HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING

October 10, 2013
Health and Human Services Building, Room 2000
12:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Desmond, Monica Kruse, Steve Helgeson, Shawn Kudron, Tom Tornstrom, Vickie Burke, Emily Whitney, Keith Lease, Dean Whiteway, Megan DeVore and Laura Runchey

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Joe Chilsen and representative from the school district (looking for replacement to appoint).

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jane Klekamp, Heather Roellig, Jason Melby, Tom Johnson, Dennis Montabon, Ge Vang, Laura Runchey, Maureen McCollum (WPR), Pauleen Le (WKB) Brad Williams (WIZM), Al Bliss, Al Graewin, Robert Lawrence, and Pat Hogan.

CALL TO ORDER
Keith Lease and Mike Desmond, Committee Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
No report. This was the first Task Force meeting.

Dennis Montabon welcomed the task force members and others who attended the first meeting. The purpose and background of the task force was explained. The task force will meet every two weeks.

Co-chairs appointed are Mike Desmond, Executive Director of Boys and Girls Club of Greater La Crosse and Keith Lease, Executive Director of Coulee Council on Addictions

Media spokesperson selected by task force is Keith Lease and media was well represented at the meeting

We discussed who else is missing or needs representation of the task force. It was determined to limit the size to 15 members. However, others who have an interest may attend all future meetings but may be limited to public comment. There were three additional individuals suggested from some of the missing sectors of the community:

1. Recovery – Keith will search for someone in recovery who has experienced opioid addiction and who is also functioning well
2. ER/MD – suggested that Dr. Eberlein be contacted (Tom Tornston will contact)
3. Treatment sector – Dr. Ted Thompson or Pat Ruda of AMS (Al Bliss will contact both) (Note: AJ Moore from Viterbo University and Dr. Pearson from Gundersen were also suggested).

The focus of the task force should not be on heroin alone, but include prescription drug abuse and other opioids. We will not focus on alcohol as this is already covered by Changing the Culture coalition. The La Crosse Prevention Network does cover prescription drug awareness and the medication drop off services, which are deemed very valuable. The focus may change as other drugs evolve or become an issue.
A burden report will be developed with an asset report to highlight the various services, programs, treatments, policies, informal policies and other programs tied to heroin and other opioids. The asset report will have prevention, treatment and recovery services that are available in the La Crosse County region. Al will have a draft of the asset report available for review at our next meeting on October 24th.

The coalition will also collect drug related arrests, drug related ER visits, number of overdoses, deaths and other behaviors related to heroin and opiate drug abuse. We will also gather key informant interviews from law enforcement, judicial systems, treatment professionals, schools, businesses and other sectors impacted, focus group key findings, poison control center information, community perceptions, knowledge, attitudes and behaviors.

Both reports will be an ongoing work in progress and updated regularly. Shawn will gather some of the law enforcement data, Tom will gather some of the hospital data including number of ODs and diagnosed in the ER.

There will be two informal presentations or learning sessions at the next task force meeting on Oct 24th by Dr. Whiteway on prescription drug abuse and Tom Tornstrom or a representative from Tri State Ambulance will present on Naloxone or OD services. It was reported by Tom that 190 individuals were administered the live saving injection of Narcan in La Crosse County in 2013. This is considerably up from the previous three years by 25 percent. Tom also reported that they are working on getting first responders trained on administering Naloxone.

Other future presentations on subject matter will include law enforcement procedures / policy, safe needle exchange program offered by ARCW, Drug Endangered Task Force involving CPS (Child Protective Services), Justice Sanctions and Drug Court overview (how many that go through Justice Sanctions test positive, etc.) Judge Elliot Levine and or Becky Spanjers were suggested as potential presenters. We will work on developing this list and for training purposes of the Task Force to focus on strategies that may be planned and implemented.

Ultimately, the Task Force and those involved will develop strategies that may be implemented within the given time frame that are SMART objectives or Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time bound.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24th from 1-2:30pm at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) Building in room 1615. LEC is located at 333 Vine Street in La Crosse.

TRAVEL REQUESTS (INFORMATIONAL) AND TRAVEL REPORTS
None presented.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next Committee meeting.

Al Bliss, Recorder