HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2014
La Crosse County, Law Enforcement Center, 333 Vine St., Room 1615
1:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Desmond, Barb Dalton, Megan DeVore, Monica Kruse, Vicki Burke, Ted Thompson, Joe Chilsen, Chris Eberlein, and Steve Helgeson
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Emily Whitney, Emily Lodoen, Shawn Kudron, Tom Tornstrom and Laura Runchey
MEMBERS ABSENT: Gregg Cleveland, Dean Whiteway,
OTHERS PRESENT: Pat Ruda, Tom Johnson, Al Bliss, Eric Bashaw (Gundersen), Todd Bjerke, Brad Dinsmoor, Jeanne Meyer, WKBT rep and WXOW rep, and Kelly Isensee (from Rochester, MN)

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

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
Approved September 4, 2014 meeting minutes. Keith called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

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

Eric Bashaw from Gundersen provided an overview of plans to install medication drop boxes near their pharmacies at three sites (Main Clinic, East Building and Onalaska). The new DEA Rule allows pharmacies to have medication drop boxes/collections. He also provided an update on how Gundersen will transport and destroy medication, and can include medications collected from the seven prescription drug drop boxes at the law enforcement sites in La Crosse County. Eric will be the main point of contact with Sheriff Helgeson to schedule drop off dates and times at Gundersen in the next year. Eric is working with vendors and will connect with law enforcement on how the coordination may look. Currently, the county did approve funding to cover the cost of drop box medication disposal for $20,657 for 2015. When law enforcement can use Gundersen services, it will likely be less costly than using other methods.

Monica asked if the task force and both medical institutes (pharmacies) could work on promoting the drop boxes. More work needs to be done in promoting the safe disposal of prescription drugs in La Crosse County. (Action item for January meeting).

Law enforcement did complete a final drop box collection on Dec 2 and transported 444 pounds of medications to Jefferson County for incineration. Thanks to all the law enforcement agencies for their continued support! A special thanks to Onalaska and La Crosse PD for transporting the medications to Jefferson on Dec 2.

Al Bliss reported on year one task force highlights and provided the list of recommendations and status report (attached). Dr. Eberlein provided an update on Narcan disturbed by Tri-State Ambulance and the Fire Departments, and how this has contributed to no heroin overdose deaths in La Crosse County for 2014 (as of 12-11-14). Sheriff Helgeson reported
that Narcan would be used in the jail to prevent overdoses since some individuals may be brought in under the influence of heroin or other opioids. Options in Reproductive Care in La Crosse may also carry Narcan. Task force members agreed that law enforcement efforts, and prevention, education and awareness efforts by the task force are major contributors to the zero heroin overdose deaths. Al reported the prescription drug overdose deaths and other illicit drug deaths have also decreased, but are still a major concern (See attached Power Point). Additional data collected from law enforcement shows a high increase in the number of meth arrests and charges in La Crosse County. Al encouraged task force to promote the Heroin and Other Illicit Drug Task Force website at the following link:


Mike and Keith asked the task force members to review the recommendations on where we are at and to consider what strategies and priorities the task force should continue. They also asked the task force to make a recommitment to the task force, and asked the group’s consensus on returning to monthly meetings. While the subgroups have met, the guidance, expertise and energy of the whole task force seems to prosper. Task force members agreed to return to a monthly schedule. A motion was made by Mike to approve the monthly meeting schedule for 2015 and Monica seconded. Al will send an email to all task force members to list their top priorities for 2015. Mike also asked the task force to consider expanding beyond heroin and opioids such as including meth. Strategies to reduce heroin overdose deaths and prescription drug misuse will still be the focus in the 2015 plan.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29th 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. (Two pages)

Al Bliss, Recorder