

Maine Anti-Heroin /Opiate Initiative

Law Enforcement Team

Meeting Notes - 11/4/15

Members present:

Co-Chairs Portland Police Chief, Mike Sauschuck and Sagadahoc County Sherriff, Joel Merry; Michael Wardrop, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Agency; Sergeant Michael Johnston, Fusion Center; Dan Perry, US Attorney; Colonel Robert Williams, Maine State Police; Dr. Peggy Greenwald, Medical Examiner's office; Roy McKinney, Director, MDEA; Chief Thomas Connolly, Sanford Police Department; Daryl Lyon, Lieutenant Colonel, Maine National Guard; Brian Scott, Major, Maine State Police.

Absent: Chief Michael Gahagan, Caribou Police Department; Lea-Anne Sutton, Assistant Attorney General; Maeghan Maloney, Kennebec/Somerset District Attorney; William King, York County Sheriff; Brian MacMaster, Chief of Investigations, Attorney General's office.

- 1) Welcome by Chief Sauschuck, introductions around the table and presentation by Dr. Marci Sorg (approx. 1 hour). Presentation centered on opiate and opioid related deaths in Maine highlighting 37% of deaths in 2015 were heroin related. The presentation also outlined the high amount of variations of heroin and fentanyl cut with many other substances and a significant increase in heroin related deaths in rural areas from 2014-2015.

Discussion during presentation:

- LTC Lyon mentioned more should be shared regarding officer safety and fentanyl given its extremely high absorbency.
- Director McKinney said DEA arrestees are composed of 16% of non-residents. A short discussion was had regarding trafficking from other states into Maine.
 - ❖ The Law Enforcement Community Initiatives subcommittee of this LE Team was asked to reach out to Lowell, MA to initiate a better partnership re: trafficking.
- The Prescription Monitoring Program has no mechanism or funding to tell Doctor's when their patients overdose and die – meanwhile prescriptions can be refilled after the patient is deceased. **(This was outlined as a possible committee action item).**
- The National Violent Death System (NVDRS) is an overdose module that lacks sufficient funding. A version of this program takes place at the medical examiner's office, but gathering information is difficult and it was mentioned that a mandate requiring information would help. **(This item was identified as more prevention related and maybe not for the LE team to consider).** It was also mentioned that

Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont are prepping to publish an article on deaths at the Medical Examiner office level.

- The group agreed this epidemic spanned all income levels and we need to keep sharing that message.
- Dr. Sorg mentioned that Maine Medical Center is doing a study soon regarding bacterial endocarditis from injection drug use.
- Chief Sauschuck met with the CEO of MMC and discussed compassion fatigue on providers and it was mentioned how much money is used for multiple surgeries on 1 patient. **(This item was mentioned possibly for the Prevention Team).**

Discussion after the presentation:

- Chief Connolly wrote a paper on Heroin – What you need to know in plain language. Tiffany will distribute this to the group via email as well as the powerpoint Dan Perry mentioned at the first meeting in October. She will also send out a list of the two other teams and their membership (once received from Dan).
- Mike Wardrop's intel work is slated for the next agenda.
- It was agreed that the co-chairs would be briefed on any communications from the LE Team to the Prevention and Treatment teams to make sure we're all on the same page.
- Roy discussed two presentations that were at IACP regarding the impact of community safety and combatting addiction and building great neighborhoods. The presentation uses community policing and LEO collaboration and resulted in significant seizures on interstates.
- Gardner is holding a community forum on heroin.

Next meeting:

- A discussion was had regarding possible action items (see attached outline) and the next meeting would be scheduled with a substance abuse expert.
- An intel update is on the next agenda as well.

Sub-committee Suggested Assignments

- I. Cultural/Attitudinal Education and Training (*Chief Sauschuck, LTC Lyons, John Rogers, per Col. Williams*)
 - A. In Service Training
 - B. MCJA training
 - a. Educate personnel on addiction, particularly the physiological science of addiction
- II. Investigation
 - A. Intelligence (*Mike Wardrop, Dan Perry*)
 - a. Gathering
 - b. Fusion Center
 - B. Major Crimes Units – Interstate (*AG, MSP, DEA, MDEA, USAO, National Guard*)
 - C. Death resulting Investigations (*Dr. Greenwald, Sgt. Johnston, Brian MacMaster*)
 - a. AG's Mandate
 - b. Jump Out Teams (*MDEA, DEA, Chiefs, Sheriffs, ME's Office, AG's Office, Prosecutors*)
 - c. Statutory Fixes Needed?
- III. Law Enforcement Community Initiatives (*Chief Connolly, Chief Gahagan?*)
 - A. LEAD program
 - B. Angel Project
 - C. Other existing Community L.E. Programs in-state or from other states
- IV. Problem Solving Courts (*?Maeghan Mahoney, ?Lea-Anne Sutton, Dan Perry & Jamie Guerrette, Heather Putnam*)
 - A. Pre-Conviction
 - B. Post-Conviction/Re-Entry
- V. Custodial Treatment & Re-Entry w/Treatment (*Sheriff Merry, Sheriff King, possibly others from Prevention Team*)
 - A. Pre-trial custodial treatment – Therapeutic Community