HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

January 30, 2014
La Crosse County, Law Enforcement Center, 333 Vine St., Room 1615
1:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith Lease, Megan DeVore, Mike Desmond, Steve Helgeson, Barbara Dalton, Emily Lodoen, Laura Runchey, Monica Kruse, Vicki Burke, Tom Tornstrom, Chris Eberlein, Gregg Cleveland, Emily Whitney, Dean Whiteway, Pat Ruda for Ted Thompson.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Shawn Kudron and Joe Chilsen


CALL TO ORDER
Mike Desmond, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Reviewed and approved Jan 16 meeting minutes. (Approved minutes)

Mike asked for any public comments at this time. (None)

Senator Shilling, and Representatives John Nygren and Lee Nerison were available at the meeting and Nygren provided his personal experience with his daughter’s heroin addiction and a comprehensive background on his four heroin HOPE bills. The four bills passed unanimously by the assembly and are now up for the Senate agenda on Feb 18. There are also two new bills Nygren introduced related to the original four bills, which includes:

LRB 3287 – Opioid Treatment Programs
LRB 4024– Rapid Response Supervision

LRB 3287 is related to the lack of opioid treatment programs and is a pilot study of up to 1,000 people using soboxone drug treatment assistance and comparison to an abstinence group. LRB 4024 is related to corrections and improving the recidivism rate. Similar to the “swift and certain laws” as in drug court programs. However, not all drug court programs are initiated statewide. This bill would assist those in finding employment, conduct random drug testing, and would not necessarily kick out participants if tested positive for drugs. The main theory is to keep people employed and with families (e.g. may not serve as much jail time). Nygren indicated that some critics say this is “soft on crime.”

Senator Shilling spoke about SB 471/AB 626: Drug Endangered Children – Sponsored by Shilling/Billings/Doyle. Please look into how the task force and others can support and educate on this.
Rep Nerison has been especially involved with the Good Samaritan bill and it is very important to the rural communities as all communities face similar heroin and opioid problems. Nerison was involved in a successful town hall meeting in Coon Valley through the Lions Club, which attracted about 250 people in the public forum.

The task force continued their strategic planning and handouts were provided that summarized the short, intermediate and long-term strategies. Discussion on extending the definition of short term was moved to six months from April 1, 2014-Sept 30, 2014, intermediate from April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015, and long-term strategies from April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2017.

There were two of the strategy forms worked on including “Reduce access to drugs” and “Substance abuse prevention.” Completion of these strategies and the remaining five will continue being a work in progress and purpose of the task force meetings. Al will add the activities and suggestions to the worksheets / logic models as we progress. Some of the highlights discussed at today’s meeting include:

Strategies to ‘Reduce access to drugs” add:

1. Work with La Crosse Fire Dept on vacant building issues and apply resources to condemn those places necessary. Need to have more groups / staff involved in this process such as health dept staff registered sanitarians. Saturate are and bring public attention to that area. Work with Xcel energy and other groups through the city Neighborhood Services Team. This group currently meets quarterly. (Gregg)
2. Maintaining school police liaison officers is important (Vicki)
3. Target market media campaign – must organize and construct on a regular ongoing basis within the community and targeted groups
4. CESA 4 has $4,000 available from their Drug Free Communities grants to support a permanent medication drop box.
5. CESA 4 has an awareness campaign called “A Prescription for Safe Communities that launches in March through radio PSA’s. The main themes include: 1. Dispose prescription meds, 2. Don’t share prescription meds, and 3. Store safely. The task force and CESA need to coordinate media messages as well as messaging from others. Northwoods is supporting a mailing to be delivered in March to families w/ children ages 6-17, TV PSA, and printed materials to be distributed between the 11 participating counties using the same campaign. The tri-county group (La Crosse, Jackson, and Monroe) is collaboratively supporting a radio PSA during March and La Crosse will have 2-3 billboards up as well.
6. CESA 4 will have their La Crosse County Prevention Network strategic planning meeting on Feb 20 from 8:30-noon. Al will attend but others may too. Let Lacie Ketelhut know by emailing her at lketelhut@cesa4.k12.wi.us.
7. MEG Unit (Tom) The funding of the MEG unit has been drastically reduced over the years. Task force suggested lobbying for funding the MEG unit’s work of coordinating drug intelligence within the five county regions. Tom also stated that they see more
problems within homes/rentals than within dilapidated and vacant buildings. He also suggested that the public contact them with suspicious activity. There are neighborhood watch programs but need to consider doing more with hotels and trafficking that occurs at them (Pat).

8. Educate community more about prescription drop boxes once furnished

9. Sheriff, police and Justice Support Services have continued to be effective and do a great job!

10. Dr. Eberlein reviewed how there are drawbacks to handwritten prescriptions and how submitting prescriptions over the internet is not allowed (not sure that I have this documented accurately – Al). This is a huge access point for addiction/abuse that needs to be addressed. Rep Nygren took notes on this issue and review how to support passage of possible legislation and educate prescribers. Dr. Bucknam also stressed PDMPs and how there is a huge need to address this for prescribers in the hospitals and clinic. Eric Tempelis from Gundersen Lutheran, Gov. Relations Director spoke about the Prescription Drug Repository and can we expand one similar to the state of IA? Rep Nygren stated that one of his bills is trying to address this concern.

Strategies and discussion to add to ‘Substance abuse prevention” include:

1. Emily Whitney is working on a grant with health literacy and they would be willing to look at setting up a website on heroin and other illicit drugs for the task force. The task force agreed for Dr. Whitney to look at applying.

2. When drop box is approved and functioning be sure to include it in the La Crosse County waste newsletter.

3. Pat suggested drafting letter of support for drop box to get it moving. Pat will draft? Not sure on this?

4. Develop a comprehensive media plan and marketing to the community. Need to designate staff / others to include this on a regular basis.

Other Notes:

Tom Johnson and Al Bliss will be presenting on the task force to a high school organized town forum. Emily Lodoen is also interested in sharing her recovery experience with this group. Tom will connect with Al and Emily to organize but the meeting is planned for Feb 10, from 6-8 in West Salem.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb 13 from 1-2:30pm at the Law Enforcement Center Building, 333 Vine Street in La Crosse in room 1615.

TRAVEL REQUESTS (INFORMATIONAL) AND TRAVEL REPORTS
None presented.

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

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

Al Bliss, Recorder