**Harm Reduction Community Advisory Board Meeting**

**1/8/2020**

In Attendance: Keith Lucia, Tricia Christensen, Peet Be, Paul Roeger, Jennifer Redding, Robert Massa, Erin Woodie, Drena Williamson, Brantley Jarvis, Miriam Alvarez, Katelyn Shephard, Jessica Chaney, Leeann Bedsaul, Beth Berman, Kat Lehnert-Scott, Wendy Messner, Linda Schneider, Rachel Bongiorno, Linda Bryan, Jack Latchford, Zach Kosinski.

1. Introductions
2. Advocacy – Tricia Christensen
	1. BHRC 2020 Maryland General Assembly legislative agenda (See Attached)
		1. Authorize the establishment of Overdose Prevention Sites
		2. Amend paraphernalia statutes and decriminalize safety
		3. Decriminalize drug possession
		4. Promote low-barrier access to various supportive services designed for people who use drugs and sell sex
		5. End stigma & invest in communities
3. Bel Air LEAD ( Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion) – Jennifer Redding (Contact info Below)
	1. Starting in Bel Air, hopefully all of Harford county next
	2. Came from DART (Drug Abatement Response Team)
		1. The DART program involves collaboration between the police department and other behavioral health organizations and experts (Family and Children Services, Harford County Office of Drug Control Policy, Addiction Connections Resources, and others) to develop a recovery solution.
		2. Focusing on individual and their family members
	3. Through the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program — or LEAD — low-level offenders can avoid jail and instead receive a wide range of support services through a trauma-informed, intensive case management program.
		1. Crime has to be committed in bel air, but individual doesn’t have to live in Bel Air.
	4. Abstinence from drugs/alcohol is not a requirement to be in the program.
	5. Are officers open to it?
		1. Mixed so far, but they’re trying to make a difference. Very optimistic that officers are on board though.
	6. Very specific criteria. Checks and Balances to hold officers accountable for proper diversions
	7. Community advisory board thoughts?
4. Voices of Hope Cecil County – Erin Woodie
	1. Voices of Hope for Cecil County is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization made of people in recovery, family members and allies who support recovery in Cecil County, Maryland. We work together to advocate for recovery resources, mentor new people in recovery, work to eliminate the stigma of addiction and recovery and generally support all pathways of recovery.
	2. Received capacity building ORP grant in Harm Reduction
	3. Built around the SSP program
	4. Started handing out Naloxone, safe sex, and safe use kits in 2018. Backpack model in teams
		1. Helped build relationships with the community
	5. April 1st 2019 – SSP started with Cecil Health Dept. (Harmony)
	6. 509 members in Cecil county signed up for SSP
		1. Low barrier for entry
	7. 200+ linked to treatment
5. Open Discussion:
	1. Story telling event for community
		1. Police officer, paramedics, hospital personal, users, telling a story together
		2. Real life theatre
		3. County government can be a supporter but not necessarily run the show.
	2. Crisis Center Feedback
		1. Problems with access to a psychiatrist
		2. Linkage to treatment/MAT problems
		3. Medication problems
		4. No peers
	3. MAT Housing:
		1. Treatment Providers in the area now offering MAT, but no recovery houses accepted people on MAT. Led to rapid taper problems.
		2. Need for more recovery houses accepting people on MAT
	4. Syringe Access
		1. Possibility of starting a group
		2. Contact Peet for more information
6. St. Margret’s Family Anonymous meeting
	1. Families Anonymous (FA) is a fellowship of people whose lives have been affected by the use of mild-altering substances or related behavioral problems of a relative or friend. FA is similar to Naranon and Alanon as we have a 12 step program and daily readings to help our own recovery from the emotional roller coaster of this ‘family disease’.

The Bel Air group meets on Mondays at 7:00pm at 150 McCormick St. (corner of McCormick & Wright). Just past and behind St. Margaret church. No meeting on holidays or ‘snow days’ when the parish office is closed.

If you want more info, or would like to be added to our email list, please contact Paul at pauls\_smalls@verizon.net.

1. CAB meetings will be on 2nd Wednesday of the Month.
	1. Next meeting 2/12/20, 6:00 PM, Mt. Zion Church, 1643 Churchville Road, Education Building (not the tent), Fellowship Hall, Bel Air, MD, US, 21015

Jennifer Redding LCSW-C

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Please see attachments for additional information