



**Kent County Opioid Task Force Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022**  
**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

- **Prevention Updates**
  - Amber Hubbell, Regional Health Coordinator at Kent ISD, has started as the new co-chair of the Prevention subcommittee
  - If you are interested in co-chairing the Prevention subcommittee, reach out to Rachel and Ken
  - Meeting times for 2022 will be the third Thursday of the month from 11am-12pm
- **Intervention Updates – Dr. Jayne Courts**
  - Intervention subcommittee is moving some 2021 initiatives into 2022
  - Enhanced naloxone distribution
    - I Can Narcan support
    - Naloxone vending machine now available at Grand Rapids Red Project
    - If interested in procuring Narcan kits through I Can Narcan, reach out to Catherine Kelly, Recovery Coach at Grand Rapids Red Project, at [catherine@redproject.org](mailto:catherine@redproject.org)
  - Messaging Campaign
    - Hoping to formulate PSAs with a destigmatizing and informational/educational focus with videos, social media, newsletters, etc.
  - Overdose Fatality Review
    - Hoping to have the first meeting in May 2022, with orientation in April
    - Currently working through administrative tasks (signing DUAs, etc.)
  - COSSAP Grant
    - Kent County was successfully selected for the COSSAP grant; more information to come regarding grant initiatives
  - Meeting times for 2022 will be the third Thursday of the month from 12-1pm
- **Treatment & Recovery Updates – Ross Buitendorp**
  - Ross Buitendorp, Director of Network Services at Network180, has started as the new co-chair of the Treatment & Recovery subcommittee
  - Meeting times for 2022 will be the third Friday of the month from 12-1pm
  - Focusing on reducing barriers to physicians prescribing medications for opioid use disorder
  - Goal to collaborate with successful local programs to identify what is working and facilitate peer-to-peer targeted education
  - Recommendation: think about patient barriers such as transportation to appointments, co-pay ability, etc.

- Center for Integrative Medicine has a walk-in ED bridge clinic that is open to anyone, Mondays-Fridays
- **Families Against Narcotics – Chris Becker**
  - FAN continues to meet the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the North Alano Club (1020 College Ave NE), with a virtual option available
  - FAN is seeking additional community participation, especially families
  - The March 1<sup>st</sup> forum featured Sgt Joe Abram and Undersheriff Chuck Dewitt presenting on current trends regarding drugs and SUD in Kent County
- **Leadership A3 – Dr. Ken Fawcett**
  - Focus on ensuring coordinated efforts within the community to mitigate opioid epidemic, through environmental scan, sharing best practices, and clear communication
  - Goal to embed an equity lens within KCOTF strategic plans and ensure proper representation on the KCOTF
- **Data Report – Rachel Jantz**
  - As of the last data download from the Kent County Medical Examiner on March 3, there are 5 pending drug overdose deaths for 2021
  - Data from 2020-2021 show that:
    - 81% of drug overdose deaths include opioids
    - 89% of opioid overdose deaths include fentanyl
    - 68% of all cocaine overdoses include fentanyl
    - The average age of an opioid overdose decedent is 42.2 years
  - The last few years have not seen a significant change in the number of opioid overdose deaths in Kent County (2019 – 83; 2020 – 84; 2021 – 82 [provisional])
  - Data highlighting fentanyl have been valuable in clinical settings when having conversations with patients who use drugs
    - If interested in learning more about fentanyl test strips and how to procure them, reach out to Catherine Kelly, Recovery Coach at Grand Rapids Red Project, at [catherine@redproject.org](mailto:catherine@redproject.org)
- **Round Table**
  - Opioid settlement
    - [Press release: https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-92297\\_47203-578355--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-92297_47203-578355--,00.html)
    - [Attorney General website: https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-82917\\_103916---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/ag/0,4534,7-359-82917_103916---,00.html)
    - Kent County will be receiving funds, and we will provide more details when they are available (e.g., how much money, to whom, how distributed, etc.)
  - Marijuana messaging campaign – Sharon Schmidt, Kent County Health Department
    - The Kent County Health Department is working to implement a messaging campaign to increase awareness that driving while under the influence of marijuana is dangerous (and illegal). Before the ads go live, we’d like to get input from various audiences and are looking for people who might be willing to participate in a 45 to 60-minute virtual (via Zoom) focus group. We’re asking you to share this opportunity with your staff, friends, and community contacts. Participants should be 21 years or older (legally able to use marijuana). Anyone

interested in participating should email [Sharon.Schmidt@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Sharon.Schmidt@kentcountymi.gov) and include their name, email address and what time works best

- Focus groups: Wednesday, March 16th, 1:00 – 2:00 PM OR 6:00 – 7:00 PM
- DEA Drug Take Back Event, Saturday April 30, 2022, 10am-2pm
  - Three locations in Grand Rapids area: Spectrum Health Healthier Communities (665 Seward Ave NW), Spectrum Health Medical Group South Pavilion (80 68<sup>th</sup> St SE), Priority Health (1231 E Beltline Ave NE)
  - If interested in volunteering, email [rachel.jantz@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:rachel.jantz@kentcountymi.gov) or Kristl Smith at [kristl.smith@spectrumhealth.org](mailto:kristl.smith@spectrumhealth.org)
- Articles of Interest
  - [The White House Fact Sheet](#): Addressing Addiction and the Overdose Epidemic, March 1, 2022
    - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/03/01/fact-sheet-addressing-addiction-and-the-overdose-epidemic/>
  - [Key Recommendations](#) from the Stanford-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioid Crisis
    - <https://opioids.stanford.edu/commission-recommendations>
  - [Estimating naloxone need](#) in the USA across fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioid epidemics: a modeling study. *Lancet Public Health*. 10 Feb 2022.
    - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(21\)00304-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(21)00304-2/fulltext)
  - [Supporting people](#) responding to overdoses. *Lancet Public Health*. 10 Feb 2022.
    - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(22\)00011-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(22)00011-1/fulltext)

**Upcoming Meetings**

Prevention Subcommittee	Thursday, March 17, 11AM-12PM
Intervention Subcommittee	Thursday, March 17, 12-1PM
Treatment & Recovery Subcommittee	Friday, March 18, 12-1PM
Full Task Force	Thursday, May 12, 12:00-1:30PM