

## **Families and Consumers Support and Advocacy Group**

Meeting Minutes: April 4, 2016

Previous meeting minutes sent through email to group participants.

### **Group attendees:**

Dawn Flierl  
Calolyn Gardina  
Kim Baughan  
Glen Briggs  
Lynn Kaczmurski  
Diane Cimmerei  
Jeannine Cormier  
Gloria Sanchez  
JoAnne Coyne  
Bridget Loader  
Jackie Sullivan  
Debi Cleary  
Tom McCarthy  
Karl Wende  
Sandra Preston  
Julie Wick  
Diane DeStefano  
Sue Boyle  
Deb Smith

### **Proceedings:**

- Meeting began at 5:00 P.M. chaired by Debra Smith.
- Mission Statement: E-mail any suggestions for changes to Bridget by 4/18. We will revisit at 5/3 meeting.
- Viewed REAP pamphlet. **R**apid **E**valuation **A**ppropriate **P**lacement is Buffalo Police equivalent to PARRI.

## Old Business:

- May 21<sup>st</sup> Memorial Walk at 11:00 in Cazenovia Park. We will have a table. You must sign up if you want to walk. Point of contact for a table is Mike Blake. You can access information about the walk via <https://www.bfloparks.org/event/south-buffalo-awarenessremembrance-walk-for-hope/>
- Develop personal stories for memorial walk. We want a face attached to addiction.
- Erie County website is up and running. Minutes will be filled in. <http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=opioid-epidemic-task-force>
- Hispanics United Community Meeting on 3/12 discussed expanding the methadone clinic. A new doctor at the facility wants to increase medical treatments to include Suboxone and Vivitrol.
- Debi Cleary gave an update on the Treatment Provider sub- group. They have 4 work groups: Best Practices, Treatment Access, Integration of Family Support Systems in Treatment, and Navigating Insurance. Dr. Gale Burstein discussed training more doctors to dispense Suboxone at last meeting on 3/28 .

## New Business:

- **April 7<sup>th</sup> 10 am** 92 Franklin Street Buffalo, NY, Health and Services Committee Meeting in the Legislative Chambers. We need to let the legislators know we are interested in the need to secure funds to maintain a phone line staffed by persons trained in addiction assessment and funds to add a new staff member to the Health Department to support Cheryl Moore.
- **April 30<sup>th</sup> DEA drop off and Drug Awareness Walk, 10 A.M,** at Buffalo State College. There is no charge to walk. Educational posters will be on display regarding the history, effects, treatment and recovery from opiate addiction. There will also be a visual display of items parents can look for that are clues to opiate usage. We will have a table with literature from the Health Department. St Francis High School and KED are involved in making posters for this educational walk. We need personal stories for this walk.

- Needs survey for families. E-mail suggestions and possible questions to Deb, at [dsmith@erie.gov](mailto:dsmith@erie.gov) who is working with West Side Youth Development through Buffalo State to develop this survey. We would like to have this at the walks and eventually online.
- Insurance issues regarding treatment can be directed to the Attorney General's Office, Health Care Bureau 800-428-9071.
- Facebook Page: our group needs to set up a Facebook page. You can access addiction information on line through Debra Smith's Facebook Page link Caring for Opiate Addicted Loved Ones <https://www.facebook.com/Caring-for-Opiate-Addicted-Loved-Ones-COALO-1503315513326096/?fref=ts> or Western New York Still Standing <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1021743134512472> is another Facebook page with local addiction information.
- Dillion's Law – we need to develop a petition to support elevated prosecution levels for individuals who sell substances that result in death.
- Canalside Memorial possible scheduled for late Fall needs to be planned.
- Ithaca Plan - Deb would like us to educate ourselves on safe injection sites and revisit this topic. This is a very controversial issue. <http://www.ithacajournal.com/story/news/local/2016/04/01/harm-reduction-heart-ithaca-plan/81149754/>
- Unions – need to reach out and get their support. CSEA and NYSUT have been contacted. We need to have some type of walk- in- center. One possible model is the center organized through <http://live4lali.org/>
- There are two high profile Court cases scheduled **April 11, 2pm** for Eric Arias and Erica Brown <http://wivb.com/2016/02/27/980-bags-of-heroin-seized-in-west-side-raid/> and Dellsean Hamilton **May 3, 2pm** <http://legacy.wgrz.com/story/news/crime/2015/07/16/2100-bags-of-heroin-seized-in-buffalo-raid/30234395/> Erie County Court, 92 Franklin Street Buffalo, New York. We need to make an appearance, as a group, to let the Courts know we are interested in the process of deterring violent crime in our community and that this crime is not victimless.

- May 14<sup>th</sup> at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, there is training for volunteers and individuals who need information on addiction. Sponsored by WNY United Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse.
- April 13<sup>th</sup> Restoration Society planning meeting for a youth club house 9:30 at 327 Elm St. Contact person Kim Baughan.

**Action:**

- Break up into our work groups and divide the following tasks: Family Needs Survey, Dillion's Law Petition, and Facebook Page development.