

Governor's Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2016, Department of Administration

Task Force Members Present or represented:

A.T. Wall, DOC
Anya Wallack, Medicaid
Barbara Goldner, L
David Spencer, Drug and Alcohol Treatment Association
Donna Policastro, RI Nurses Association
Dr. Gary Bubly, Emergency Department representative
Dr. James McDonald, RI Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline
Dr. Kathleen Hittner, OHIC
Dr. Matthew Collins, BCBS
Erin McDonough, MRC/DMAT
Jason Rhodes, DOH Emergency Medical Services
Jeff Bratberg, URI College of Pharmacy
Maria Montanaro, BHDDH
Michelle McKenzie, RICARES
Mike Rizzi, CODAC, Harm Reduction Representative
Nancy DeNuccio, Substance Abuse Prevention
Peter Ragosta, RI Board of Pharmacy
Susan Jacobsen, Thundermist
The Honorable David Bennett
The Honorable Joshua Miller, Senate
Thomas Davis, CVS Health
Tommy Joyce, The Providence Center

Director Montanaro welcomed everyone to the meeting. She introduced Brian and Barbara Goldner who shared their story of losing their son to a drug overdose. Their son went to the emergency department (ED) for drug overdoses seven times in the months before his death. The Goldners recommended several changes to the ED process/system to prevent this from happening to any other family. Recommendations included clear and appropriate use of HIPAA regulations, training on the tracking of multiple overdose visits to ED, training/defining 'risk to self or others', education of when it is appropriate to contact emergency contacts, and redefining the triage and discharge protocols. On a broader level, they recommended a complete redesign of emergency services for drug overdose patients with a substance use disorder to provide direct access to treatment/recovery services and efforts to reduce the stigma around addiction.

There were several public comments: what can the general public do to address this problem? Mr. Goldner recommended starting conversations to reduce the stigma around addiction. Dr. McDonald asked if their son had experienced other challenges with the health care system throughout his life. The answer was no. Michelle McKenzie asked why the call to the emergency contact did not happen. There was a discussion around clarifying HIPAA intent. Senator Miller emphasized that legislation can be part of the solution and the public can support legislation and show compassion to folks who are struggling. Linda Hurley said the rewriting of

the HIPAA definition conversation is happening at a national level. There is a public comment period through April 11. Dr. Hitner commented that maybe the emergency department is not the right place for drug overdose patients. Mary Dwyer suggested that the Task Force further explore the possibility of involuntary hospitalization. Director Montanaro thanked the Goldners for sharing their story.

Brandon Marshall from Brown School of Public Health presented on the Drug Overdose Dashboard project. It is a collaborative project of Brown, RI Department of Health, BHHDH, and the Governor's Office. It will be a "one-stop shop" to understand the overdose epidemic in Rhode Island and include secure data, resources, education, and successes. It will be an evolving project and responsive to community needs. Multiple data sources will be available to improve data visualization and increase data usage. Dr. Marshall shared draft screenshots of the website with the Task Force. The goal is a June 2016 launch date.

Dr. Collins asked if Brown needed access to data that they do not have. The payers all claim database would be helpful. David Spencer asked if methadone clinic availability could be included. The answer was yes.

A member of the public encouraged the Task Force to seek private donors to fund the work of the Task Force.

Linda Mahoney presented an update on the Recovery Workgroup. Their goals are to increase the number of certified peer recovery specialists and to improve training, supervision, and support for peer recovery specialists. The Workgroup is creating a Recovery Planning Tool Card to distribute to ED patients upon discharge and supporting legislation for improved discharge planning. They are developing certification standards for Recovery houses. David Spencer asked if hospitals could begin implementation of improved discharge protocols without legislation. Senator Miller clarified there is a law already in place; it is a matter of training, changing infrastructure and refining processes. He also recommended that First Responders be able to call a Recovery Coach to meet patients at EDs, as patients often walk away before the Recovery Coach arrives. Mr. Golder pointed out the fastest way to treat overdose patients is to connect them directly to treatment services at time of overdose. A member of the public emphasized the importance of connecting people to recovery services before an overdose or a visit to any ED.

Director Montanaro thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.