HEROIN AND OTHER ILLICIT DRUG TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES
July 26, 2018 (Onalaska City Hall, 1:00pm)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mandy Hess, Troy Harcey, Kristi Arenz (replaced Jennifer Knudtson), Vicki Burke, Todd Bjerke, Bob Ritger, Chris Eberlein, Joe Chilsen, Jill Gustafson, and Al Bliss

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Jeff Wolf, Monica Kruse, Laura Runchey, Sandy Brekke, Dean Whiteway, Tom Tornstrom, Emily Whitney, Tom Bolan, Tom Johnson, Scott Mihalovic, Jen Rombalski, Jennifer Kleven, and Cheryl Hancock

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeremy Fejfar, Kaylan Wilson, Dean Peterson, Agnes Smith, Dee Paque, Janessa VandenBerge, Judi Zabel, Anneliese Skoda, Rachel Unseth, Lindsey Purl, Corey Yonkovich, Troy Gudre, Kim Thurk, and Jasson Jobe

CALL TO ORDER: Joe Chilsen, Committee Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04pm

CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT
The above meeting minutes may be approved or amended

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

Guest Speakers: Kelsey Skala and Al Bliss, La Crosse County Health Department, summarized the Burden of Illicit Drug Report 2018 for La Crosse County, which included local data from 2014-2017. Drug charges, deaths, hospitalizations, narcan administered, CPS, neonatal abstinence, sharps collected and other local findings were shared. Al will email the Power Point to the task force and the Burden Report narrative is expected to be out in the next week or two. Thanks to everyone for providing data and especially to Kelsey for working on the report!

Some of the highlights include:

- The rate of La Crosse County high school students that have participated in illicit drug use by using marijuana, heroin, meth, and prescription drugs has decreased from 2013 to 2017. At the time of the most recent survey recording (2017), 8% of high school students report being offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property in the past year.
- From 2016 to 2017, cases of both Hepatitis C and Hepatitis B have decreased. Cases of AIDS and HIV have remained fairly constant since 2014.
- Other infectious diseases that may be correlated with illicit drug use include sexually transmitted infections. Those who abuse drugs may participate in risky sexual behavior.
- Since 2016 there has been a significant increase in the amount of Narcan administration because local law enforcement and organizations such as the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin started carrying and distributing it. From 2016 to 2017, there has been a decrease in Gundersen Tri-State Ambulance Narcan administrations, possibly because law enforcement and organizations have been carrying it/distributing it. This year includes data from law enforcement, the County, and first responders. For most law enforcement agencies in La Crosse County, 2017 was the first year they started carrying Narcan.
- For Gundersen Health System, drug hospitalizations and ER visits are most common in people 25-44 years of age. Opioids, cannabis, and other stimulants are the most common substances involved in drug related hospitalizations and ER visits due to drug use and abuse.
- Drug related poisonings have increased at Gundersen Health System for heroin, anti-depressants, and opioids.
Drug and alcohol issues make up most of the child protective service cases through Human Services in La Crosse County. Although the number of cases related to drugs and alcohol have decreased, the percentage of cases that are drug related have increased. Since 2014, the amount of drug related deaths has almost tripled in La Crosse County. The amount of unwanted, unused or expired prescription drugs disposed of in drop boxes has increased since 2015. Residents in La Crosse County reported prescription drug abuse/misuse as being a moderate or serious problem in 2012, 2014, and 2017 for both teenagers and adults. Two outdoor sharps containers were installed in La Crosse in the last year, with over 700 pounds of sharps collected since May 2017.

**REGULAR UPDATES:**

**Lighthouse:** The workgroup is planning to submit a grant through the WI Partnership Program to fund a part-time position to coordinate the Lighthouse funding (grants and other sources) with the board and advisory committee. The grant is due Sept 4.

**La Crosse Community Foundation (LCF):** is making final contract arrangements with IHI (Institutes for Healthcare Improvement) for a strategic planning period and will likely begin in late August or September this year. This will involve the task force, LCF, Mayo, GHS, LCHD and other stakeholders. LCF, Mayo, GHS, and LCHD have agreed to fund the project over the next couple of years that will fund full time coordination of the task force and activities. The health department will also continue funding the coordination at .25% time.

**Overdose Death Review Team:** Reviewed 2 cases in July. A recommendations only meeting is set for August 20. Year 2 for the WI Dept. of Justice grant begins Sept 1-Aug 31, 2019. Several other new grantees have also received awards around the state

**Governor’s Opioid Task Force:** No new updates

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

**Group report outs on “Increasing perception of harm” prevention strategies:**

**Media workgroup:** Overdose Doesn’t Discriminate yard signs continue to go out. Posters and information will be distributed throughout the community before August 31 International Overdose Awareness Day.

**Focus group:** Groups will meet in the fall. Waiting for IRB approval

**Prevention group:** No new update – plan to meet in September

The next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 23rd, 2018 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 2:30pm. (2 pages) Al Bliss, Recorder