



Plymouth County Drug Abuse Task Force
September 16th, 2022
Plymouth County Sheriff's Department
24 Long Pond Road, Plymouth
10:00-11:30

Meeting Minutes

DA Cruz:

- COVID changed the way we all operated, we faced constant court closings, and things slowed down, but nothing ground to a halt. The Children's Advocacy Center stayed open throughout the pandemic to support and get services for all child victims.
- Videoconferencing is still being utilized.
- TLPI's Helping Traumatized Children Learn training is back up and running in schools.
- September is recovery month and Vigils are being held around the county
- New Drug Trends: counterfeit drugs that look like candy often contain fentanyl or methamphetamine, and can be deadly. They are easily accessible and often sold on social media, the same social media teens use.
- DA's Office is currently developing a program for parents to educate them about the dangers of these pressed pills.
- The DA's office in partnership with Dr. Muse, has produced videos on Human Trafficking and Drug Endangered Children. Our plan is to get this to staff and professionals in the schools so that they are trained to recognize the signs that someone is being trafficked or showing ACEs and get them held and services.
- DA's office is providing comfort dogs to schools/school resource officers due to trauma, COVID, and drug issues. Hingham was the first town to receive a comfort dog and it has expanded to Brockton, Abington, Hanson, Scituate and Hanover.

Sheriff:

- Michelle White in our Reentry department is working with the Recovery Courts.
- Safekeep Program is back up and running. The Safekeep program is if someone is arrested over a weekend or long weekend, they will be held at PCCF rather than the police station holding cell. The Jail will transport that individual to court as well.
- MOUD Unit is opening. The Medical provider is CPS. Waiting for approval from DPA for Methadone to begin, but in the meantime those inmates are still being transferred to Norfolk. Looking to hire dosing nurses: [Employment \(pcsdma.org\)](https://www.pcsdma.org)
- Jim Frazier is working in the Mayor's Office with justice-involved individuals. His services are not limited to those who leave PCCF; they are open for the community.

- CORI Friendly Job Fair will be held soon, please see flyer attached.
- Battle of the Badges bowling tournament will be held again on October 1st. All proceeds go to Drug Endangered Children. Please see attached flyer.
- Sheriff's Farm Festival will be held on 10/8, please see attached flyer.

Legislature:

- Muratore: Major Mental Health Bill is in the works. It will highlight bed availability, insurance company responsibility, and budget increase for medication.
- 220 Million dollars will be allocated to the following issues:
 - Housing for Homeless
 - Recovery step down programs
 - Technical assistance and training.
 - 10 new Recovery Centers
 - Workforce Training

PCO/Vicky Butler

- September Data: Fatal- 2, non-fatal 36, at-risk 25
- PCO is now a part of the Community Naloxone Purchasing Program (CNPP) thanks to the assistance of Dr. Muse. This means we're getting subsidized Narcan through the state. Not only does this free up funds within our budget to give back to the community in other ways but our Narcan distribution is up from last year because of it.
- PCO has distributed over 2,000 doses of Narcan since January 1st and over 300 harm reduction kits
- We have a recovery coach doing community outreach to local businesses, apartment complexes and hotels where we've seen increases in overdose numbers. Through this initiative, we've been able to place 16 Naloxboxes throughout Plymouth County in the last 6 months.
- Reconciling on a monthly basis with MSP through DA's office which has been extremely helpful in making sure we and they have the most up to date numbers

Mike Sampson- HIDTA:

- Important for HIDTA to hear from community members about what trends they are seeing.
- They are seeing an uptick in Xylazine
- Drugs being sold are not pure; they are being cut with things to lower cost.

John Santos:

- Meth is becoming more popular and mixed with fentanyl.
- Cocaine that is being sold is actually fentanyl.

Education:

- Dr. Chris Frazier has joined the BSU campus as the Executive Director of the Wellness Center to focus on substance misuse.
- Narcan is being distributed on campus and is available in accessible areas.

Jen Cantwell:

- DECI Grant- 1.18 million dollars to extend the work with DECI
 - Project goals: identify children impacted by substance use in the home and connect those families to resources and services. Train first responders and schools on trauma informed practices. Raise awareness of ACEs and DEC.
- Jerrica Harmon is the new DECI project coordinator out of the DA's Office
- Partnered with United Way of Plymouth County
 - Hiring a Master's level social worker.
- Other project partners: Balance Workshops, Calmer Choice, TLPI, To The Moon and Back
- Created a resource guide
- Training video: [DECI and ACEs - YouTube](#)
- Balance Workshops Facilitator Training 10/22
- TLPI Training for Plymouth School Nurses 11/8

High Point- Amanda Sandoval:

- SAMHSA: STOP Underage Drinking Grant- \$250,000.00 Awarded to the DA's office for FY2020-2024
- The DAs office has partnered with BAPC to deliver services to students and faculty at the South Shore Vo-tech and the Southeast Regional Vo-Tech schools, and has partnered with Hanover Police Department to provide a school resource officer to the Vo-Tech 2 days a week.
- The partnership with Vo-tech Schools provides targeted outreach with the Shop Talks program. With Shop Talks we are trying to engage students and provide them with prevention information.
- We continually work with Co-op students from the Vo-techs to put out social marketing campaigns for education. The students created PSAs and social media ads and we were able to display one of these PSAs on a billboard.
- OD2A- Overdoes prevention training to any businesses is available in person or via Zoom.
 - 30 Minutes long and multiple languages available.

Community Coalitions Subcommittee Update – Jen Cantwell

- Meets Quarterly, virtually - met September 15th
- Opportunity to network with other community coalitions for substance use prevention to share ideas, challenges, and successful strategies
- Recent meetings focused on opioid settlement funds distribution to municipalities. At 9/15 meeting subcommittee members shared anecdotal observation of increase in older adults seeking treatment for SUD. Subcommittee will explore a collaborative outreach to COAs to increase awareness of treatment options, harm reduction.

Deacon Greer:

- I Thirst program- A spiritual companion/AA coach works with users and spirituality of 12 steps.
- Catholic and Recovery program- 12 step program that focuses on Christ as the higher power and adds gospels to the steps.

- On October 9th at the Holy Family church in Duxbury, there will be a Mass for Recovery held and Deacon Greer will share his recovery story.
- Update from Rev. Jehle:
 - Teen Challenge continues to expand and now has a multi-week and one month program in addition to the 15 month recovery.
 - More and more churches are getting involved in supporting these faith based efforts and for that we are grateful.