

## Treatment Task Force

December 17, 2015

In Attendance: Pat Kimball, Peter McCorison, Robert Fowler, Meredith Norris, Vinjay Amarendran, Patricia Hamilton, Lisa Letourneau, Noah Nesin, David Moltz, Carol Kelly (moderator Public Forums)

Members of the Public were in attendance for this meeting.

Gordon Smith shared that Dr. Mark Publicker would not be serving on the Treatment Task Force and that the Executive Committee is working on a new co-chair for this committee.

Presentation by Robert Fowler from Milestone on his research of some of the programs developing throughout the state working with Police Departments. Please note that Bob gave a very comprehensive report and this note taker only captured a few things but I think we can all agree we learned a lot about what is being started in Police Departments all over the state.

- Portland was moving forward with a program similar to the Lead Program out of Seattle. Portland is calling this program LEAP (Law Enforcement Advocacy Prevention). This program will be working closely with Portland Police to encourage people to come to the police station to get help but also approaching people officers or first responders meet in their work. They will be hiring an LADC to assist in making the necessary referrals for assessments and treatment.
- Angel Program: Many towns and cities are trying to create a model similar to the Quincy, Massachusetts Model called the Angel Program. The programs in Maine are using peers and in some cases Recovery Coaches to support people when they come forward seeking help. For example in the Hope Program they are called Angels which will assist them in finding treatment for their substance abuse disorder.
- Project Hope in Scarborough is working with the Recovery Center and has over 50 people trained to help. They have already placed 82 individuals in 7 different states and 30 different programs. About 1/3 of them had insurance with leaves 2/3 with no healthcare coverage.

Questions, Strengths and Concerns:

- This is a great way to reach out to people seeking help who do not pose a safety risk for the community but need substance abuse treatment.
- Having more trained Recovery Coaches means more support for individuals needing treatment and also support recovery.
- One challenge relates to who is training the Peers and Recovery Coaches. It is important that the coaches or peers be supervised to ensure clear boundaries are established in regard to assisting individuals seeking help. The peers and coaches are support but should not be diagnosing or prescribing treatment to the individuals or families they are working with.
- We discussed the Bangor Program in regards to mental health first responders working with the police. This model has a mental health provider who rides with the police responding to situations. It might be worth exploring how we could duplicate this successful program. Bangor just received a new grant for a program that we may want to explore and seek more information on.
- Some concerns: If we are sending individuals out of state for treatment what is the follow up or aftercare plan for these individuals? How are they returning and are they being linked with services in Maine?

- Standards should be developed for Peer Education and Recovery Coaches.
- Who is determining what level of care is needed for treating the client? Can we find a way to get person assessed by a licensed clinician to determine a plan of care before they are sent to out of state programs?

We had a discussion on the Maine Legislature Targeted Comprehensive Approach to Address the State's Drug Crisis. The press release shared:

- \$2.4 Million for 18 months to strengthen law enforcement.
- \$2.4 Million to strengthen Prevention, Treatment and Recovery
  - 10 Detox beds: 1 million
  - Increase access to residential treatment for uninsured: \$ 600,000
  - Increase Access to Outpatient for uninsured: \$ 200,000
  - Double the current number of peer support recovery centers: \$ 600,000

We want to make sure that we thank our legislators for the support of increased funding for treatment. That we are grateful for the \$2.4 million and recognize that this is just the beginning of improving our system of care. We also recognize that this is a comprehensive plan and the legislative leadership wanted to not just support one road to recovery but look at options. Many shared the need to increase our MAT programs and more funding is needed to work to improve and increase access to this level of care. Also part of this conversation is funding is needed for the uninsured but we need to recruit more physicians to work with MAT. We did not know if we should say anything to the legislators or just continue on our path to put this report together. Gordon said he would talk to the Executive Committee about this. [Please note Gordon did bring this to the Executive Committee and it was suggested that we complete our work with the task force by developing a comprehensive plan for treatment of substance use disorders. This plan will then be combined with the other work groups and the entire plan will be presented. It is important that we include in our plans what we will learn from holding the public forums.]

Gordon introduced Carol Kelly who will be the organizer for, and moderator of, the public forums. At the press conference today, it will be announced that MeHAF and Maine Community Foundation have agreed to fund the public forums. We want the forums to be partly educational, spreading the message of hope and give the public a chance to ask questions and share experiences. Ms. Kelly will moderate all the forums and because they will be statewide, committee members are not expected to attend all of them but it is requested that they attend the ones in their area.

Next meetings: Our next two meetings will be **January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 21<sup>st</sup> from 9 to 11.**

Focus of the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting: Lisa volunteered to organize a presentation about the integration of substance use disorders in physicians' offices and increase access to MAT. She will contact some members of the committee to develop this information for our discussion on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Focus of the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting will start with Dr. Amarendran presenting on Methadone Treatment. We will determine on meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> what else we may need for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Pat Kimball, co-chair