



Kent County Opioid Task Force Meeting
Thursday, September 12, 2019
12:00 – 1:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Present: Daryl Smith, Amanda Smith, NuPoint Services; Rachel Jantz, Susan Schmidt, Joann Hoganson, Nirali Bora, Kent County Health Department; Eva Kool, Kate McMurphy, Gabby Axtell, Jacob Moosekian, Kent County Health Department Interns; Ken Fawcett, Kristl Smith, Lisa Penny, Spectrum Health; Steve Bukala, Lowell Police Department; Greg Deacon, Cherry Health; Carolyn Sutherby, Becca Newman, Wayne State University Center for Behavioral Health and Justice; Kathy Carruthers, Lisa Zwerk, Pine Rest; Ben Cammenga, Kent County Sheriff's Department; Jen Rosebery, Nicole Creviere, MDHHS; Seth Velderman, Guiding Light; Meridell Gracias, Grand Valley State University Kirkhof College of Nursing; Cindy Borkowski, Alkermes; Amber Hubbell, Kent Intermediate School District; Megan Rocha-Adams, Steve Alsum, Grand Rapids Red Project; Vicki Makley, Priority Health; Ross Buitendorp, Network180; Robin Curtis, SpartanNash; Bolu Olayemi, Keila Pieters, Calvin University Center for Social Research; Susan DeVuyst-Miller, Ferris State University College of Pharmacy

Subcommittee Updates:

Prevention (Robin Curtis)

The Prevention subcommittee continues to work through A3 project. They have identified the group's business case as: "Residents of Kent County are not adequately educated on the dangers associated with opioids at all ages as evidenced by the 300% increase in opioid-related overdose deaths over the last 10 years in Kent County." The group has developed five aims and are looking for any contributions/influences that the larger group may be able to offer towards these aims.

1. Have all emergency departments with a standard protocol for fentanyl screening in routine clinical toxicology testing in Kent County.
2. Increase the number of middle school and high school students who receive life skills curriculum in schools by 20%.
3. We will increase the number of Kent County student athletes who view the "Danger Of The Game" (<https://youtu.be/S8HP7cyxLkY>).
4. Prevention resources will be compiled and posted on the Kent County Opioid Task Force website.
5. Fifteen sites will have an opioid-related awareness video displayed on their primary website.

Intervention (Steve Alsum)

This group has identified their business case as: "We are not able to save lives due to lack of resources in the moment of overdose due to lack of education, stigma, and providers not believing this is within their scope of practice." The group has identified three areas of focus:

1. Decrease stigma and increase awareness around OUD and SUD by sharing experiences and stories.
2. Create a fatality review board that will identify trends of overdose deaths in Kent County to better understand opportunities for intervention.
3. Identify current process in Kent County for SUD and OUD screening, co-prescribing naloxone and referral process to appropriate services when SUD or OUD.

Treatment & Recovery (Chris Becker)

This group has identified their business case as: “The services and resources available for treatment and recovery do not meet the needs of our communities.” Multiple PDSA cycles have been developed:

1. Using the MI Recovery tool (mirecovery.info), isolate opioid treatment providers and send them a short survey around barriers to access and retention.
 - This project is underway.
2. Improve utilization of Project ASSERT at Spectrum Health by 200%.
 - The number of individuals connected with a recovery coach increased from 6 to 30.
3. Expand medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to any individual in KCCF with an OUD to 100% of individuals with a pre-existing MAT prescription.
 - Anyone coming into KCCF with a pre-existing prescription can continue MAT (fully covered for suboxone, 95% covered for methadone).

Kent County Data Report (Rachel Jantz)

According to the most recent medical examiner data, there have been 43 total drug overdose deaths in Kent County in 2019 so far, 34 of those including opioids (79%). The average age of Kent County residents who have died from an opioid overdose is 38 years. The most common opioid involved in opioid overdose deaths is heroin (65%) and fentanyl (59%). The most recent monthly surveillance report can be found online at: <https://www.accesskent.com/Health/KCOTF.htm>.

Community Partner Highlight: Grand Rapids Red Project (Steve Alsum)

Steve Alsum, Executive Director of The Grand Rapids Red Project and co-lead of the KCOTF Intervention subcommittee, presented on the work of the Red Project. The Red Project (<https://redproject.org/>) provides comprehensive programming along the continuum of care at any stage of change, including:

- Overdose Prevention and Response
- Rapid HIV/Hepatitis C Testing
- Risk Reduction Counseling
- Syringe Access/Mobile Health Unit
- HIV Linkage to Care & Case Management
- Tobacco Reduction
- PEP and PrEP Access
- Recovery Coaching/Access to Treatment
- Support Groups

In 1998, 25% of all HIV/AIDS cases were related to injection drug use; subsequently, the Mayor’s Task Force recommends establishment of a syringe access program. In August 2000, a City Commission resolution allows Red Project to offer syringe access from one location in downtown Grand Rapids. In September 2011, a further resolution allows syringe access expansion to entire city. Currently, 8% of current HIV/AIDS cases in Kent County are related to injection drug use, a significant decrease from 1998. As of April 2019, Red Project has trained 9,000+ individuals, which has led to 1,000+ reported reversals.

Round Table

KISD EVENT

The Kent Intermediate School District is hosting an opioid educational day for educators and community members on Friday, October 11. The morning session (8:00am-12:30pm) will focus on the opioid epidemic

<https://www.accesskent.com/Health/KCOTF.htm>

more broadly, and the afternoon will focus on the newly updated Michigan Model for Health comprehensive curriculum. Registration is free and available online at:

https://reg.abcsignup.com/reg/event_page.aspx?ek=0001-0020-91cad92fe524bb3af764484abfcff7.

RECOVERY PALOOZA

September is National Recovery Month and each year, Recovery Allies hosts RECOVERY PALOOZA! Recovery Palooza is a fun, free event for community members of all ages to celebrate recovery, support our community, and learn about substance use and recovery resources. Recovery Palooza will take place on September 28 from 11am-3pm at the Ray & Joan Kroc Center. More information is available on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Recoveryallies.us/>.

GOOGLE FORMS

Two Google forms are available for KCOTF members to track:

- **Grant opportunities** (<https://forms.gle/2HDKKpcMjECMM5Zb9>)
- **Policy/advocacy opportunities** (<https://forms.gle/HFTwUE1P6CmNAwd6A>)

If you come across a relevant opportunity for the KCOTF, please record them in these forms!

ROCKFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS EVENT

Rockford Public Schools is hosting an opioid awareness presentation, “Developing Healthy Kids – Opioids and Pain Killers,” on October 9 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., in the Auditorium at Rockford High School, 4100 Kroes, Rockford, MI. The event is free and open to all. Sponsors include: The Rockford Education Foundation; Families Against Narcotics; HOPE Helping Others through Prevention & Education. More information is available on Rockford Public Schools’ website: <http://www.rockfordschools.org/school-services/developing-healthy-kids>.

MIRECOVERY.INFO

KCOTF members are encouraged to use and promote MIRecovery.info as a resource guide for community. While funding expires at the end of the month, additional funding is expected to come through that will allow for quality assurance, focus groups, and a specific focus on pregnant women. Members are also encouraged to share comments and concerns about the website using the “Leave Feedback” button located in the bottom left-hand corner of the page.

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY KIRKHOF COLLEGE OF NURSING

GVSU nursing students are doing a project on vaping. If you have information on vaping that would be helpful to share with the nursing students, please contact Professor Meridell Gracias at gracmeri@gvsu.edu.

Next Meeting – Subcommittees

Thursday, October 10, 2019

Kent County Health Department, Lake Huron Conference Room

Prevention: 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Intervention: 12:45 – 1:45 PM

Treatment & Recovery: 2:00 – 3:00 PM