

Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce (accepted)

January 27, 2023

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, January 27, 2023

Dr. Wilson called the meeting to order at 8:32AM and noted that 2023 marks the sixth year that the HOPE Taskforce has been meeting and 16 grants have been awarded to community partners since the inception.

Dr. Wilson and Director Ayala will be meeting with the new County Board Chairwoman Deb Conroy next week.

Director Ayala noted the visual aids placed in the room as examples of what will be used for paid digital media ads /social media posts beginning February 1 and can also be converted into posters for distribution and are available upon request. The ads focus on fentanyl, substance use disorders and individuals in recovery.

Task Force Member Name	Title	Attended
Bob Berlin (Mr. Murray)	DuPage Co. State's Attorney	X
Dr. Richard Jorgensen	DuPage Co. Coroner	X
Dr. Darlene Ruscitti	DuPage Co. Regional Office of Education	
Sheriff Mendrick (Mr. Drugan)	DuPage Co. Sheriff	
Jeff York	DuPage Co. Public Defender	X
Dr. Lanny Wilson	Vice-President, DuPage County Board of Health	X
Karen Ayala	Executive Director, DuPage Co. Health Dept.	X
Bernadine McFarland	Program Manager, DuPage Co. Probation Dept.	X
Greg Vesta	DuPage Police Chief's Association	X
Keith Krestan	DuPage Fire Chief's Association	X
Rich Veenstra	DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference	X
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director	X
Lisa Schvach	Community Development	
Brad Gerke	Community Member	X
Deb Lewin	Path to Recovery	X
Laura Crawford	President, Chamber630	
Andrew Anselm	Illinois State Police	X
Chief Judge Kenneth Popejoy	Chief Judge – 18 th Judicial Circuit	X
Greg Schwarze	DuPage County Board	X
Karyn Charvat	PowerForward DuPage	X
Megan Corrigan	Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital	X
Dr. Michael Nelson	Cook County Health	X

Health Department and DuPage County Staff: Dennis Brennan, Alex Pulaski, Scott Kaufmann

Penny Chanez, Christopher Hoff, Mila Tsagalis, Dennis Brennan

II. Acceptance of the Minutes

Dr. Wilson asked for consensus to accept the minutes of the Sept. 22, 2022 meeting as presented. The minutes will be filed as presented.

III. Public Comment

Steve Stefani, Program Manager for HOPE for Healing. Provided update on the grant they received in 2021. The grant sustained their mobile harm reduction unit through December 2022. Mr. Stefani also shared the need for increased education, especially of the dangers in the use of fentanyl and the need to combat the high stigma associated with offering harm reduction services.

Felicia Miceli, Serenity House – provided updates on the HOPE Taskforce grant their agency received including ongoing services including:

- Bi-weekly grief /support groups
- Recovery support group
- This past year presented to over 1000 students in several school districts sharing both personal and other stories of lived experiences of substance use disorders and addressing young people in recovery.
- Partnering with Live4Lali in advocating for a new State of Illinois law (Louie's Law) for K-12 comprehensive drug education and prevention education that is both evidence based and data driven.

IV. DuPage Foundation Funding Initiatives

Barb Szczepaniak, Vice President for Programs and Special Initiative for the DuPage Foundation shared information on the work of connecting 140 donor advisors to community organizations doing work in the County to address two of the biggest issues in DuPage County: mental health and substance use disorders.

Ms. Szczepaniak shared how the DuPage Foundation grant program works and highlighted grants given to the following organizations addressing substance use disorders.

- Gateway - \$74,000 grant to hire a full-time licensed clinical social worker to expand co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health treatment and will allow Gateway to expand their appointment capacity/treatment.

- Access Community Health Network – 2 year grant in the amount of \$300,000 that will formalize a partnership between Access Community Health Network and Live4Lali to provide community outreach to provide substance use disorder care and education, link community members to services and increase the overall capacity to deliver services in DuPage County.
- HealthCare Alternative Systems - \$350,000 grant over two years for the purpose of hiring 2 full time employees including a bi-lingual therapist to provide therapy to clients that require medication and a case manager to oversee case management and connect clients to services that address the social determinants of health, particularly affecting the Hispanic community.

V. 2022 HOPE Grant Updates

Serenity House – update was provided under public comment

516 Light Foundation - Brad Gerke

Mr. Gerke shared that the grant has assisted in providing assistance for the following:

- Sober homes and associated fees – which provide a vital turning point for individuals from relapsing after completing a treatment program by providing stipends to those in need of funds for a sober living home increasing the probability of achieving long term recovery. Candidates provide an essay, interview qualified reference.
- Increased outreach with other community partners to strategize how 516 Light Foundation can assist in providing services, including being a resource for individuals exiting other programs.
- Mr. Gerke noted that inflation and other financial challenges has been a challenge for many individuals in recovery and the foundation works to assist individuals.

VII. Opioid Settlement Status and Statewide Efforts.

DuPage County State's Attorney, Bob Berlin provided the following information on the opioid settlements and statewide efforts.

- DuPage County should receive approximately \$1.2 million from the Janssen settlement. This amount represents the accelerated Janssen 1-4 year payments as Illinois met the maximum participation threshold.
- Tentative National Settlements with 2 manufacturers, Allergan and Teva, as well as the 3 largest retail pharmacies, CVS, Walgreens, and Walmart, have been reached.
- Similar to the prior national Distributor and Janssen settlements, ratification of these proposed settlements is contingent on a critical mass of states and local governments participating.
- The Illinois AG has already signed on to this agreement.
- DuPage will be receiving participation forms for each of the new settlements next month.

- The total amount of the collective settlements is \$26-27 billion
- Illinois should receive approximately \$769 million.
- These funds will be distributed pursuant to the Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement
- The payments will be spread out over a 5-15 year period.
- Similar to the settlement with the distributors (McKesson, Cardinal and Amerisource Bergen), DuPage should receive a gross recovery of between \$10-10.5 million
- First payment should be received by December, 2023.
- Still have Meijer and Kroger pending

55% goes to the Statewide Abatement Fund (\$14.5 million)

20% is the State Share Payment (goes to Illinois) (\$5.2 million)

25% goes to the Local Government Recovery Fund (\$6.5 million)

Director Ayala was selected to serve on the Illinois Opioid Remediation Advisory Board and provided members with a handout explaining the structure and process of the board. The committee has met twice and is responsible for the distribution of 87 million dollars. The fund must be used for forward-looking opioid abatement core strategies to combat the overdose epidemic as established in the Illinois Opioid Allocation Agreement. It is recommended that DuPage County submit a proposal for these funds that would be in addition to the funds that will be coming directly to the County.

It was recommended that a subcommittee of task force members be formed to begin the proposal process. Several members expressed interest in serving. Members will be sent an invite for the opportunity to submit their interest in participating.

State's Attorney Berlin also shared under his report the need for /Family and Friends Grief Support. This item will be added to the next HOPE meeting agenda. Both Path to Recovery and Serenity House currently offer grief support for families. Deb Lewin and Felicia Miceli have already expressed interest in next steps and collaborating in expanding these services.

VI. HOPE Updates

Dr Jorgensen, Coroner Update:

- Preliminary toxicology data: anticipates around 155 overdose deaths this year an increase from last year of 137. A number of toxicology reports are still outstanding.
- Trends since 2015: increases in fentanyl overdoses and polypharmacy overdoses that include multiple drugs including cocaine.
- Age of individuals dying are increasing

Mila Tsagalis, Director for Community Initiatives

- Provided an update on the recently installed Narcan vending machine at the Linda A. Kurzawa Community Center which is a pilot program for the distribution of free Narcan. Ms. Tsagalis shared that the use of the vending machine continues to grow as word continues to spread about its existence. Approx. 250 Narcan kits have been distributed to date.
- Expansion of the Narcan program is increasing in the community including requests from other entities outside of police departments.

Jarrett Burton, DuPage ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care)

- Increased education and training to multiple sectors within the County
- ROSC recently conducted a community needs assessment. Results included the lack of available sober housing, and a list of barriers including childcare, transportation, insurance for individuals seeking services. To address these issues the ROSC is partnering with the DuPage County Health Department to conduct focus groups to dig deeper in these issues with people in recovery to learn more about the challenges they face when seeking recovery services.
- Providing harm reduction, including Narcan trainings and partnering with DuPage County Health Department in expanding Narcan boxes in the community.
- ROSC members are conducting classes in DuPage County jails for reentry for addictive and criminal thinking and on grief and loss.
- Through grant funding, provided free recovery coach training for anyone who wants it. 40 individuals were trained.
- Illinois Department of Human Services contacted DuPage ROSC and requested they serve as mentors for other surrounding counties who are looking to start their own ROSC.
- Established referral team of 20 individuals who can assist individuals in need to access services.

VIII - Taskforce Member Updates

- Andrew Anslem: seeing many of the same patterns Dr. Jorgensen shared, particularly with the increase of fentanyl being found in the street drugs. Noted that in high school aged students seeing an increase in hallucinogens such as LSD and mushrooms.
- Judge Popejoy – Brian Jacobs is now serving as the judge for the Drug Court/FOCUS Court. Judge Popejoy hopes to have him attend the next meeting. Construction is occurring in the judicial building to address the increase in needs across the different judicial departments.
- Greg Schwarze: DuPage County in Nov., 2022 enacted the 211 phone number for social services. This allows DuPage County residents to speak with a live person 24hrs a day/365 days a year. In six weeks, 843 calls have been received, 77 were for addiction/support services. Mr. Schwarze requested that members who provide services be sure that they share their contact information with DuPage's Community Services. Dr. Nelson added that members also be sure they are linked with the Illinois 888-2-Find-Help number so individuals can find local help if they call the state number.

- Deb Lewin – In 2022, Path to Recovery had 771 visits to their office and 74 new coaching clients. Will be offering parent education classes beginning the end of Feb. and a woman's non denominational spiritual group on Sunday mornings. Path is also coaching clients in a recovery pod in Kane County and will be in Rush Copley ER 8 hours a week as coaches to assist families.

respectfully submitted,

Penny Chanez
Executive Secretary