



Plymouth County Drug Abuse Task Force
September 17th, 2021
Plymouth County Sheriff's Department
24 Long Pond Road, Plymouth
10:00-11:30

Welcome and Opening Remarks

DA Tim Cruz

- Drug Endangered Children Initiative (DEC) is a top priority. Back in June, the DA's office began offering DEC Academy through the National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. Presented to MDAA and Sheriff's Association on DEC.
- Through PCO, Police Chiefs in Plymouth County have signed an MOU to notify one another of overdoses.
- Key focus is trying to get in front of cycles i.e abuse, trauma, drugs

Sheriff Joe McDonald

- Going forward, joint meetings with Mass DAs' and Sheriffs' will be reinstated.
- Jail population is low at the moment
 - No fatalities/hospitalizations from COVID in the jail
- Rehabilitative work in programs is continuing
 - Classroom training for trades readies inmates for apprenticeships when they leave
- MAT Treatment
 - Did not participate in MAT initially because there was no funding for that.
 - Treatment is never denied, any inmate who requests MAT is to be transferred to Norfolk County
 - Working with DPH to receive approval and funding for MAT in the jail.
- Narcan Distribution
 - Currently working on distributing Narcan to inmates when they leave the facility and pushing Narcan Education to inmates. Waiting for approval to house Narcan in the guard shack to make it available to those who release from court and the public.
- Task Force Facebook page has been updated and QR codes with information are available.
- Waiting to hear on Second Chance grant, family reunification project with DA's Office and Family Center
- 2nd Battle of the Badges Bowling Tournament – November 20th at Westgate Lanes.
 - Last year the tournament raised over \$6,000 for sober activities.
 - Looking for 30 teams to participate.

Legislative Reports

Representative Alyson Sullivan

- A major topic being discussed in the House are two bills regarding Safe Consumption Sites (Bill S.1258, H.2088, S.1272) and Decriminalization of users (Bill S.1277 and H.2119).
- The link to the Committee hearing on September 27th at 9 am is as follows: <https://malegislature.gov/Events/Hearings/Detail/3887>. Deadline of 9/22/2021 at 5 PM to sign up to testify virtually.
- Written testimony regarding any of the bills that Representative Sullivan spoke about can be submitted online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdq-1-A3TGarK-csX2GN7w5dg-mCybuKdIuxcUTiNyblJm_3A/viewform?usp=sf_link. You can also CC or send the comments directly to Karen Barry (kbarry@pcsdma.org), or Representative Alyson Sullivan (Alyson.Sullivan@mahouse.gov)

Senator Susan Moran (susan.moran@masenate.gov)

- Substantial funding to law enforcement addressing mental health issues, Grandparents raising grandchildren, and substance use disorder

Public Safety Subcommittee

Vicky Butler

- PCO partners law enforcement with Recovery Coaches with lived experience to create an outreach team. This team conducts home visits with individuals who have overdosed 24-72 hours after the incident.
- Tier 2 Initiative – Provide wrap around services to individuals that are high risk (someone who has overdosed 3 or more times in a 6-month period or someone who has overdosed twice in one month)
- Family Support Specialist- person with lived experience who provides support specifically to individuals who have loved ones living with substance use disorder
- Peer Grief Support Specialist – Person with lived experience who provides support to individuals who have lost a loved one to overdose. Hand-written sympathy cards are sent out after the incident and a visit is conducted 4-6 weeks later.
- New Additions to PCO are harm reduction kits, hot spot outreach, homeless improvement kits, re-entry partnership PHOC
- KRA/CIMS data shows decrease in fatal overdoses, decrease in non-fatal overdoses, increase in at-risk referrals
- Brockton has lost all detox beds for female patients. Sober living continues to be an important resource that many cannot afford.
- HUB is addressing dual diagnosis situations. Grant-funded project with PAARI. 4 tables meet weekly.

Jim Cormier

- Amanda Consigli is the Public Health Analyst with New England HIDTA
- About 93,000 overdose deaths nationally last year, up approximately 20,000 from year before.
- Trends:

- Fentanyl is the main drug trend with opiates still being a prominent issue in our area.
- Heroin use is falling off as it is hard to find the pure substance
- Stimulants is an emerging threat nationwide
- Meth is starting to increase in our area like never before. It will provide a lot of problems for law enforcement as it alters behavior. There is no MAT treatment approved for Meth.
- Counterfeit pills is also becoming an increasing issue. Counterfeit Xanax, Percocet's, and Adderall are some examples of this.
- For more information on NEHIDTA, go to [HOME | New England HIDTA \(nehidta.org\)](http://www.nhidta.org)

Medical Subcommittee

Dr. Dan Muse

- ER is full of mental health patients, many dual diagnosis. Alcohol, cannabis are contributing risk factors.

Sarah Cloud

- Fast Facts on Long-Term Marijuana Use and Cannabinoid Hyperemesis: [CHS-Fact-Sheet.pdf \(plymouthda.com\)](http://www.plymouthda.com/CHS-Fact-Sheet.pdf)
- Emergency rooms are sharing information and care plans, improving care for frequent visitors.
- Sarah Cloud authored two children's books that tells the story of a child losing a parent to the disease of addiction. A personalized stuffed animal, who is the main character of the books, that was made through Matthew's Candles and it can be dressed in clothing of a loved one can be purchased.
- If interested in purchasing the book, you can go to https://www.amazon.com/Books-Sarah-Cloud/s?rh=n%3A283155%2Cp_27%3ASarah+Cloud or email Sarah Cloud at scloud@bidplymouth.org. If interested in purchasing a personalized stuffed animal you can do so by emailing Sarah Cloud also.

Education Subcommittee

Melinda Kneeland

- Kati Mapa – DEC Clinical Advocate
- Handle With Care
- Trauma Learning Policy Initiative (TLPI)
 - Helping traumatized children learn
 - Providing workshop style trainings due to COVID

Community Coalitions

Jen Cantwell

- Zoom meetings with all of the coalitions quarterly. April 12, July 15 – next meeting October 14.
- Co-Chairs: Hillary Dubois Farquharson, Joanne Peterson

- Participation by Kristen Arute, Hingham Cares; Mike Cogburn, Pembroke Titans Against Drugs; Kurt Gerold, Jeremy Scott, the Anchor of Hull; Mary Price, Marshfield FACTS; Annmarie Galvin, Scituate FACTS; Katelyn McSweeney, Carver Cares, Middleborough Matters, Plymouth Area Prevention Collaborative; Kelly Macomber, PYDC, Plymouth Area Prevention Collaborative; Karen Peterson, South Shore Health; Lori Sullivan, Becky Lee, Plymouth County Sheriff's Department; Trudy Avery, Cook Family Charitable Foundation
- Topics of meetings include: Shared National Prescription Drug Take Back Day strategies and events; Discussed data collection; Inclusivity; Trends; Shared National DEC Academy training opportunity; Grandparents Raising Grandchildren panel discussion event/s; Cannabis policy forum; Hingham's Take Ten series; Make It Home campaign.

Faith Based Coalitions Subcommittee

Rev. Paul Jehle

- Presentation at churches by Teen Challenge
- Raising awareness among clergy

Deacon Jim Greer

- Cardinal's Task Force "I Thirst" program trains spiritual companions (somewhat like a peer recovery coach or 12-step sponsor)
- Running a one day retreat for fathers who have lost a child to addiction.
- Lunch by the Soup Man at parking lot of St. Peter's Church in Plymouth.
- Teen Challenge – Recovery Rides for Plymouth and Brockton. If a person needs transportation to a MOUD appointment, Recovery Rides can do that.