HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 2017 (Onalaska City Hall, 1:00pm)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Monica Kruse, Todd Bjerke, Al Bliss, Vicki Burke, Jen Rombalski, Joe Chilsen, Don Dominick, Scott Mihalovic, and Jennifer Kleven

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chris Eberlein, Laura Runchey, Shawn Kudron, Dean Whiteway, Tom Tornstrom, Emily Whitney, Ted Thompson, Tom Johnson, Tim Candahl, Troy Harcey, Regina Siegel, Cheryl Hancock, and Jill Gustafson

OTHERS PRESENT: Ryan Cornett, Bob Ritger, Agnes Smith, Joe Larson, Kimberly Gutierrez, Skyla Killilea, Rita Von Haden, Christie Harris, Dave Konkel, Kim Thurk, Jennifer Knutson, Goldzong Moua, Judi Zabel, Jean Lunde, Anneliese Skoda, Brooklynn Sullivan, Maddie Smith, Jackie Ortmeier-Crane, Sue Bennett, Chandler Miller, Ge Vang, Jennifer S?, Dean Peterson, and Dan Morgan

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

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
The above meeting minutes have been approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Community Drug Forums, Next Steps: Mayor Chilsen and Al Bliss led the group discussion and asked members to prioritize follow up strategies from the May 15 Heroin and Prescription Painkillers training by Hazelden. There were 22 strategies/activities listed from the breakout sessions (all 22 listed on last page of these minutes). The top priorities included combining themes into the following:

PREVENTION / MENTAL HEALTH: Outreach, education and community awareness
#2. Area healthcare systems will work to identify internal trainers for frontline medical staff
#9. Humanize addiction
#10. Improve awareness of the problem
#12. Ongoing data collection needs to happen
#14. Need media campaign – focus on prevention and other forms as well
#15. Using creative avenues to promote/encourage parent/guardian participation
#16. Prevention needs to be more encompassing and ingrained - connections to mental health
#17. Info sharing between community groups and their work/focus
#19. Empowering parents
#21. Increase knowledge of where to go for help
#22. Lack of support for adolescents

TREATMENT / MENTAL HEALTH:
#3. Local churches to offer support groups
#7. Work with local and state politicians to advocate for increased funding and decreased payer restrictions on OUD care
#11. Access and financial support – barriers to treatment (time, resources, insurance, ROIs)
#21. Increase knowledge of where to go for help (also listed above under prevention)
**Guest Speakers Update:** Jackie Ortmeier-Crane from New Horizons: Update on how drugs and human trafficking are related and how trafficking is affecting the La Crosse area.

Jackie and her intern Maddie Smith provided an overview on the red flags of human trafficking victims which included potential signs such as having multiple cell phones, showing signs of physical abuse, and having older friends (often traffickers will use female names as a false sense of security). Victims often face homelessness, abuse and neglect, substance use disorders, and mental health problems. Those ages 12-14 are at high risk and vulnerable. Victims are often blackmailed and traffickers use control tactics that may include psychological and manipulative control. Victims may also be forced to take drugs and or to control stress. Recruitment frequently occurs at schools, malls, online and through Face Book.

In the La Crosse region New Horizons has helped 19 survivors and most were triaged as a victim of assault.

They also spoke about what we can do to address human trafficking victims and some helpful tips include educating yourself and others, recognize signs of human trafficking, and know what resources are available.

The crisis line for La Crosse is 1-888-231-0066 for New Horizons. You may also dial locally at 608-791-2600.

**UPDATES:**

**Governor’s Opioid Task Force:** Next meeting is in 3 weeks

**Improperly Disposed Needles workgroup:** No new updates

**Light House Project:** No new updates

**Other:** Al asked Jen Rombalski to speak at next month’s meeting on the level of prevention and that the task force begin to strategize on prevention during the months of August and September (some of which are described in the themes from the May 15 Drug Forum notes). Al will also invite a speaker for August or September from the La Crosse County Prevention Network to update the task force on what strategies and activities they do in the community.

**Other Updates:**

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, July 27 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 1:30pm. The above minutes have been approved. (4 pages)
Al Bliss, Recorder
May 15 Drug Forum Notes from Breakout Sessions

1. EMT’s will offer training regarding the disease of addition to fellow first responders
2. Area healthcare systems will work to identify internal trainers for frontline medical staff
3. Local churches to offer support groups
4. Educate community members about MAT and addiction
5. Participate in opioid response community group
6. Work with local sober housing to advocate for allowing MAT with residents
7. Work with local and state politicians to advocate for increased funding and decreased payer restrictions on OUD care
8. Easier access to treatment options
9. Humanize addiction
10. Improve awareness of problem
11. Access and financial support – barriers to treatment (time, resources, insurance, ROIs)
12. Ongoing data collection needs to happen
13. Limited access to existing MATs
14. Need media campaign – focus on prevention and other forms as well
15. Using creative avenues to promote/encourage parent/guardian participation
16. Prevention needs to be more encompassing and ingrained - connections to mental health
17. Info sharing between community groups and their work/focus
18. Employers and faith leaders – more emphasis on prevention
19. Empowering parents
20. Training beyond EMS and healthcare to recognize signs of overdose
21. Increase knowledge of where to go for help
22. Lack of support for adolescents