

## MINUTES

East Greenwich Opioid Task Force

March 20, 2019 at 2:30pm

**Swift Community Center, 121 Peirce St**, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Committee members in attendance: Jennifer Stern, Carolyn Mark, Thomas Mears, Matthew Larsson, Kelly Matson, Marcia Sullivan, Bob Siminski, Bob Houghtaling, and Christine King.

Staff in attendance: Catherine Bradley

Others in attendance: URI College of Pharmacy Students: Angelia Beunetto, Janine Short, and Victoria Urban; and Sophia Andrade

The meeting was called to order at 2:35pm.

### 1. Welcome and introduction

Mr. Houghtaling welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced some new faces at the meeting.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of January 16, 2019 meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Siminski to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mark and all were in favor. (Abstaining was Marcia Sullivan)

### 3. Presentation by URI School of Pharmacy & Naloxone Training

Three University of Rhode Island Pharmacy students, Ms. Beunetto, Ms. Short and Ms. Urban, gave a presentation in three areas- signs of an opioid overdose, what is Naloxone and how to obtain Naloxone, and how to administer a variety of applicators for Naloxone. After a brief slide show the students demonstrated how to administer Naloxone with the various types of applicators available. The members asked several questions on the applicators and the process. All were pleased with the training.

At the beginning of the presentation Officer Larsson and Acting Fire Chief Mears had to leave on an emergency call. Acting Chief Mears did return near the end of the presentation.

Acting Chief Mears provided an update on his experiences in Town with opioid situations. He also provided input on what the Fire personnel use on the trucks.

### 4. Updates

#### A. Community Health Fair-March 13, 2019

Mr. Houghtaling gave an update on the Community Health Fair. He reported that approximately 100 people attended the event in addition to the vendors and community. Positive feedback was received from attendees. Mrs. Stern thought the mock teen room was a valuable source of information and should be presented again, possible at the High School Open House, to make it available to more parents. Ms. King thought the Health Fair also provided a valuable networking resource to the

organizations and vendors who were there. Ms. Mark suggested charging vendors for tables and charging admission to participants for future health fairs.

B. Bob Siminski's report on the Rotary's last meeting with respects to the Opioid and Drug Presentation and Focus Group.

Mr. Siminski handed out a list of ideas generated from the Rotary Forum (attached). The list included strengths and weakness/contributing factors of the community. Mr. Houghtaling reviewed the format of the meeting.

5. New Business

A. Discuss next Focus Group to target.

Mr. Siminski said the next targeted groups for a forum would be CWC and a school district parenting program.

6. Open Discussion

Ms. Mark commented that there is a need for mental health awareness for parents and students. Ms. Andrade agreed and shared some of her personal experiences as a student.

Ms. Sullivan noted that housing legislation is being presented at the State House for fair, safe and affordable housing to include the mandatory acceptance of housing vouchers for renters.

Mr. Siminski asked about the status of the Drug Take Back program. Ms. Matson noted the date is April 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Houghtaling said he will follow up with Officer Chris Rafferty to finalize East Greenwich's plan. Ms. Sullivan was interested in the program so she can notify her residents.

Mr. Houghtaling noted a program that will be taking place at the Police Community Room on May 2, 2019 called ASAPP, which is a five step student program, intended to empower students to navigate through mental health issues. (Access, seek Support, take Action, Proceed and develop Prevention)

7. Set Next Meeting date and topics

The next meeting will be May 22, 2019 at a time to be determined. Ideas for the meeting location and topic were discussed. The possibility of holding the meeting in conjunction with St. Luke's Luncheon was discussed as well as bringing in a speaker, either Linda Marsillo or Ben Johnson. Mr. Houghtaling will work on the details and get back to the members.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Matson to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mark. All were in favor.