

CB Opioid Abuse Awareness Committee meeting minutes

Submitted by Cheryl Greene and Keith Pardieck

1/17/2017

Attendees: Mike Coburn, Ricky Cress (CC Sheriff Dept.), Candace D'Agostino (CAASA), Kristen DePhillip (CAASA), Cheryl Greene, Cathy Letteney, Keith Pardieck; (Absent: Ashley Staples; core membership still under development; please contact Keith Pardieck if interested in joining.)

Location: Chesapeake Beach Town Hall

Summary: The CB Opioid Abuse Awareness Committee met on Monday (1/16/2017) for member introductions, general discussion of opioid abuse concerns, and to begin formulating goals and action plan. The members were enthusiastic to see the Town of Chesapeake Beach taking this important step to recognize that opioid abuse is not just a national problem, but also a local problem, needing direct attention from town leaders to help reduce the stigma associated with addiction and encourage people to get the help they need for themselves and family members before more lives are lost to this health epidemic, or irreparably ruined.

As per the "Sheriff's Office Report-Chesapeake Beach" dated January 13, 2017, there were two non-fatal heroin overdoses in Chesapeake Beach in December 2016. For all of 2016, there were 19 overdoses (2 fatal) in Chesapeake Beach.

Action & Future Discussion Items:

- 1) Develop opioid addiction web page on Town web site featuring information and links on resources available for prevention, treatment, and support of those afflicted with opioid addiction and their families. Mayor Mahoney has approved this action.
- 2) Development of Facebook page for outreach and education.
- 3) Develop/present seminar series on topics related to drug addiction at local venues (e.g., NECC or Town Hall).
- 4) Encourage Town Council to endorse CB opioid awareness program through proclamation or other official action. People need to see that addiction is a health problem not a moral failing. This can be one step in removing the shame surrounding addiction, encouraging people to seek treatment.
- 5) Provide more local prescription drug drop-off opportunities (e.g., provide drug drop-off services at monthly opioid awareness seminar, encourage CVS to institute take-back program)
- 6) Provide free resource education mini-sessions with licensed counselor to help people find the treatment resources needed.
- 7) Better engagement of neighborhood watch programs.
- 8) Determine how best to get the word out to the community regarding available resources. Needs to go beyond newspapers and town newsletter. Web page and Facebook are starts but should also consider doorhangers and direct mailing of flyers once program defined.
- 9) Invite representative(s) from North Beach to join committee.

Next meeting: Approximately two weeks. Date to be determined.