HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
May 25, 2017 (Onalaska City Hall, 1:00pm)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Regina Siegel, Vicki Burke, Todd Bjerke, Don Dominick, Joe Chilsen, Chris Eberlein, Troy Harcey, and Ted Thompson

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Al Bliss, Jen Rombalski, Gregg Cleveland, Steve Helgeson, Laura Runcheay, Shawn Kudron, Dean Whiteway, Tom Johnson, Emily Whitney, Tom Tornstrom, Tim Candahl, Jennifer Kleven, Jill Gustafson, and Cheryl Hancock

OTHERS PRESENT: Agnes Smith, Dean Peterson, Mandy Hess, Rachel Unseth, Lindsay Purl, Jean Lunde, Jennifer Knutson, Bill Haviland, Natalie Carlisle, Bob Ritger, Kim Thurk, Tom Thompson, Paulette Coleman, Ge Vang, Sue Bennett, Anneliese Skoda, Judi Zabel, and Kimberly Gutierrez

CALL TO ORDER
Joe Chilsen, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:10pm

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
October meeting minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

UPDATES:

Governor’s Opioid Task Force: No one present

Improperly Disposed Needles workgroup: Northside sharps drop box was damaged with in the first week of installation. At time of damage, the drop box was more than 2/3 full with sharps. Laura Runcheay reports the majority of these needles are probably from people with diabetes. Needles in the drop box keep pollutants out of water supply. Reports from fire department suggest responses for needle pick up has decreased within the first 3 weeks of needle boxes being installed.

Light House Project: No one present

Community Drug Forums: 205 attendees during the day event, about 100 attendees at the evening event. The Wake Up Call was very interesting and a lot of good conversation was generated throughout the event. Some feedback from surveys; event was too short, how will this be sustainable?, panel discussion was too long, cover more than just heroin. Natalie Carlisle (Monroe Safe Communities) informed task force that Mo. CO and La Crosse County Prevention Network have the materials and training to present the Wake Up Call for future events or requests.

Other Updates:

Overdose Data Compared to Census Tracks – Dr. Chris Eberlein, 52% of patients who visit the ER for overdose are between 25-49 years of age, 29% are between 12-24 years of age. The average cost of an ER visit for overdose is about $15K, 53% of patients who visit ER for an overdose have insurance. This is a community problem and ranges far across demographics, economic status and level of education. Further conversation was generated about the impacts of one person’s drug use; family, children and how this affects other’s mental health and risk for substance abuse.

School District of La Crosse- Regina Siegel, School District of La Crosse, comments on the impact of heroin and other drugs on families and children in the La Crosse schools. Parents’ drug use causes families to struggle, children learning it is “normal” to use drugs. Students are developing behavioral issues and struggling in school. It is becoming common for neighbors, friends or other relative to pick up child from school because the parents or guardians are high. As a response, Mayor Joe Chilsen, Co-Chair, will contact the Boys and Girls Club and invite leaders to join the Heroin Task Force.
Recovery for Women - Discussion generated amongst group concerning the lack of treatment available for women with children. Currently, there are 3 sober living homes in La Crosse for men and 0 for women. Discussion of opening Oxford House for women in La Crosse.

Community Drug Forums, Next Steps: Group discussion of what the next steps are after input and work groups form the community drug forums. Bob Ritger, Western HCC will find poster sheets from outbreak session at the Community Drug Forum, the Heroin Task Force will then choose 3 target areas to pursue as well as compile a list of accomplishments regarding illicit drugs in the area.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 22 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 1:40pm. The above minutes have been approved. (2 page)
Kimberly Gutierrez, Recorder