

## ECOETF Minutes 5/3 Family and Consumer Advocacy and Support

It is Our Mission: To support the segments of the Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force by improving the delivery of services for those affected, advocating for our loved ones while fortifying the community response of attaining our common goal of eliminating addiction, illness and death from opiate use.

We envision a joint effort to:

- show respect for all people
- minimize health, legal and social harms associated with substance use
- provide comfort and compassion to those affected by addiction
- advocate for available, affordable, comprehensive therapeutic services for the addicted
- educate the public
- focus on prevention
- reduce harm among families and individuals
- pursue legal enactments to further our goal.
- eradicate this public health crisis from our community and our homes

Goals: Save lives.

Eliminate addiction, illness and death from opiate use.

Advocate for our loved ones.

### **Open**

Minutes of last meeting were not circulated as was expected.

### **Committee Chairs were introduced -**

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ○ Event Resource and Planning | Jeannine Cormier          |
| ○ Lobbying                    | Diane DiStefano           |
| ○ Community education         | Debi Cleary/ Tom McCarthy |
| ○ Grief                       | Diane Cimmerer            |

### **Chair Status Reports-**

Lobbying

Diane D

- April 7 Leg meeting difficult meeting
- April 14 Leg meeting approved telephone line and two staff members for Health Department
- May 5 Leg meeting- REAP program needs the phone line for the. 10 lives per week are being lost.
- **Court cases:**
  - **May 5 9:30 am Brown-** she will take a plea to three B level Felony charges. Good work!
  - **June 7 is Court case** for Dellsean Hamilton (Brittney Ridgeway) - we need to be there!
  - **June 15 9:30am Arias** will plea to b level felony ADA will let us know sentencing so we can be there
- Dillon's Law- we will obtain a copy and go over it to determine best plan.

Event Resource and Planning Jeannine

- April 30 walk
- May 14 Christ the King
- May 21

Community Education Debi and Tom

- Personal stories- developing library
- Presence at Narcan trainings

Grief Support Diane C.

- Continuing to explore South towns site for grief
- Draft a sympathy letter / card or way to communicate with family - they are not alone
  - Facebook -Heroin Memorial, I hate heroin
  - Define supports- Horizon Health Services

### **New Business**

- **May 2** - ECOE Task Force meeting. The Chiefs of Police are rolling out REAP program. Application for ANGELS is on line.  
*Rapid Evaluation Appropriate Placement' is Modeled after Successful Massachusetts Initiative*  
<http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=opioid-epidemic-task-force-reap>
- Survey and Petition are attached to this form
- Facebook Planning- Barbara Burns of Community Education will give us the information on her facebook contact to develop our site.

### **Discussion**

- Horizon Health services continues to be a support for families or those in crisis.
- We need to continue to explore grassroots because when Task Force ends the families will still need a place for comfort and support. SPOA is still long term goal.
- Telephone line is being voted on this Thurs. Colleen Babcock from Horizon Health said Legislators agreed to take out of committee and approve. We need to let our elected leaders that this issue is a bipartisan endeavor to save the lives in our community. We do not support any one affiliation but appreciate their ability to respond to the needs of the public. Line will still take 6-8 weeks before staff will be ready. Use Treatment Providers list that was sent out.
- Need to explore grief process and support. Our grief and the "parenting through the terror of addiction" are not typical. We are affected deeply. Jackie will approach funeral director to determine best way to let families know they are not alone.
- Use of 211 for information and referral- not for emergencies, continue with 911.
- Encourage Narcan training and cleaning out medicine cabinets, to others. Public awareness is key to safe homes, community and combating this epidemic.

**Break into Work Groups.** Close- Next meeting: **June 7, 2016 5-7 pm** Erie County Training Center Cheektowaga NY.