

Discussion on Combating Opioids Crisis in Linn County

MINUTES

Monday, March 19, 2018 at 1:00 PM
Public Health Conference Room
501 13th Street NW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Dwivedi welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested they sign-in.

Present:

Erin Foster, Lisa Neuendorf, Jacquie Fitzgerald, Dale Todd, Curtis Hopper, Jennifer Donovan, Sgt. Al Fear, Laura Faircloth, Jenna Albert, Jamie Henley, Rod Courtney, Mallory Hughes, Alex Flesher, Jim Houser, Ashley Balus, Pramod Dwivedi, Kaitlin Emrich, Chief Joseph McHale, Alisha Weber, Kevin McCauley, Gregory Batenhorst, Jenny Seyfer, Ted Townsend, Lori Weih, Dustin Arnold, Andrea Weber

Comments/updates from community organizations/agencies

Mr. Dwivedi explained the intention of this meeting, which is to focus on developing, forming, or creating a Steering Committee. This will enable a better focus on opioid related issues in the community. The Steering Committee will have a focused plan with a sector approach representation in the community. First the Steering Committee will be formed and then followed by the subcommittees. The subcommittee types are not set in stone and subject to change, they are just a starting point.

Recapping the last meeting and overarching goals discussed:

- Prevent opioid abuse and addiction in the community
- Reduce the number of deaths associated with opioids
- Expand actions and decrease wait for treatment
- Improve the safety of the community

Also, touched on during the last meeting: prescription medication drug abuse, national \$23 billion healthcare costs, Hep C infection on the rise, neonatal abstinence syndrome on the rise, and social services (ex: children services) impact has increased, first responders availability of Naloxone, and legislatively Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) and the Needle Exchange Program.

Committee provided updates:

- Chief McHale w/Marion PD – Bringing together community law enforcement to look at the local data. To help identify the most at risk population and provide education.
- Erin Foster w/ASAC - Expanding Naloxone access and providing training.
- Jim Houser w/BOS – Iowa Legislature has taken the Needle Exchange part out of the program. He is not sure if they will deal with the Prescription Monitoring Program before the end of the year. Some of the committee members provided their perspective and information on the Legislative Bills.
- Mr. Todd w/City of Cedar Rapids – There needs to be thoughtful discussion on legislation locally and etc.
- Sgt. Fear w/Cedar Rapids PD – There is a need to education to the elected officials to understand the implications of this epidemic.
- Alex Flesher w/Iowa Harms Reduction – Provided data on what they are doing for intervention.
- It should be noted others shared what they have been doing, but could not hear them on the tape recorder.

Ms. Emrich explained the process she will be using to develop the steering committee.

Formation of steering committee:

- Representation
- Structure
- Responsibilities

Type of subcommittees:

- Prevention and Community Education
- Healthcare and Risk Reduction
- Treatment and Supports
- First Responders and Law Enforcement

The Next Steps:

- Linn County Public Health staff will go through and pull out the organizations/individuals that were identified as representatives for the Steering Committee and invite them to participate moving forward
- Once the Steering Committee is formed, they will make the determination of subcommittees
- Discussed the implementation of a marketing plan right away and encourage media to join the committee
- Discussed the frequency of the meeting and initially should meet monthly. Then review the frequency once the action plan is formed.

Adjourn