

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR'S OPIOID TASK FORCE
MAIN LIBRARY, 5 HIGH STREET
LOWER LEVEL, MEETING ROOM #3
JUNE 27, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Chief Brian Gould
Marco Palmieri
Lisa Coates
Courtney Dollar
Frank Caputo
Sandy Kamens
Tina Tanquay
Heather Hitchcock
Lori Kibbe
Karen Kiley
Angie Andrukiewicz
Noelle Bates – Recording Secretary

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Mayor Caggiano opened up the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and the members introduced themselves.

ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF FEBRUARY 2021 MINUTES

A **Motion** was made by Sandy Kamens and **Seconded** by Angie Andrukiewicz to approve the minutes of the April, 2021 Minutes. All in favor.

ITEM #3 – UPDATE ITEMS

ITEM #3A – COBRA & BRISTOL POLICE PARTNERSHIP

Chief Gould updated the Committee stating to date they have made 4 COBRA referrals to Bristol Hospital. There has been a lot of turn over within the Police Department and there are many new faces. Therefore, he is planning a role call training to get the new officers on board with the program.

Chief Gould gave some statistics on the use of Narcan:

January, 2022 through April, 2022 – 19 occurrences of overdose

January, 2021 through April, 2021 – 22 occurrences of overdose

January, 2020 through April 2020 – 24 occurrences of overdose

January, 2022 – 4 were unconscious – all responded to Narcan

February, 2022 – 2 were unconscious – all responded to Narcan

March, 2022 – 6 were unconscious – 5 responded, 1 deceased

April, 2022 – 7 were unconscious – 6 responded, 1 transported to the hospital, outcome undetermined

Lisa, Coates, Bristol Hospital reported that Bristol Hospital now has Vivitrol in the Emergency Department which is an injectable medication to help people who have relapsed from alcohol.

ITEM # 3B - B.E.S.T

Angie Andrukiewicz from B.E.S.T reported that they will be holding their first ever Annual Meeting on August 11, 2022. The meeting will be 3 hours long and will have a guest speaker about their sober life. It will be held at the Elk's Lodge and the cost will be \$20/ticket.

ITEM #4 - NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #4A - DISCUSSION OF 2022 DATA

Angie Andrukiewicz gave an update on the 2022 data on overdoses and suicides. She handed out a “Chart of the Number of Overdoses and Overdose-Related Deaths Reported in Bristol by ODMAP (2020, (2021) and (2022)”. A copy of which is attached hereto. She stated these overdoses are all Heroin and not Fentanyl related. There have also been some reports that Xylazine (which is a horse tranquilizer used by veterinarians) was used in 8 overdoses which led to 4 deaths in the last 6 months.

Angie also stated that she attended a Harm Reduction Conference and there was a woman speaker from Canada who will be opening up a Safe Injection Site in Connecticut. Members of the Committee asked what this entailed. Angie stated that it was a location where people can inject themselves and a nurse is there to monitor you in case of an overdose. On the second floor will be a detox area if needed. The program will provide safe supplies. It is designed to be a safe area and to provide education without judgment.

Courtney Dollar stated that she is from Canada and they had these types of Centers and it was a community building program where people trusted you for help. She also mentioned that the level of violence had no impact on the community either before or after the program started.

Angie reported that she has reached out to pharmacists in Bristol to ask them if they knew how to prevent someone who is a user, and may be a frequent flyer, from getting a prescription. She

shared with them an app called NoraSaves, which is a free app from the Connecticut Department of Public Health which is used to prevent, treat and report opioid issues.

ITEM 4C – PRIORITIES FOR 2022

Mayor Caggiano stated that the next meeting will be on 3rd Monday of September (19th) at 5:00 P.M. He asked the Committee who we should be inviting to our meetings going forward. It was suggested to invite Ana Gopian from Tri Circle, Fire Chief Richard Hart and someone from EMS.

ITEM #5 - ANNOUNCEMENTS BY MEMBERS

Courtney Dollar suggested that the Committee meet more frequently than once a quarter. The next time we meet will be after summer and this is where a lot of things are happening. The Mayor stated that he asked the Committee at the last meeting if they were comfortable scheduling the meetings quarterly and everyone agreed. Chief Gould and the Mayor agreed that this Committee is an oversight board and that other groups need to meet together and update this Committee. The Mayor stated if something needed to be addressed before September, he would certainly conduct a Special Meeting at any time.

The Committee discussed ways for different groups and committees to get on the same page. It seems like the Committee goes over the same things and that's because we aren't aware of what other committees are working on and have already accomplished. Angie stated that she would try to make this happen.

Sandy Kamen asked about the brochures "You Have Survived an Opioid Overdose" that were previously printed and passed out at events such as the Farmer's Market. She asked if more could be printed to be able to pass out. The Mayor will try and locate an electronic version of it and look into updating it.

ITEM # 6 – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 19th at 5:00 in the Bristol Library, 5 High Street, Lower Level, Meeting Room 3.

Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Mayor's Opioid Task Force