HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2017 (Onalaska City Hall, Basement Conference Room, 1:00pm)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Chilsen, Chris Eberlein, Al Bliss, Jen Rombalski, Monica Kruse, Steve Helgeson, Todd Bjerke, Cheryl Hancock, Tom Johnson, Tim Candahl and Troy Harcey

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Vicki Burke, Gregg Cleveland, Laura Runchey, Shawn Kudron, Dean Whiteway, Tom Tornstrom, Emily Whitney, Ted Thompson, Emily Lodoen, Jason Larson, Regina Siegel, Jennifer Kleven, and Jill Gustafson

OTHERS PRESENT: Ryan Cornett, Jennifer Knutson, Agnes Smith, Anneliese Skoda, Michaela Burton, Joanna Reale, Morgan Drexler, Judi Zabel, Joe Sumner, Amber Sharman, Joe Larson, Bill Haviland, Sandy Brekke, Sara Rugg, Aly Click, Nicole Sundboom-Kreuzer, Kimberly Gutierrez, Bob Ritger, Carrie Bailey, Kim Woggon, Dean Peterson, Dan Morgan, Ge Vang, Bill Oldenburg, Megan Roland, Mary Dahlby, Denis Baldwin, Sue Bennett and Kathy Bryant

CALL TO ORDER
Joe Chilsen, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15pm

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
October meeting minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none

UPDATES:

Meth and Marijuana – Meth Update by Tom Johnson, Investigator for La Crosse County Sheriff’s Dept. and Multijurisdictional Enforcement Group (MEG) and how marijuana has evolved and its impact on our community by Judi Zabel, Health Educator, La Crosse Co. Health Department

Meth –
• Tom indicated that law enforcement conducted more “homebound” investigations in the past, but because of the meth problem becoming more demanding they need assistance with neighboring counties.
• Strategy of law enforcement or MEG unit (Metropolitan Enforcement Group) is to dismantle drug enterprise – MEG unit serves surrounding counties and involves their law enforcement
• Most prevalent drug in our region
• Central Nervous System stimulant
• Migrated to west coast and today the Mexican cartel has capitalized on meth – all about the money – move into communities, get people addicted and make more money
• There are many injection meth users in our community, secondary use is smoking meth
• Typical for users to lose 50-100lbs, bad body odor that smells like mayo and glue, and poor dental hygiene “meth mouth”
• Use to be more “one pot shake n bake” and now has turned to high quality crystal meth from super labs located in Mexico and CA
• ‘One pots’ are volatile when water mixes with lithium strips and may ignite
• Many of the precursor chemicals used to make meth are all found in our home

Marijuana –
• Judi mentioned that the work they are doing to address marijuana is through the La Crosse County Prevention Network (LCPN) through the Drug Free Communities grant
There is the need to develop clear talking points and discussion into conversations that present factual information and understanding

In the past, marijuana had 3-4% THC and is now 80-90%

Marijuana is frequently used in e-cigs through vaping

Hash oil ranges from 40-80% THC

Wax or “butter” or “earwax” is 50-80% THC – the “wax” is heated to extract the oil

$15-20/gram for smoked THC

$70-100/gram for wax or AKA “dabbing”

“Shatter” is 80-90% THC and resembles peanut butter brittle – heated up to 500-600 degrees by torch and presents fire issue

“Edibles” range from lollipops to cookies that contain THC (not legal in Wisconsin) – amounts per serving vary widely and not predictable – example: a lollypop may have 75mg of THC, a gummy bear may be infused with 4mg of THC – but who eats just one?

Major problem associated with THC poisoning among children tampering/ingesting edibles

Specialty magazines for marijuana and often promote celebrities “vaping”

Super bowl ad involved messages relating to marijuana

Seeing large numbers of emergency room visits due to high potency THC and accidents related to intoxication

Cannabinoid receptors in the brain (reward system) impacts regions that effect learning, memory, coordination, balance, decision making and more

Addiction of marijuana varies and is more prevalent among young developing brains (example: 1/6 teens become addicted and 1 in 10 adults become addicted)

Drugged driving has increased and resulted in more accidents following legalization

Other Updates:

Governor’s Opioid Task Force – next meeting is March 24. Joe Larson mentioned that numerous bills were introduced regarding opioids – 11 went to assembly and 11 to senate and each is put into special committees. Hearings on the bills will be held soon on several of the bills.

Medicated Assisted Treatment workgroup is meeting with staff from the three agencies on March 2 to gather information on what is currently being done and what they feel still needs to be occurring to assist those with opioid addiction.

Improperly Disposed Needles workgroup – locations for the two sharps drop boxes is being approved by the City of La Crosse

Detox or ‘Lighthouse” Project workgroup – continues to meet and in April will the group will have state staff present about peer run respite centers in Wisconsin and from one of the staff who manages a center in Appleton (IRIS Place).

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 23 from 1-2:30pm at Onalaska City Hall.

TRAVEL REQUESTS (INFORMATIONAL) AND TRAVEL REPORTS

None presented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45pm. The above minutes have been approved (2 pages)

Al Bliss, Recorder