

CITY-COUNTY HEROIN, OPIOID, AND COCAINE TASK FORCE MEETING

MARCH 17, 2017, 1:00 p.m.

In attendance:	Bevan Baker	Karen Loebel
	Hector Colon	Michael Lappen
	Ald. Michael Murphy	Brian Peterson
	Ald. Khalif Rainey	Christine Westrich
	Mayor CoryAnn St. Marie-Carls	E. Brooke Lerner
	Marisol Cervera	

Vice-Chair Hector Colon was nominated and asked three questions before accepting the nomination:

1. Whether the Task Force would break into sub-committees to handle specific issues?
2. What metrics would be employed to measure the progress of the Task Force?
3. Whether the Task Force would refer to the Surgeon General and other relevant sources?

Ald. Murphy addressed those questions as follows:

1. If the Task Force identifies specific issues to investigate in a more concentrated manner, sub-committees would be appropriate.
2. The Task Force would identify goals and specific outcomes, which the Task Force later identified in the course of this meeting.
3. The Task Force would look at best practices nationally.

Hector Colon accepted the nomination as Vice-Chair.

Chair Bevan Baker was nominated and accepted the nomination.

The members of the Task Force introduced themselves.

Eight Task Force goals and expected outcomes were presented, discussed, and expanded. All eight goals, discussed further below, were adopted with agreement that the Task Force would be allowed to expand the goals and outcomes. The following goals were discussed (additional comments from Task Force members are underlined):

1. Increase Narcan availability in non-medical settings within the community. State legislation has made more Narcan available. There is a need for organized training in administering Narcan.
2. Increase the amount of prescription drugs collected within the City/ County through fixed site locations and MMSD collection days.
3. Coordinate a sustainable public awareness campaign around destigmatizing addiction.
4. Increase MAT (medication assistance treatment) capacity within the City/ County.
5. Identify and obtain federal, state, and other funding sources for sustainment of opioid prevention, treatment, and control activities in the City/ County.
6. Increase prevention and treatment capacity – especially looking at residential treatment options through BHD. The continuum of services should be broader, and turn-away rates need to be published.
7. Increase toxicology capacity through medical examiner – seek funding to modernize equipment to get faster/ more accurate data points. The mix of drugs is changing. For example, fentanyl is currently being mixed in, and market forces are driving the mix. Mixes are dangerous where an addicted individual normally would take a particular dose and that same dose when mixed with fentanyl or some other drug will kill the person taking the dose.
8. Provide data to various consortiums through OEM, BHD, MEO to streamline data needs and reduce duplication. A \$300,000 grant to unscramble data is available. Need to collect data in one reporting system that is accessible and available to everyone.

Additional observations, comments, and feedback related to goals were as follows:

- The average age of a person dying from heroin and opioid overdose is 44. Education needs to be tailored to the audience, and the data needs to be available to the general public.
- An observation many members have heard is that people are only looking at heroin and opioid addiction from a medical standpoint (instead of a criminal one) because it is affecting white people.
- The Task Force should look at the pharmaceutical industry and its role in the epidemic, and focus on the pharmaceutical industry in its education efforts.
- Roundy's is interested in participating in some funding; that might be a good source when seeking funding for public education.
- The Task Force should add a member from the community to represent the perspective of recovering addicts.
- Parents and communities are already making efforts at public education, so it would be helpful to reach out to those groups and join in their efforts.

- The group “Voice of the Fatherless Child” made an offer to be on standby to help.
- The demand in the County exceeds the funds available for assistance.
- Elizabeth Collier of DHS offered to provide the formula for the breakdown of the SAMHSA grant.

Task Force members proposed the following desired outcomes:

- Ald. Murphy: Reduce deaths by half in five years.
- Dr. Lerner: Decrease number of times Narcan is used by EMS over the next five years.
- Decrease volume of cases in drug court with fewer referrals and more admissions to drug treatment.
- Commissioner Baker: Decrease recidivism in drug treatment court.
- Attorney Loebel: Increase drug-treatment court capacity.
- Ald. Murphy: Decrease drug-involved homicides by 50% in five years.
- Commissioner Baker: Increase in sustainable City funding for this issue.
- Obtain better alignment of efforts among the entities dealing with the issue.
- Mayor St. Marie-Carls: Obtain commitment from every municipality to contribute to outreach and education on this issue.
- Commissioner Baker: Expand DEA 360 program over the next two to three years.
- Ms. Westrich: Obtain 100% participation from ED’s in warm handoff.
- Include codeine compounds in the scope of work.
- Increase number of collection points for unwanted drugs.
- Change the volume of drugs entering the system, including reduction in issuance of opiate prescriptions. Meet with physicians and consider prescriptions as a main target for turning off the spigot to the flow of drugs into the system.
- Install a medicine collection box in every pharmacy and increase education regarding how to dispose of unused medicine.

A discussion on City and County efforts, programs, initiatives, grants, and activities was as follows:

- DHS application for SAMHSA grant funds: the application was for \$7.5 million per year for a two-year time period, with a total of \$15.7 million for the two-year period. One guideline for using the funds specifies 12-25 year olds, and the question was asked why this age range, given that most overdose deaths are older individuals.

- DHS CDC grant funds: There are two grants, four strategy areas, and five people on the opioid team.
- Other: Addiction has its roots in prescriptions, although many of those affected were never prescribed the medications and instead obtained them through family or friends.

Public comments were taken. The following comments were made:

- Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) sought guidance on Narcan training. Five or six municipalities signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Milwaukee County EMS, and the motion was made for all 19 to sign on.
- MPD stated it cannot arrest its way out of this problem.
- We are locking up too many black and brown boys for this epidemic, although MPD stated it cannot arrest its way out of this.
- John Richards of Take Back Your Meds Milwaukee stated that 90% of unused medicine is not being collected. We need to set sights higher as to what gets collected.
- We need to destigmatize prevention, and the public needs more and better information.
- We need to determine what is within the purview of the Common Council and prioritize the Task Force's goals.
- Recommendations need to be data-driven and evidence-driven.
- Communities differ regarding what works.
- There is a diffusion of responsibility. We need someone to step up and point out our blind spots.
- Detox in jail is the biggest fear for many users because of how they are treated in jail.
- The Task Force needs to look at the prescribing habits of doctors.
- There are not enough facilities for women to get off drugs.
- There needs to be better coordination among organizations.
- Addiction needs to be destigmatized and recognized as a chronic illness.
- The stories of addicts need to be individualized, and faces need to be presented along with statistics.
- All the little charges (shoplifting, etc.) add up, so that even though a larger conviction may be expunged, the smaller charges create a record that makes it difficult for a person in recovery to be employed.
- The Task Force should engage people who made it through addiction, and those people should be used for public education campaign.
- A book called "Chasing the Scream" by Johann Hari was recommended.

- Currently, 211 appears to be the only resource for help, and it is not immediate enough.

A discussion was had regarding meeting frequency, dates, times, and location. Meetings will likely be once per month, and ad hoc committees will meet separately. Staff will reach out to all members to schedule the next meeting.

Staff will compile the agenda items for the next and subsequent meetings.

Commissioner Baker concluded the meeting stating that the Task Force has a lot of work to do, and that work is a gift.

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