

Overdose Prevention Team (OPT) Meeting Minutes

Alliance Meeting Name:	<i>Overdose Prevention Team Operations Section-Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement Branches</i>	Meeting Location:	<i>Hybrid- Wicomico County Health Dept and Google Meets</i>
Meeting Date:	<i>February 1, 2024</i>	Minutes Recorder:	<i>Christina Bowie-Simpson</i>
Meeting Time:	<i>930-1100 am</i>	Minutes Reviewer:	<i>n/a</i>
Meeting Attendees and Organizational Representation:	Staff: Christina Bowie-Simpson (<i>WiCHD</i>), Matthew McConaughy (<i>WiCHD</i>), Jessica Sexauer (<i>WiCHD</i>) PREVENTION and EDUCATION Jessica Taylor (<i>WiCHD- LBHA</i>) Jason Sammons (<i>Wicomico DSS</i>) Meredith Miller (<i>Wic Co Public Schools</i>) Penny Walters(<i>Wor-Wic Comm College</i>) Katherine Jones (<i>Bay Area CIL</i>) TREATMENT and RECOVERY Stephen Silberman (<i>Addiction Wellness Center</i>) Tasha Jamison (<i>Wic Co HD</i>) Amber Barnes (<i>Coastal Hospice</i>) Lore Chambers (<i>St James AME</i>) Heather Collins (<i>COVE Recovery</i>) ENFORCEMENT and PUBLIC SAFETY Sherry Hostetler (<i>CRT-CIT</i>) Jarah Hall (<i>Office of the Public Defender</i>) Jaime Greve (<i>Wic Co Sheriff's Office</i>) GUESTS Avery Meyer (<i>Maryland Office of Overdose Response</i>)		
	Jovan Twilley (<i>Salisbury University</i>) Takiesha Collins (<i>WiCHD-OMPP</i>) Tammy Griffin (<i>WiCHD- Prevention</i>) Cynthia Shifler (<i>WiCHD-Prevention ATOD</i>) Tammy Walbert (<i>SWIFT</i>) Allsion Hunter-Jacobs (<i>Eastern Shore Crisis Response</i>) Tish Ottey (<i>Homes 4 Hope</i>) Shande Wells (<i>Ideal Option</i>) Chris Truitt (<i>Salisbury Fire Dept</i>) Leiliya Lindsey (<i>PROTECT-SFD</i>) Matthew Leitzel (<i>Wic Co Executive's Office</i>)		

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TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crissy Bowie-Simpson welcomed attendees and everyone introduced themselves. Sherry Hostetler approved December meeting minutes and Mathew McConaughy carried. Meeting minutes were then unanimously approved. 	
<i>MOOR Update</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avery Meyer shared that in December Governor Moore signed a new executive order. The Opioid Operation Command Center is now named the Maryland Office of Overdose Response. A shift in language from opioids to overall overdose. They are now reporting to the Secretary of Health at MDH. There is a new website with information stopoverdose.maryland.gov- this was previously beforeitstoolate.maryland.gov OIT's will now be referred to as OPT's- Overdose Prevention Teams. 3 new partners are now mandated to attend. Harm Reduction, Recovery and Treatment Providers. Wicomico already has these partners included in their OPT. Removing the requirement that Emergency Management needs to co-chair the OPT. Meetings will need to be held at least quarterly in order to receive block grant funding. Wicomico OPT meets almost monthly at this time. Meetings must be offered with a virtual option to attend moving forward. For more information visit the one pager with updates- https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpQvfKIX9IZuBa-EPJkU85IrlnG8tmD4f1Mrv9ek_kWqaHEg/viewform 	
<i>Public Comment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No public comments. 	

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<p><i>Potential Training Ideas for OPT Partners</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Crissy Bowie-Simpson asked the group for feedback on any desired topics for future presentations and trainings. CEU's will be offered. ● Potential ideas were shared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Language Matters- anti-stigma ○ Cultural Competency/ Racial Disparities especially since Social workers need CEU's in this area. ○ Trauma ● Penny Walters shared that presentations during these meetings have been helpful. Jovan Twilley agreed that this would be helpful since we have an abundance of resources in our area. 	
<p><i>Abatement Plan Update- Matthew McConaughy</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wicomico County is currently working on developing an Abatement Plan for Opioid Restitution Funding. This would allow additional funding to support substance use related activities in the county. ● These funds will continue over the next 18 years approximately. Unsure of what the payment will be each year. ● There are 13 areas in which these funds can be used to support. ● Currently looking for ideas from OPT partners to help guide the planning ● Jason Sammons shared that since the Center for Clean was discontinued he and his team have noticed it is more difficult to link mothers to the types of services this program offered. He mentioned that the treatment house was an asset and that the closest one is now located in Crownsville and most women are not interested in leaving the area. Jessica Sexauer shared that she is aware of the environmental challenges that presented with the outpatient location in Wicomico, and additionally that moving from grant funded to fee for service presented challenges. Katherine Jones did share that the Maple Shade location in the Hebron/Mardela Area is currently vacant. ● Penny Walters shared that she has noticed an issue with the lack of housing as well as a difficult public transportation system. Katherine Jones did share that there is currently a survey that the City of Salisbury is conducting as it relates to housing. She will share this 	

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	<p>survey with Crissy Bowie-Simpson who will share it with the group. Tasha Jamison mentioned the app MOOVIT which assists with travel and bus routes etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tish Ottey shared that the 2 to 4 law as it relates to housing in the City makes it difficult for individuals who need low income housing options. Matthew did share that it is his understanding that there are areas within the city where the 2 to 4 ordinance would not apply and that it is only certain zones that have this criteria. • Allison Hunter-Jacobs asked if wound care centers or staffing would be helpful due to an increase in wounds due to Xylazine. She also asked if there was an option to assist or encourage students to start attending college or a program sooner. Penny shared that dual enrollment is available and an option at Wor-Wic. • Crissy did share that the MOOR office did just put out a Competitive grant that may be able to assist with housing and transportation issues that allowable expenses under the Abatement/ORF may not allow. This application is due on 3/1/24. • The Health Department is currently working on increasing access to Naloxone as a goal by implementing vending machines. Preliminary meetings with potential locations have begun to take place. The Narcan would be free of charge and the machines could also include fentanyl and xylazine test strips, first aid kits, condoms, resources etc. If any OPT partners would be interested please reach out to Crissy Bowie-Simpson. This would be an expense that the ORF funding could support. Penny Walters mentioned Wor-Wic had expressed interest and Crissy Bowie-Simpson shared that there is a meeting set up for next week. Jason Sammons with the Dept of Social Services is going to reach out to the director to gauge interest from their agency. 	
Agency Updates	<p><i>Coastal Hospice- SOBS</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be at the Vigil at the RRC on 2/24/24 to honor those lost to overdose and offer support. This will be from 1-4pm 	

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- Support groups will be held every 3rd Thursday from 5-6p and every third Tuesday 1-2p at the RRC. Amber will share a flyer with Crissy Bowie-Simpson and she will share it with the group.

Local Behavioral Health Authority- WiCHD

- Planning for suicide awareness and mental health awareness month. Matt Runels from Australia will be speaking at the Color Run which will be held on 4/21/24 at Kylan Barn.
- Currently planning the Refresh, Renew, Relax Conference. Will be held on 5/17/24 at the Civic Center. This is a free conference for people in recovery. Lunch provided.
- LBHA is conducting/hosting a lot of upcoming Mental Health First Aid trainings in the community. Spring availability is full.
- Jessica mentioned that Bunky with Lower Shore Friends has expressed interest in a Narcan Vending machine.

Department of Social Services

- They are working on child welfare expansion. A diversion effort to keep children from entering foster care.
- There were 10 Substance Exposed Newborns in December and in January there were 9. The bulk of these are marijuana but there was one methamphetamine and one opioid.

Case Management- Wic Co HD

- Vacant peer support position open.
- Provided more syringes in the first 2 quarters of this fiscal year than all last year combined.
- All rapid analysis of drug program samples have come back with xylazine indicated in the results.

Eastern Shore Criminal Justice Academy- WWCC

- They continue to offer 40 hr Crisis Intervention Team trainings. They have training for dispatchers next week and another in April and May.
- Officers in attendance have expressed interest in learning more about community resources. She is always looking for partners to come speak and share their resources.

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- A new individual will be serving as a liaison with MRT (previously CRT). Her name is Tracey Kilgore.

Mobile Crisis/Sante

- Still operating 24/7.

Addiction Wellness Centers

- They have partnered with 2 new agencies and have hired a new nurse practitioner.

Wicomico County Public Schools

- no updates.

Bay Area Center for Independent Living

- During the statewide Town Hall Dr Jones recommended that the state look at substance use disorders as being under the DD umbrella.
- Working with Kennedy Kreger on a partnership to assist families in our area.

Homes for Hope

- Waiting on approval to have 14 more 3.1 beds

St James AME

- mentioned that more veterans are presenting with substance use issues and are referring to Perry Point. This is resulting in a loss in housing. They are working closely with the VA.
- They have 2 vacant positions open at this time.

Ideal Option

- Have opened a new location in Rockville.
- They have begun offering educational sessions again. These are held once a month. The next session will be held on Wednesday 2/21/24.

Maryland's Office of Overdose Response

- They are finishing up their Town Hall series. Reports will be posted on their website. They will hold an online Statewide Town Hall on 2/20/24 at 6 pm.
- Competitive grant applications are due on 3/1/24.
- Block grant NOFA's are expected to be released at the end of February.

COVE Recovery

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are planning to begin offering onsite childcare during treatment and also parenting classes. They are hopeful this will begin later in the year. <p><i>Wicomico Health Dept- Prevention & OMPP</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are working on bringing back their youth coalition. • A syringe kiosk is located at the State Police Barracks and there have been 2 pick ups at this time. • They are currently planning their awards luncheon. This will award youth, officers, and community members who have made a difference as it relates to drugs and alcohol. This will likely be held in June. • The OMPP program is planning a Stigma workshop for later in the year. • Takiesha Collins is looking for agencies and organizations to provide safe storage and disposal presentations. <p><i>Wor-Wic Community College</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with the Health Department to bring in Stephen Hill on 4/8/24. • Will be hosting their Mind, Body Soul Health Fair on 4/10/24. They are going to offer an additional component this year for parents. • Will be hosting a lunch and learn on opioids and resources on 4/12/24. • Will be hosting upcoming Mental Health First Aid trainings. <p><i>Salisbury University- Community Opioid Program</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are now in their last cohort. They hope to be able to get continued funding to offer this opportunity in the future. 	
<p>OIT Related Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OIT Operations Section Chief is still open. To apply for this job, please visit the Wicomico County Website • Stephen Hill will be speaking at Wor-Wic Community College on 4/8/24 and will also be speaking at Wi-Middle and Wi-Hi as well. He will also be speaking in Delmar. Flyer to come for the WWCC community event soon. • Go Purple is entering its 6th year. There are 3 definitive events at this time. Crissy Bowie-Simpson is working on getting the website revamped and a new rack card made. 	

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Additional Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr Jones asked about teen mental health first aid. At this time we do not have the teen module available in Wicomico County.• Matthew McConaughey shared that Wicomico Behavioral Health is now accepting adult patients for Mental Health services.• Matthew also shared that Jessica Sexauer has been hired at Wicomico Health Department as the Deputy Health Officer.
NEXT MEETING	March 7, 2024 - 9:30-11:00 am- Hybrid 801 North Salisbury Blvd. Suite 201 Salisbury MD 21804 or virtual via Google Meets link: meet.google.com/mod-pmkx-pxd