

# MINUTES

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## Opioid Crisis Task Force

MILLBURY, MASS

Date: February 15, 2017

Members Present: Amy Moore, Beth Weidman, Brian Ashmankas, Carrie Prest, Marie Graves

Absent: Doreen Thornburg, Danielle Juare, Robert Giannette, Anne Parkinson

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Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Team worked on Recovery Road Map step by step guide. So far, the team has worked on the following scenarios. The data can be added to a flow chart.

**In the midst of a drug related crisis? Go to the nearest ER.**

If at the ER and wish to go to a rehab facility two options:

1. Contact CARE- Angel Program (Southboro and Worcester Police Stations). They have staff on call that will come and do a screening (no warrants, no combative behavior, can't be selling drugs) and assist with getting you into a facility.
2. Contact Crisis Intervention Team can be called from ER if in ER due to overdose status.
3. Work with hospital social workers to secure a bed (usually not very helpful). Let's help to educate them and provide them with this flow chart.
4. Take advantage of Peer/Recovery coach offered by hospital.

\*Despite these resources, people can be discharged home due to lack of bed availability.

**Seeking assistance?**

1. Go to nearest police station for resources and next steps.
2. Call Opioid Crisis Task Force or PM Opioid Crisis Task Force on Facebook. Responds within \_\_\_\_\_ days.

**Do you have insurance? NO**

**Are you a MA resident?** DPH Programs require documentation proving MA residence. Homeless people can obtain proof from homeless shelters.

**If yes, you can be referred to State Funded Program:** Spectrum (can go without insurance and they will apply for insurance for you), Adcare, Baldplate (in Georgetown) depending on bed availability and meeting program criteria.

**Will you meet program criteria?** Program will perform a phone assessment initially. It is important for people to tell the truth. Upon intake, further testing will take place: urine test, physical assessment, determination of COW Scale (level of withdrawal). Note: guidelines are being changed to consider physical state of person if they are on Fentanyl- which won't test positive in a urine screen. If person doesn't meet program criteria, they will be turned away.

**What if I fail detox/program screening?** You can be referred to outpatient program for methadone or suboxone treatment.

**What if I want to determine MA Health eligibility/ obtain MA Health?** Visit a site that has certified MA Health enrollment navigators (attach list: Throughout Worcester at senior centers and hospital sites etc.) . They can check eligibility, reinstate coverage, and enroll members.

People can also call MA Health on their own by calling Customer Service at 1800-841-2900 or 1888-665-9933 or [www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth) MA Health Enrollment 1-888-665-9993

SHINE Counselors can assist elders and people with disabilities in navigating insurance options 1-899-243-4636

Massachusetts dial 211 for resources 1 877-211-6277

**I got a bed in a detox program, now what?** If you are able to get into a detox program, sign consent forms for family members so that they can advocate for you. Also, it is important to verbalize that you are ready for the next level of care, post detox. This opens up your options for future placement.

**What are steps from Detox facility?** Detox program to CSS to Residential (inpatient or outpatient).

**Do you have insurance?** Yes. MA H is the best option vs. private insurance opening up more facility options. If you know treatment may be in the future, change from an HMO to a PPO to avoid exorbitant charges. Private pay, or even partial pay, can cost thousands of dollars.

**How can I find a facility?** There are only a few treatment centers that accept insurance in MA and a handful throughout New England. If you Google a site, you may be calling a national site. Amy will provide a list of facilities and contact numbers. Call these contact numbers directly!

Ma Dept of Public Health Regional Office provides an annual (updated quarterly) DPH State Funded Institution list. Can someone request a digital version? Important to look for MA Certification.

Note: Sober Living Houses can act like a recovery home. They can be simply Single Residence Occupancy housing. These facilities are sub-par and predatory and usually not MA certified. Beware!

**What if a family member wants to "section" someone?** They can visit a police department to make the request if they can prove person is in immediate danger to themselves. Order can be granted for 30-90 days (usually length of detox stay). Be sure that they ask for aftercare extension as well.

People can be "sectioned" straight from ER admission if they are admitted during business hours (9-5).

People can be ordered with Section 12 which is a mental health order (cause harm to themselves or others).

**Who should I call for legal assistance/advocacy?** Learn to Cope [www.learn2cope.org](http://www.learn2cope.org) 508-738-5148 can provide advocates. Dial A Lawyer- MA Bar 617-338-0610 (call 1<sup>st</sup> Wed 5:30-7:30????) or Greater Boston Legal Services (for low income) 800-323-3205.

**How does the process work?** Contact a lawyer to advocate, Parents go to court (all day) with advocate, Judge hears case, Issues warrant (family must know how to find person within 5 days), Person is brought to court, Judge orders treatment. Court orders have more bed availability.

New option: if incarcerated for a drug related charge and eligible for parole, judges are giving people an option to go to treatment as a term of their parole.

**Are you a veteran?** Yes

Additional options are available to Veterans. Veterans Homestead is a residential program. Project New Hope holds meetings and support groups. Veterans can also seek detox and rehab via VNA facilities.

**How should I secure my job while in detox/treatment?**

Apply for FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act) to utilize time off benefit while out of work. Contact employee Assistance Program through employer for support and resources. Information given is kept confidential.

**What is key to Medically Assisted Treatment Success?**

Include and attend therapy along with medically assisted treatment for best rate of success. Addiction can often be triggered by a mental health component. Mental health issues must be addressed and managed.

**What are differences between In Patient and Day Programs?**

**IN PATIENT**

6,9,12 month

24 hours

Intense treatment

Limited facilities

Voluntary admission

90% don't accept full insurance

May have co pay or out of pocket expenses

Can cost thousands of dollars

Limited bed availability

Better success rates

**OUT PATIENT**

Accept MA Health

partial program 9-5 daily

less intense

more availability

voluntary

Less successful



**UPDATES:**

**Marie:** She received the stats for Kids and Substance Youth Health Survey. Data shows consequence data and consumption data. Social norm campaign takes the data and promotes the percentage of non-use. Evidence proves that positive focus is more effective. Marie has not reviewed data yet but she will present at next meeting when attendance is better. Data is most helpful when presented and explained.

Marie will be at WRAP meeting on Wed, 2/22/17 12-2:00 at 25 Mead St Division of Public Health (lunch provided). Head of Inmate Services will be at meeting along with other experts. Regional data will be reported and Community Health Improvement Plan , specific to substance abuse issues, will be presented. Team is invited. Marie reminded Amy to bring business cards and resources. Amy plans to go.

Marie has grant money for training reimbursement. Remember NEIAS conference at Worcester State \$500.00 - \$600.00 for week long seminar in first or second week of June. Registration is not posted yet. Keep an eye out for it and seek reimbursement from Marie.

**Brian:** The head of inmate services at the Sheriff's Office is interested in coming to a meeting. Brian will invite him to the next meeting. Brian will attend the clergy meeting on 5/10/17 from 12-1:30. Location TBD. Clergy chairman will be invited to our meeting on 5/10/17 at 6 pm. Please add to that agenda.

**Beth:** Kerri from Recovery Centers of American never called her to confirm coming to today's meeting. Amy heard that she may be leaving RCA.

Beth sent completed tax form to Marie for future reimbursements. She is processing it. Beth will give a copy to Doreen.

Beth's mom, Barbara Whittier, is distributing flyers per the list from last minutes report. Beth will ask Superintendent how to distribute to schools. Marie took some flyers for her office.

**Carrie:** is now an official member. Beth has appointment letter. Carrie did not hear from Youth Commission.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 1, 2017 at 6pm  
Meet representative from Sherriff's office  
Marie to present data  
Finish Recovery Road Map

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Amy George

Beth Weidman

Brian Ashmankas

Danielle Juaire

Doreen Thornburg

Robert Giannette

Carrie Prest

