

## **Maine Anti-Heroin /Opiate Initiative**

### **Law Enforcement Team**

#### **Meeting Notes - 10/27/15**

##### Members present:

Co-Chairs Portland Police Chief, Mike Sauschuck and Sagadahoc County Sherriff, Joel Merry; Michael Wardrop, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Agency; Lea Anne Sutton, Assistant Attorney General; Sergeant Michael Johnston, Fusion Center; Maeghan Maloney, Kennebec/Somerset County District Attorney; Dan Perry, US Attorney; Brian MacMaster, Chief of Investigations, Attorney General's office; Colonel Robert Williams, Maine State Police; Dr. Peggy Greenwald, Medical Examiner's office.

Participating via conference call: Chief Thomas Connolly, Sanford Police Department; Daryl Lyon, Lieutenant Colonel, Maine National Guard, Sheriff William King, York County.

Absent: Chief Michael Gahagan, Caribou Police Department; Roy McKinney, Director, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency

##### 1) Welcome and Co-Chair Introductions by Joel Merry, Mike Sauschuck

Chief Sauschuck kicked off the meeting and welcomed Commissioner John Morris to say a few words. The Commissioner spoke to the importance of the work this group is tasked to do. Chief Sauschuck provided an overview of the reasoning behind the formation of this group citing 14 overdoses in a 24 hour period in Portland resulting in 2 deaths. He outlined drug summits held by the Governor and by Senator Angus King and a previous subcommittee on Substance Abuse convened by Portland Mayor Michael Brennan.

Sheriff Joel Merry of Sagadahoc County, who also serves as the president of the Maine Sheriffs Association, is participating to help represent rural communities who are suffering from substance abuse and overdoses resulting increases in property crime. He is encouraged by this group.

1a) Basic admin: Tiffany Bates, executive assistant to Chief Sauschuck, will coordinate the group's schedule moving forward. Meetings are currently not open to the public, but guest presenters may attend and the group may consider holding public meetings or community conversations in the future.

##### 2) Program Overview by Dan Perry

This Law Enforcement Team is one of three teams (Law Enforcement, Prevention & Treatment) developed from Governor LePage's Drug Summit on August 26, 2015 in Augusta and is tasked

with 3-5 short term goals and some long term goals. The two other teams will establish similar goals. Dan noted that local organized groups of drug dealers are able to target drug users in Maine but we can do better to work across state lines to identify issues and bring everyone together.

- Timing of goals was discussed as the legislature meets in January.
- An opiate summit was mentioned for late spring/early summer.
- A heavy meeting schedule is likely and a possible “listening tour” later on to see what other communities are up to.

Chief Sauschuck listed the current endeavors learned from the most recent District II Chief’s meeting and gave an update on the LEAAP program at the Portland PD.

### 3) Team Introductions

- a) Brief Personal/Professional Snap Shot
- b) Ongoing substance abuse disorder initiatives or awareness

### LTC Darryl Lyon, ME National Guard

- Analysts are being pushed out into the field to push defragmentation of Maine organizations. There are 7.5 analysts statewide working to defragment those groups currently.
- Daryl is interested in hosting a community conversation in the Bangor area.
- The New England counter drug coordinators are meeting now as well.

Sheriff Merry asked the LTC to think of anything (data) he needs from members of this group so they can be helpful. He also mentioned a **grant is available for counties to make narcans available.** (Need to confirm this with Joel).

### Colonel Williams, MSP

- His office was charged with participating in this group by the Governor’s office.
- There are three new staff to help share intelligence through MIAC.
- The private sector is being relied on (hospitals, treatment centers)
- MSP is no longer arresting personal use heroin users but will summon on a case by case basis
- MSP is exploring requiring a substance abuse program and working with the DA’s office.
- The PACE program is in Southern Maine.
- MSP currently has 11 at the academy and 32 vacancies. A small discussion was had regarding reasoning of vacancies.

### Maeghan Maloney, District Attorney, Kennebec/Somerset County

- During her time in the legislature Maeghan sponsored a bill creating the veteran's court in Augusta and the co-occurring disorders court – both of which have seen great success.
- The Kennebec county jail program, CARA, takes anyone from Maine into a 5.5 week intense program that lasts 40 hours per week.
- The Augusta PD is working on the angel program.
- Somerset County has a successful community program as well where Maine Behavioral Health offered to work for free for those without healthcare.

#### Lea Anne Sutton, Drug Prosecutor, AG's office

- Member of the Purple Team
- Since 1997 the drug court has been in Portland only and is now available to probationers and deferred dispositions are routine with substance abuse counseling. Catholic Charities offers treatment with deferred dispositions.
- Maine pre-trial is doing a project with re-entry at the jail

#### Dr. Peggy Greenwald

- Since 2002 Dr. Marci Sorg and Dr. Greenwald have put together stats and are passionate about this epidemic. Their national colleagues are viewing the same issues and one is looking at a prescription monitoring program.
- Dr. Greenwald suggested a possible correlation of maps with related drug deaths and overdoses in Maine.

#### Michael Johnston, MSP, Fusion Center

- Michael is moving to MIAC with Lt. Ireland.
- In the field, lack of treatment options are a barrier as is information about the process itself.
- A short discussion was had regarding jail discharges and overdoses following release based on lower tolerances.
- A short discussion was also had regarding HIPPA and the **potential need for legislation** to get around HIPPA in some areas. Per Col. Williams, NAMI has a bill in to the legislature to flex HIPPA requirements in some cases. The group discussed asking the committee to pass an amendment if needed.

#### Brian MacMaster

- Regarding the sharing of information, it should be mandated in order for it to work and could be more regional.
- Reminded the group misdemeanor possession laws take effect this month and the word needs to get out to LEOs.

Dan Perry asked if arrests related to this public health emergency of addiction impact future job applications by bringing folks into the criminal justice system. A discussion was had regarding the LEAD program to mitigate future employment issues. It was noted juvenile programs look more into the question of someone's future. The LEAD discussion was described as having no teeth and the group agreed that some version of the LEAD program would be beneficial as well as more widely available treatment options.

#### Mike Wardrop, RAC, DEA

- Mike presented the DICE program, a state, local, federal and tribal deconfliction program that is mandatory in DEA. It can also be audited and advertised in media
- Mike distributed 1500 cards (Stamp out heroin overdoses) and received zero email responses.
- DEA operation genesis identifies physicians who are over prescribing
- Task force officers express issue with Aggravated trafficking in Androscoggin County and there is pressure from the judiciary to drop Aggravated Trafficking.

A discussion was had regarding the judiciary not participating in this group, or a probation officers. It was suggested to invite a representative to future meetings.

#### William King, York County Sheriff

- Is passionate about these issues and agrees efforts area fragmented. Supports efforts of the MSP and National Guard.
- An intern did a study in the jail system regarding marijuana being a gateway drug and everyone except two inmate volunteered to participate. He suggests medical staff talk to inmates so they don't think they're cooperating with LEO.
- Limited exit strategy is an idea for a "success committee" for people in jail to meet before release to establish support prior to release. Those released should also have the number of a person to call during recovery.

A short discussion was had regarding re-entry and pre-release. York county sheriff's office partners with Maine Behavioral Health in Biddeford and Sanford and are looking at partnering with a local shelter.

#### Chief Thomas Connolly, Sanford

- Fully supports evidence based treatment; works with ME Behavioral Health and has a MOU for case managers and medical directors who can prescribe treatment.
- A recent Mayor's coalition meeting with DHHS wants \$2 million to go to 7 major cities to do a grassroots effort. The state is claiming they're paying \$74 Million for treatment, but there is no expansion on the details. The group determined those line items need to be specified and made available for these three teams to do the work they've been asked to do.

An Intel subcommittee was suggested to see how communities and organizations can share intelligence and determine a cost to get everyone on the same page.

The next meeting would be a baseline of information from Dr. Sorg and Dr. Greenwald and then discuss action items and create subcommittees.

Col. Williams will talk to his group re: Intel to learn who does what. Dan Perry's office would like to be involved to move this along. Mike Wardrop will include New England partners.