

Minutes 6/7/16: Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force Family and Consumer Support and Advocacy Section

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.

Attendees:

Deb Smith

Jackie Sullivan

Jessica Hutchings

Tom Gerace

Sarah Sporysz

Katey McEvoy

Lynn Kaczmarkowski

Glen Briggs

Elizabeth Terranova

Tom McCarthy

Debi DiVita-Cleary

Dan Adamczyk

Andrea Morgante

Diane DiStefano

Open

Minutes of last meeting were approved. (motion, Jeannine Cormier / second, Tom McCarthy)

Chair Reports-

Lobbying

Diane D

- Court cases:
 - June 7 is Court case for Dellsean Hamilton- sentenced to incarceration
 - June 15 9:30am Arias will plea to B level felony. Tom Gerace of Cheektowaga PD gave update of case as Cheektowaga was arresting agency. Expected to get jail time.
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- Dillon's Law- copy supplied by Dan Adamczyk.
 - Held in committee. Contact Speaker Heastie
 - Draft letter of support.

Event Resource and Planning

Jeannine (Deb S.)

- May 21st walk had 1500 to 2000 people. Great community response. Awareness is happening.
- June 4 Memorial at Historical Museum memorial for Michael Israel, turn out was great.

Community Education

Tom and Deb C

- Treatment provider meeting- update. Providers are looking for solutions, not problems, They want an aggressive plan. Possible expansion of treatment court with greater access, accountability.
- Glenn Briggs spoke on the Personal stories library at the Golf function and how helpful that was to the event. We need more presence at Narcan trainings. Possibly a sign up sheet for rotation of our stories.

Grief Support

Diane C. (Jackie)

Facebook has several sites: WNY Still Standing, TWTYE, Heroin Memorial, I hate heroin, Caring for Opiate Addicted Loved Ones-COALO as resources. We are still working on the brochure for funeral homes.

New Business and Discussion

Erie County Fair – August 10-21st we need two days of volunteers to man the tables. We may look for involvement with other sections of the Task Force on other days. Cheryl Moore said she will provide NARCAN training- Train the Trainer for 100 people. A sign up sheet was passed around for interest. Diane DiSteffano provided a guide for Alternatives for Managing Pain. Upcoming event for June 15, Cheektowaga Awareness 3600 Union Rd. Cheektowaga, NY.

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