

Minutes from 1/11/17 meeting of Opiate Crisis Steering Committee at Oxford Town Hall

Laura DeLeo Denslow took minutes of the meeting. George indicated he would have someone available to take minutes on future dates.

Committee members present at the meeting: Sue Schiavi, Laura Denslow, Kenn Maher, Father John Donnelly, Heather Ferrillo, Vinny Provenzano

George Temple joined us for part of the meeting

Other people attending: OHS Principal Dorothy Potter, Jodi Zaleha – school RN, Frank Diaferio- Oxford Pharmacy, Lisa Trupp- Pomperaug Health, Robin Lucas- Pomperaug Health, Elana Sadlor- coordinated through Pomperaug- working 24 hours/week for town on Opiate issues

Heather nominated Sue for Chairman. Ken seconded it, and she was unanimously voted Chairman of the Committee

Sue nominated Madeline for Vice Chairman, Heather seconded it, and she was unanimously voted Vice Chairman of the Committee

Members and guests introduced themselves, and indicated their backgrounds and interest in the committee work.

We agreed to continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 7. If conflicts arise, meeting dates can be modified.

Sue shared that CARES, our support group run in conjunction with Southbury, which meets at Southbury UCC, was well attended last night with approximately 30 people present. CARES is an open meeting, anyone is welcome. It provides family support, it has a facilitator, allows cross talk, has a 24 hour line and can do referrals as well.

We all agreed to make our official name OASIS which stands for Oxford Addictive Substances Information Service

We also talked about Elana Sadlor's role working with Oxford and some of the things that she can begin to do on behalf of the town. Pomperaug is working with her to put together a draft work plan as she begins her job with Oxford. Her email is [elanahealth95@gmail.com](mailto:elanahealth95@gmail.com) if anyone wants to get in touch with her. Pomperaug is the "housing agency" for Lisa, and as our grant person we can provide input as to what we would like her to focus on as we move forward. She will continue with us through September 2018 at 24 hours a week.

Representatives from Pomperaug also shared that they have many resources that are available to the public now. They are currently working on a program for seniors that is a very good one, that they would be willing to do at Oxford Senior Center. It involves opiate awareness, chronic pain management, and education regarding locking up and keeping meds safe.

Dorothy Potter shared that she is very invested in drug education at the high school, and the program they had with the "Chasing the Dragon Movie" was excellent. She continues to be interested in programs for students as well as parents. Pomperaug has connections to put her in touch with a DOJ program that is very good for parents, and she will follow up with that.

Father Donnelly indicated that we should make people aware of faith based programs in the community that are available, as many people, particularly those in crisis, are looking for these types of resources.

Kenn offered himself as a speaker, and indicated he has done so on many occasions to groups, talking about his recovery.

We talked about the need to make sure that the public is aware of what resources are available, and the possibility of a Facebook page, and website in the future to accomplish this goal.

Sue talked about a Local Prevention Council, and indicated that there will be more information on that at the next meeting. It would be a separate entity, which would co exist with us, but could apply for grants on behalf of the town. We will discuss that more at the next meeting when other guests will join us to provide more information on that issue. George reminded us that any funds obtained by our committee has to go through the town, and we need to set up a separate checking account with clear accounting for all funds since we are a town committee.

We discussed recent accomplishments in town helping to address the opiate issue: the Lights of Hope program, the new school resource officer at OHS, the drug drop box at the police station, and Elana.

In our next meeting we want to continue to formulate goals, and discuss subcommittees, and how we can move forward most effectively to achieve our goals. Vinny provided a proposed mission statement as well as a draft letter for families in crisis (thank you), and we will have further discussion on those matters at our next meeting.

Frank provided a brief history of the opiate crisis, and shared what he has seen in his many years at the pharmacy.

Laura suggested that at the next meeting, when we discuss subcommittees, it will help us now to move forward with assessing where we are and where we want to go with various goals. For example, an education committee might start out by reporting to the group after a month or two of study, what resources are available to children, students, adults, and seniors in our community currently. When we have this information, we can then move forward more effectively with setting specific goals in areas where we feel needs are not being sufficiently met. We can do that with our other subcommittees that deal with issues pertaining to Publicity, and Outreach.

Our next meeting is 2/8.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura DeLeo Denslow

18 JAN 17 AM 9:54  
TOWN OF OXFORD, CT  
*Laura DeLeo Denslow*  
TOWN CLERK