

## Minutes of the DuPage County HOPE Taskforce

**February 25, 2022**

The Heroin Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Task Force met on Friday, February 25, 2022

Dr. Wilson called the meeting to order and requested a moment of silence in recognition of the recent events in Ukraine.

Dr. Wilson introduced the newest members of the taskforce: Dr. Michael Nelson, Ms. Megan Corrigan and Ms. Karyn Charvat. Ms. Charvat was not present.

<b>Task Force Member Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Attended</b>
Greg Hart	DuPage County Board Member	X
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	Mayor of Addison	
Jim Scarpace	Executive Director, Gateway	X
Lisa Schvach	Community Development	X
Brad Gerke	Community Member	X
Deb Lewin	Path to Recovery	X
Laura Crawford	President, Chamber630	X
Andrew Anselm	Illinois State Police	X
Chief Judge Kenneth Popejoy	Chief Judge – 18 <sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit	X
Greg Schwarze	DuPage County Board	X
Karyn Charvat		
Megan Corrigan		X
Dr. Michael Nelson		X

## **Health Department and DuPage County Staff:**

Penny Chanez, Christopher Hoff, Mila Tsagalis, Dennis Brennan, Scott Kaufmann

DuPage County Board members: Member Dawn DeSart

## **II. Acceptance of the Minutes**

Mr. Hart asked for consensus to accept the minutes of the October 22, 2022 meeting as presented. The minutes will be filed as presented.

## **III. Public Comment**

Ms. Dawn DeSart – presented comments on a project/media campaign she is proposing “*Think Twice Before You Prescribe*” which focuses on messaging to doctors and hospitals to think twice before prescribing high dose pain medications that can lead to addiction. Ms. DeSart also shared that consideration of funding for this project could come from the recently allocated funding from the County Board to the HOPE Taskforce.

Dr. Jorgenson provided comments under public comment about the important work of the HOPE Taskforce and for the need to keep political interjection and discourse out of the work being done by the Taskforce.

## **IV- Legislative Report**

Asst. States Attorney, Mr. Murray filling in on behalf of Mr. Berlin provided the following update;

- Mr. Murray shared that Mr. Berlin is in Chicago with Attorney General Raoul announcing the first major opioid settlement against Cardinal Health, McKesson and AmerisourceBergen.
- 95% of all Illinois counties came to agreement with the Attorney General to move forward with the lawsuit and due to this agreement were able to seek 40% more funds from the three defendants.
- Starting in the summer of 2022 payments will begin and will continue over a number of years.
- An abatement fund will be established to provide funds directly addressing the abuse of opioids and for abatement measurers in each county/municipality. The abatement board/ Illinois Remediation Board should be comprised by late summer and will be responsible for the review of applications for funding.
- The State of Illinois is estimated to receive 760 million dollars from the settlement of which 10/11 million dollars is expected specifically for DuPage County.
- Mr. Murray also answered a public participant question if any the funds would directly be given to families who lost family members to opioid addiction; Mr. Murray shared he was not aware at this time of any funding to be given directly to families.
- Ms. Ayala shared the importance of making sure that the funds are used for the intended purposes and not diverted to other causes.

- Mr. Murray also shared that there are still outstanding settlements from other entities.

### **V HOPE Grantee Programs**

Updates were provided on the recent Grantee programs from

Edward Foundation – Hope Ortegel and Beth Menges presenters

- Shared testimonials from individuals who found success for the new peer support groups using SMART Recovery and Refuge Recovery approach models for sustained recovery.
- Meetings are established throughout DuPage County.
- Funds have also been used for creation of promotion materials.
- COVID-19 did create obstacles for in person attendance and meeting space availability.

Advocate Aurora Good Samaritan, funded in 2021 for their PERIST program– Royal Mayer and Laura Zaidi presenters

- Goal is to expand community linkage specialist to respond to 700 plus cases a year coming to the emergency room struggling with SUD/OD. Patients are screened for services and provided community linkage in the areas of housing/sober living, MAT and other unmet social needs including individualized information and referral and may include transportation assistance to and from appointments.
- 75% are DuPage County residents.
- Mr. Mayer also thanked the DuPage County Health Department for providing MAT treatments to the Medicaid population. Many MAT service providers do not accept Medicaid and the Health Department’s program is a valuable resource.

Hope for Healing – Steven Stefani

- Mr. Stefani was unable to attend and provide an update. Ms. Tsagalis from the Health Department shared that HOPE for Healing’s harm reduction mobile outreach unit launched last week at St. Andrews Church in West Chicago.

### **VI. HOPE Frameworks 2022-2025**

Mr. Hoff and Ms. Tsagalis reviewed the updates to the HOPE Taskforce Framework which was created in 2019 and outlines the mission and guides the taskforce’s work. The following changes and revisions were discussed.

- A. Improve access to portable drug disposal materials, with a focus on homebound and other special populations/residents
- B. Increase use of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) by prescribers in DuPage County
- C. Reduce the number of opiates prescribed
- D. Make Naloxone more accessible to bystanders and those most at- risk for overdose by increasing access in the community
- E. Sustain Narcan programs for first responders

- F. Coordinate with criminal justice system partners to increase screenings and referral to treatment (probation and specialty courts)
- G. Increase availability of Medication-Assisted Recovery
- H. Encourage housing supportive of substance use recovery efforts
- I. Support prevention education and other initiatives regarding non-opioid (marijuana, stimulants. Etc) substances among youth and young adults.

Item B: Dr. Jorgensen and Dr. Nelson shared additional background information and physician concerns and time constraints with the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)

Item E: include the word all before first responders

Mr. Gerke reiterated his support for a focus to increase recovery housing in DuPage County.

Mr. Schwarze spoke on item I and his support of opioid education in school districts, specifically in middle schools. He emphasized that there are young adults who may never receive this education outside of the school environment. Dr. Jorgensen concurred with Mr. Schwarze's assessment of increasing education in the schools.

Consensus was given to move forward with the amended framework.

## **VII - 2022 HOPE Grant Opportunity**

\$200,000 was approved by the DuPage County Board for the HOPE Taskforce.

- Funding opportunity announcement: 2/28/22
- Grant Application due date: 4/12/22
- Grant recipient announcement: 5/20/22
- Funding will occur in June 2022.
- Taskforce members will be needed to serve on the grant application review committee

## **VIII – Taskforce Member Updates**

Dr. Jorgensen shared the following on the 2021 Opioid Overdose Data Report

Due to supply chain issues, toxicology reports have been slow. The last report for 2021 was received a couple of days ago and a full review has not been completed. From a cursory review of the report Dr. Jorgensen noted the following.

- Overdose numbers are similar to the previous year
- Trends –(polypharmacy), toxicology reports on individuals indicate multiple drugs in the system.
- Cocaine use is rising.
- Heroin usage down. Drug dealers are pushing fentanyl.
- Age ranges of individuals who are passing of overdoses are moving to an older demographic. 2 individuals in their 60's passed away last week of drug overdoses.

- Due to COVID-19 and the Health Department's role during the pandemic, the Fatality Review Board's work was tabled, but is in the process of being restarted and will help to provide additional information.

Additional member updates:

- Chief Judge Popejoy shared that Judge Brian Jacobs will become the new FOCUS Court Judge beginning June 21, 2022.
- Chief Krestan shared that several fire districts are now able to dispense Narcan.
- Mr. Gerke will send an email to members containing details on the DuPage AA DuPage count open tomorrow. All are welcome. DuPage County Open Sat Feb 26, at Parkview Community Church

There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned at 10:49AM. The next meeting of the HOPE Taskforce will be scheduled for May 20, 2022.

respectfully submitted,  
Penny Chanez  
Executive Assistant