

## Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force

### Work Group Monthly Report

Work Group Name: PAARI. Group now called R.E.A.P. (Rapid Evaluation and Appropriate Placement)

Work Group Leader: Daniel F. Rinaldo

Work Group Chair: Eric Weigel

Work Group Meeting Schedule: Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2016, 1000 hours at Amherst Police Headquarters.

Summary of meetings/Activities:

#### Task Force Meeting 2/8/16 0900

Location: Amherst PD

Present: Jeff Rinaldo, Dan Rinaldo, Joe Wehrfritz, Joann Dinoto, Mary St. Mary, Eric Weigel

- Name: The task force agreed on L.E.A.C. Law Enforcement Assistance Consortium of WNY.
- Erie County Task Force Name: R.E.A.P. Rapid Evaluation & Appropriate Placement.
- Call Center: The group decided that the Erie County 211 call center was the best option for dispatching the Angel volunteers.

- Buffalo PD has created the outline for the Angel program. They will do the criminal screening of all of the volunteers as well as provide and host a training program for them.
- Treatment Providers: Group went to the new OASAS dashboard. This site is searchable by county, city for all of the treatment providers in NYS. The group contacted Horizons Treatment Facility and spoke to the intake counselor. At this time, they are not willing to accept anyone into inpatient treatment off the street. They are going to take applicants and place them into outpatient services first, to determine exactly what the person needs. This goes against the nature of the PARRI project. At this point, Sobriety Now seems to be best positioned to provide the rapid response, evaluation and placement of program participants.
- Spoke to Mike Brown from Sobriety Now. He is in the process of making local treatment contacts and establishing local protocols on how his program will work. He has established a local number for police departments to get in touch with him on a 24 hour basis. It is 716 478-HELP (4357). He is an JCAHO accredited agency and will utilize licensed practitioners to do the intake evaluations. They are prepared to fly program participants to Florida for treatment. The person must be medically cleared first, which would happen at local hospitals. Mr. Brown expects to have more information on the local connections with treatment providers by next week.
- We will need a meeting with ECMC to establish protocols for the medical screening of program participants and to ensure that the person stays in the program through the hospital screening.
- Hours of Operation: The program would be available from 7am – 2pm 7 days a week where a person could present to a local PD for program admission.

#### Task Force Meeting 2/23/16

1400 hrs.

Location: Amherst PD

Present: Jeff Rinaldo, Dan Rinaldo, Joe Wehrfritz, Joann Dinoto, Mary St. Mary, Eric Weigel, Kelly Dodd, Tom Gerace.

- Kelly Dodd from Erie County 211 came to the meeting to discuss viability of using their services to dispatch the angels. They are a 24 hour a day service with 15 operators working. They believe under their current setup, that they can take on the task of coordinating and dispatching the angel volunteers. 211 is designed on providing resources for health and human services. List of angels would be broken up by zip codes for dispatching purposes.
  
- A call was placed to the Scarborough ME PD, who recently launched a PAARI Project, to discuss their relationship with Sobriety Now. Spoke to John Gil who stated that they have not placed any people with Sobriety Now. They do deal with Amethyst treatment centers. As a PD, they run limited hours for someone to come in for treatment placement. They operate 7am – 2pm and till noon on Fridays. They utilize signage in the lobby of the PD announcing the program. An officer is assigned a call and a civilian liaison is paged to come up front and assist with the intake. They do an initial screening to make sure someone is not disqualified for the program. Once they pass screening, the officer steps out of the process and an angel is summoned of the same gender to respond. When they arrive (20 – 30 minute response time) they take over the placement part of the service. The PD sends a broadcast page and the first angel to respond gets the call. The PD keeps comfort items on hands, blankets, food, water and clothes to sustain people thru the process. If a medical emergency presents, they notify EMS. Officers and angels are very welcoming and honest thru the process. The PAARI participant centers are somewhat exhausted in terms of open beds. Scarborough utilizes the angels to canvass treatment centers around the US for open beds. It has taken up to 8 hours to find a bed and sometimes they make the person come back the next day. The person is asked about financial resources on their behalf to help get the person to the treatment facility. If none exist, they the PD help fund it. They are very selective of who they offer the program to. They make sure the person is fully onboard with the program before committing any resources to them. They do not want to burn any bridges with any treatment facilities by placing non-committed people in a facility. Detox services are still a big challenge to their program due to a lack of facilities that offer the service. Some participants require detox before they can travel to the treatment centers. To date, they have not done any tracking of data related to their program because they have been over-whelmed by the number of people seeking treatment.
  
- The group placed a call to Mike Brown of Sobriety Now for an update on his efforts to coordinate a local treatment system. He informed us that he has had no success in getting any local treatment centers to come on-board with providing beds for this PAARI

program. His plan is to re-canvass the PAARI treatment providers for availability of beds. Much of his success with placement has been based on families providing resources to get the patient to the treatment facilities.

### Task Force Meeting 3/7/16

1000 hrs.

Location: Amherst PD

Present: Jeff Rinaldo, Dan Rinaldo, Joe Wehrfritz, Joann Dinoto, , Eric Weigel, Kelly Dodd, Tom Gerace plus numerous others.

- Personnel from the Kids Escaping Drugs Organization came to the meeting and described a program they were attempting to put into place. They want to hire assessment counselors to perform the initial assessment and link them with the services they need. Their organization has the funding to do this but they are waiting for the go ahead and then need to hire the right people to perform this task. Also, potentially, they can provide a drop off location for someone who comes to a PD for help, where the Angels could respond and assessments take place.
- Crisis Services is still pursuing funding to also assist with the clinical assessments.
- Individual departments should join PAARI on their own.
- Our group should appoint a Chief to be the PIO. Chief of Tonawanda PD Jerome Uschold agreed to take this position.
- Smaller departments may have to wait until 291 Elm is up and running before they can participate due to building and personnel constraints.

Work Group Contact Information: [Daniel Rinaldo, drinaldo@nynjhidta.org](mailto:Daniel.Rinaldo@nynjhidta.org)

Support needed? Will discuss in person.