**Harford County Harm Reduction Community Advisory Board**

**Initial Meeting (12/4/2019)**

* **Introductions**
* **What is Harm Reduction?**
  + From Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition Website:
    - It is a philosophy and set of practices that can assist individuals be safer and be applied to make organizations/systems less harmful. For individuals, harm reduction expands choices, increases access, and promotes opportunities to assist people be safer (particularly when engaging in culturally stigmatized behaviors—such as drug use and sex). Harm reduction also aims to shift organizations/systems (and our broader culture) to be safer for individuals and communities
    - Harm reduction recognizes that society, and the systems within it, have historically increased harm to people who use drugs or engage in sex work through oppressive policy and stigmatizing culture
  + Group discussion:
    - meeting people where they’re at, but not leaving them there
    - avoiding judgement
    - acknowledging the significance of any positive change
    - radical love
  + <http://baltimoreharmreduction.org/>
* **Overview of Harm Reduction work in Harford County**
  + <https://harfordcountyhealth.com/harm-reduction/>
  + Naloxone (Currently Offering)
  + Fentanyl Test Strips (Health Department doesn’t currently distribute)
    - All ORP’s and Non Profits have access to FTS via requests
  + SSP’s (Not Currently Offering)
  + PrEP (Currently Offering)
  + HIV/Hep-C Treatment Programs & Linkage to Care (Currently Offering)
    - No longer sending people away who are currently using drugs/drinking
    - Fibrosis score requirements going away entirely January 1, 2020
    - Call the Health Department to schedule an appointment (410-612-1779)
  + MAT – Methadone, Buprenorphine, etc.
    - Meeting clients at level of change that they’re currently at
    - Stigma – What’s Clean? Recovery etc.
    - Client-centered treatment options (Serenity)
    - Healthy Taper (Serenity)
  + LEAD – Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (BAPD) Jan 1st Launch
    - Low level crimes (Sex work, Possession)
    - Offers enrollment instead of charge
* **CDC – What’s working in the US (See Attached)**
  + Reaching People who use drugs
  + MAT – Medication-Assisted Treatment
    - Medications for Addiction Treatment vs. Medication as Treatment
  + High-Risk Populations
    - Buprenorphine offered in Harford County Detention Center?
      * Behavioral Health Unit (Peers Support)
  + Clinical
    - Academic Detailing
    - Screening for Fentanyl in Routine Clinical Toxicology Settings
* **Discussion: Gaps/What more can be done?**
  + Targeted Naloxone Distribution
  + 911 Good Samaritan
  + Syringe Service Programs (Not currently available in Harford County)
  + MAT
    - Drug Courts
    - Taper required in Drug Court in Harford County
    - Challenges with Certain Judges against MAT (methadone especially) in Harford County
  + Stigma with Methadone
  + Recovery Houses are almost all abstinence-based.
    - Need for MAT accepting Halfway houses in Harford County
    - Bo Massa opening house that’s accepting MAT
    - Only 1 MDRN house (for men) in Harford County
  + SSP’s
    - Legality of possession of a Syringe in Harford County/Maryland
      * SSP Members protected
    - Our Health Officer needs to sign off to get us to the next step.
      * Political issues (possible funding issues if relationship problems happen because of SSP’s)
    - Community Based Organization possibilityStatewide Legality in 2015
    - Community members need guidance of how to make an impact politically etc.
    - Exchanges bring people together. Integration with education and access to health services
    - Voices of Hope (Explanation)
      * Work w/ Cecil Health Dept.
      * Backpack model
    - Who can give out safe use supplies?
    - Possible future support from Faith Based Organizations
* **Priorities/Wrap Up**
  + Possibility of having someone who’s currently in active addiction as part of the group
  + Hopefully group can eventually be led by the community members and not a member of the Health Department
  + Meet with members of Voices of Hope next time
  + Political Activism
    - Talking to elected officials
    - Letters to Editors Etc.
    - Getting PD/Sheriff’s office on board via drug court?
    - Creation of Nonprofit?
  + Meet Once a Month
    - Jan 8th
* **Feedback for Paul**
  + St Margaret’s Outreach programs and welcome packages for halfway houses – What info/supplies can they put in the packages?
  + Ways Knights of Columbus can donate?
  + Paul’s Email: [pauls\_smalls@verizon.net](mailto:pauls_smalls@verizon.net)