. Focus will be on our partnership with law enforcement.

Wor-Wic Community College

- Interest in some opioid funding for Wor Wic. Want to continue partnerships.
- Mind, Body and Soul Health Fair on October 9. Naloxone training and recovery resources will be provided. Will also plan something similar for the spring.
- September was a busy month.
- Hosted the Shatter the Stigma Walk on 9/28/24. Approximately 150 attended, in addition to volunteers, guest speakers.
- Did Go-Purple Friday with great support from the campus and participants. Social media posts were very active. The school is a very active partner with Go-Purple.

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	<p><i>Salisbury Fire Department</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Getting ready to roll out Bup Induction. It will occur Monday-Friday. Waiting on the vehicle to get wired. Still figuring out nights and on call. ● Had 10 overdose interactions. No Naloxone kits were left behind and are following up to find out why. ● Have had individuals come by to get Naloxone kits. <p><i>Salisbury University- Community Opioid Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They received their grant funding to continue their community health outreach worker program. Will be funded for another 4 years. The informational session is tonight. We did have a waiting list for community health workers with a focus on behavioral health. <p><i>Department of Social Services</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Substance Abuse Exposed Newborns July 11 (2 cocaine, 9 cannabis); August 11 (1 cocaine, 10 cannabis); September 10 (all cannabis). ● In partnership with Tri County DSS, UMBC, Healthy Start, and Birth to 5. Hosting a collaborative for working with substance abused newborns, families and how we all can work together. October 30 at the Marriott Salisbury. 	
<p>Additional Comments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The LBHA secured some funding to conduct a needs assessment for substance abuse residential services for pregnant women /women with children for the Tri County area. Letter of interest went out. We must have the needs assessment completed by June 30 due to the funding. Conducted targeted outreach to organizations able to complete the needs assessment and we may have a potential vendor. 	
<p>NEXT MEETING</p>	<p>November 7, 2024</p>	