

# **Minutes of the Governor's Task Force on Drug Overdose**

## **Monday, April 20, 2015**

The April meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Drug Overdose was called to order by Maria Montanaro, Director of BHDDH, at 10:00 AM in Barry Hall, Conference Room #126.

In attendance was Maria Montanaro, Director BHDDH; Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott, Director DOH; James McDonald, MD, Executive Director, DOH; Peter Ragosta, CEO, DOH and Executive Director of the RI Board of Pharmacy; Rebecca Boss, Associate Director, BHDDH; Linda Mahoney, Administrator, BHDDH; Col. Steven O'Donnell, RI State Police; Marian Royer, DMD, RI Dental Association; David Spencer, Executive Director, DATA of RI; Michael Rizzi, CEO/President, CODAC; Nancy DeNuccio, Chairperson, RI Substance Abuse Prevention Assoc.; Tom Joyce, Associate Director, The Providence Center; Traci Green, Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine, Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital; Cecelia Pelkey, Vice President, Government Relations at Hospital Association of Rhode Island; Michelle McKenzie, Lifespan; Eleanor Lewis, Senior Network Manager, OptumHealth; Jef Bratberg, Professor, URI Pharmacy; Paula Dominguez, Deputy Director of Policy at Rhode Island Senate; Captain Robert Wall, RI State Police; Jennifer Andrade Kozial, injury prevention, DOH; and Rosemary Petteruti, BHDDH.

Director Montanaro introduced the new Director of Health, Dr. Nicole Alexander-Scott.

Peter Ragosta, Executive Director of the RI Board of Pharmacy addressed the group regarding regulations for Opioids. He discussed the need to get Narcan out into the communities.

Jenn Andrade Kozial addressed the group regarding unintentional injury. Jenn spoke about the memorandum of understanding (MOU) pertaining to the DOH Regs that was signed by Director Montanaro and given to Dr. Fine. The Director questioned the whereabouts of the MOU and the process of exchanging data with the Director of DOH.

Traci Green addressed the need to get Naloxone (Narcan) out into the communities. Traci has met with the Attorney General's office to discuss the process of getting rebates to state agencies and police departments.

Linda Mahoney spoke on the subject of preventing further overdoses. Linda reported on three meetings she held regarding various programs regarding the committee task force:

- 1) Rhode Island School Psychologists Association (RISPA) with the focus on youth and the need for more funding.
- 2) The task force recommendations to do a full page ad to combat overdose (similar to CVS). She pointed out that RI has had 76 deaths due to overdose to date this year as reported by Dr. McDonald, DOH.
- 3) Potential grants to the communities. Request for information for small grants to the communities to prevent overdose deaths.

Director Montanaro requested a sub committee be formed to track the progress of the program. Discussed was the need for media and communications regarding this Awareness Campaign. The sub committee will consist of Linda Mahoney, administrator, BHDDH; Capt. Robert Wall, RI State Police; Peter Ragosta, Executive Director of the RI Board of Pharmacy; Tommy Joyce, Providence Center/AnchorEd; Michael Rizzi, CEO/DODAC; and Nancy DeNuccio, RI Substance Abuse Association.

The director tabled an open discussion regarding a request from John Hopkins in Bloomberg to work with the RI Task Force. Traci Green shared her concerns about John Hopkins taking the lead. Traci pointed out that in the past, RI has been the lead providing training to John Hopkins. Traci stated that RI remains at 25 less deaths this year than previous years and that RI has had an increase of only 5% while the national average has doubled.

The director announced that the Mental Health Summit will be held on June 8. She expects 250 people will attend. The discussions will be in the TED Talks format. Topics to be discussed will be:

- 1) People who live in pain; Opioid related deaths; results from the MacColl Center and the ECHO programs
- 2) No wrong door
- 3) Serious and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI)
- 4)

The discussions will be broken down into three segments. Each segment will last two hours.

- a) Topic
- b) Innovative ideas
- c) Table talks

A Task Force meeting will be schedule for May. The date and time has yet to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosemary Petteruti*