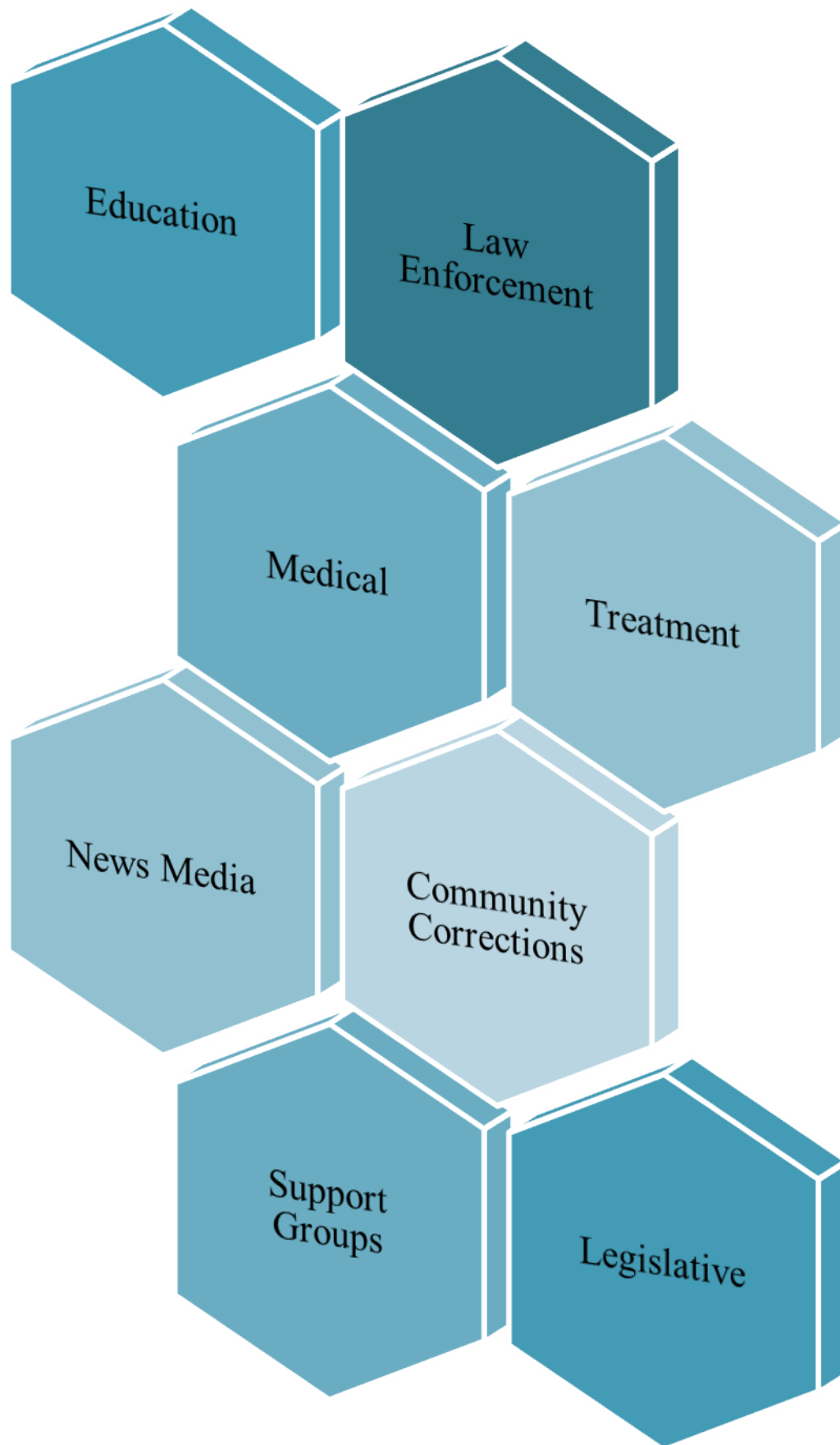


A stylized graphic of the state of Ohio. The map is filled with a vertical gradient from light orange at the bottom to red at the top. A blue syringe is positioned vertically, with its barrel overlapping the right side of the map. The syringe has a blue plunger at the bottom and a needle pointing upwards.

OVAAP

Ohio Valley Addiction Action Plan



Ohio Valley Addiction Action Plan Subcommittee Organization

CO-CHAIRS

United States Attorney William J. Ihlenfeld, II **Northern District of West Virginia**

Judge David J. Sims **First Judicial Circuit of West Virginia**

SUBCOMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON
Education	Dr. Dianna Vargo • Superintendent • Ohio County Schools
Law Enforcement	Sheriff Chuck Jackson • Brooke County
Medical	Angelo Georges, MD • Chief Medical Officer • Wheeling Hospital
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Treatment	Mark Games • CEO • Northwood Terry Stemple • CEO • Healthways
News Media	Brenda Danehart • News Director • WTRF
Community Corrections	James Lee • Retired • Probation
Support Groups	Patti Barnabei • Founder • Never Alone West Virginia
Business & Legislation	Erikka Storch • Member • West Virginia House of Delegates

Testimonials

A Family Affair ...

Watching addiction change and destroy a family member is very difficult. Only those who have someone they love with an addiction can truly understand what you go through. Watching our son change from someone we knew to someone we no longer knew was heart breaking.

It starts with just a few lies here and there. Then it progresses to bigger lies. There is theft. You learn to sleep with your purse or wallet in bed with you. You no longer carry any cash with you because it will disappear. You are excited because he gets a great job but then sad again because he lost his job because of his addiction. You hide or move your prescription medication because it will not be there when you need it. You are fearful to go to family events because you have to be so watchful that nobody else's things disappear. You try and deny that there is a problem. You minimize the problem until you can't ignore it anymore and you accept that there is a much bigger issue than you first realized. You know where the pawn shops are so you can go and retrieve your jewelry or tools or guns that have been stolen and pawned.

You cringe when the phone rings because you don't want to receive a call that they have wrecked or been arrested ... again. You suffer the shame of seeing your loved one's name in the paper or on TV – and not in a positive way. You sit in a courtroom and try to be invisible because you don't want anyone to know that your son (or daughter or mom or dad or brother or sister) is being tried and sentenced. You visit your child through a glass panel as you look at him dressed in orange with handcuffs on and try not to think about what could happen to him in such a place. Because you are ashamed and embarrassed you don't reach out to anyone else for help.

You pray and pray and pray. You attend the funeral of a friend who has overdosed and pray that it does not happen to your child. You feel totally helpless.

We chose to channel our anger, hurt, and shame to help other families who are struggling with the same fear and embarrassment. We have begun a faith-based non-profit organization called Family Care Excellence to bring awareness through faith-based teaching of what we learned during our son's struggle with addiction. We are actively pursuing starting a facility for those with addictions who are seeking help. The purpose would be to guide them into a long-term faith-based facility.

In our case, we have a success story because our son entered a long-term, faith-based program and has been clean for the past seven years after allowing God to be in control of his life. Not all families are so fortunate.

Donna & Donny Lytle
Founders • Family Care Excellence

The Grip of Addiction ...

In 2009, I had major surgery and became hooked on prescription painkillers. I also started going to a pain center to treat a cyst on my spine. I was put on more opiate drugs. Due to my drug use, I have no memory of nearly nine months of my life.

I continued to work as a nurse but started missing work more often. My trips to the Emergency Room were also becoming more frequent because I thought I had pain and needed pain medication. I was taking pills before, during, and after work. My addiction had taken hold. My family had no idea because I worked steady night turn and if they said anything I would say I am just tired. Then, in June 2010, I got sick at work and dizzy and went to the Emergency Room. At this time, one of my co-workers called the supervisor and said I was “acting a little off.” So, my supervisor came down and asked me to consent to a drug test. I knew I was caught. I was then sent home pending the drug test. I knew I was busted.

I can remember looking down at people who were drug addicts only to realize that I was just like them. Telling my family what was going on was the hardest thing I had to do. At this time, I went into detox for three days and intense outpatient treatment for four weeks.

While in detox, I was fired from my job and reported to the West Virginia Nursing Board. I called the nursing board and told them what I did. I had to go to Charleston to talk to the nursing board. I was put into the impaired nursing program which required me to sign a contract with 23 stipulations. I had to submit to random urine testing and cover the full cost of that testing. I was required to attend Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings. There were more stipulations that I had to follow. In treatment, I learned about addiction and the twelve steps of AA. That is where I started on my road to recovery.

My addiction took me to dark places. With the help of people in AA and my Never Alone West Virginia support group, I am now doing very well. I can now see a future where I can be proud of where I am. I have grown so much since I joined Never Alone because I was able to let God take away the obsession. In one more year, I will complete all requirements of the West Virginia Nursing Board and my license will be in good standing again.

Chris A.

From Birth ...

As opiate drug addiction has swept through the Ohio Valley, our most vulnerable victims are the unborn. Intrauterine drug exposure has unfortunately become a frequent morbidity associated with opiate addiction. Maternal drug use during pregnancy in the Ohio Valley is on the rise and could be as high as 32%. While opiate antagonists such as buprenorphine i.e., Subutex are widely prescribed, their use during pregnancy does not preclude Neonatal Abstinence syndrome (NAS).

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome is the physical condition demonstrated by a newborn infant when the placental supply of narcotics is disrupted at birth. Often time mothers seek treatment during pregnancy and while this treatment is preferable to opiate use they are often unprepared when their infant requires the same treatment as opiate addicted infants. Newborns withdrawing from either of these medications demonstrate the same physical attributes namely irritability, sneezing, jitteriness, difficulty to consol, feeding problems, diarrhea. Infants that are born exposed to any of these substances are required to stay at the hospital a minimum of five days due to the fact that symptoms do not always manifest immediately. Once a baby exhibits signs of withdrawal they may need treatment, which usually entails administration of an opiate such as morphine. Babies requiring treatment stay in the hospital an average of two to three weeks. Studies have shown when babies are treated with an evidence based protocol for withdrawal their stays in the hospital are significantly shorter.

The toll of this condition on our healthcare system is evident by the increased length of stay and the cost of the treatment required. The toll on families especially the mother is also very high as the medication withdrawal is often associated with behavioral difficulties. Childbirth should be a time of celebration and joy, with a warm welcome provided to the infant by his or her family. A hospitalized infant places extreme stress on not only the mother/infant bond but also the connection to the entire family.

A widespread problem such as this requires a community response. Pregnant women who find themselves in this situation need to be honest with themselves and the professionals available to assist them including their obstetricians and drug treatment professionals. Community resources exist to focus on the mother prior to delivery such as MIHOW and Parents as Teachers. Once the baby is born, the pediatrician becomes an important member of the team and home-visiting services such as Right from the Start and West Virginia Birth to Three can support the growth and development of the baby while assisting the parents. An honest assessment of the situation is the first step toward treatment and prevention.

Dr. Judy Romano
Wheeling Hospital

Subcommittee Recommendations

EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Dianna Vargo	Superintendent	Ohio County Schools
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rob Robinson	Technology Director	Brooke County Schools
Valerie Smith	Director of Student Services	Brooke County Schools
Deputy Brian Hissam	Weirton Elementary School Prevention Resource Officer	Hancock County Schools
Deputy Brian Cunningham	Oak Glen Middle School Prevention Resource Officer	Hancock County Schools
Debbie Mahoney	Weir High Guidance Counselor	Hancock County Schools
Mary Ann Petrelle	Hancock County Child Abuse & Neglect Counselor and Special Education Behavioral Specialist	Hancock County Schools
Anne Gompers	Wheeling Park High School Nurse	Ohio County Schools
Heather Lewis	Bridge Street Middle School Guidance Counselor	Ohio County Schools
Sergeant Don Miller	Bridge Street Middle School Prevention Resource Officer	Ohio County Schools
Mark Nardone	Wheeling Park High School Physical Education/Health Department Chairperson	Ohio County Schools
Jennifer Short	Wheeling Park High School Guidance Department	Ohio County Schools
Caryn Puskarich	Regional School Wellness Specialist	RESA-6
Eric Schoenian	West Virginia Education Information System Facilitator	RESA-6

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- a. Educate students, parents, and community about the dangers of heroin and opioid use.
- b. Identify resources and partnerships to prevent heroin and opioid use.

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

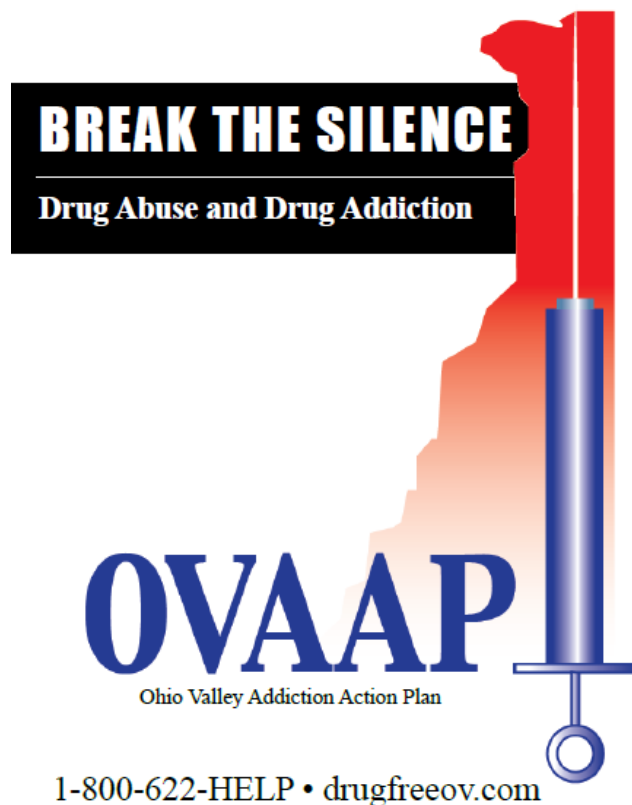
1. Ohio Valley Addiction Action Plan Logo. The Subcommittee collaborated with students in Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock counties to design a dynamic and versatile logo for the Ohio Valley Addiction Action Plan. The final logo, pictured on the title page of this report, was designed by

the Illustration Students of the Graphic Design Program at Wheeling Park High School under the guidance of teacher Bob Turbanic.

2. Online Drug Awareness Tutorial. The Subcommittee designed a PowerPoint tutorial on the dangers of heroin and opioid use which will be publicly available on the Regional Education Service Agencies (RESA-6) website. The tutorial provides prevention education and identifies intervention strategies, resources, and local partnerships.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

1. Student-Driven Drug Awareness Public Service Announcement. The Education Subcommittee will collaborate with the News Media Subcommittee and the Business & Legislative Subcommittee to produce a public service announcement “PSA” on the dangers of drug abuse featuring local students. The PSA will be designed and directed in collaboration with broadcast journalism students from local high schools. The News Media Subcommittee will arrange for the PSA to be publicized on local television and radio stations. Additionally, the PSA will be featured by local schools at sporting events and during student news broadcasts.
2. Drug Awareness Advertisement. The Wheeling Park High School Athletic Department will feature the one-page advertisement pictured below in programs distributed at sporting events beginning with the winter 2014 basketball program.



3. Online Opioid Toolkit. The Subcommittee will facilitate the creation of a centralized online resource for heroin and opioid education for students and parents. The centralized online toolkit will include information on the dangers of heroin and opioid abuse as well as access to treatment and law enforcement resources.
4. Curriculum Development. The Subcommittee will provide substance abuse prevention education to students within the school curriculum and during extra-curricular activities. The training resources will include health classes focused on modern society, drug prevention videos, a career and simulated workplace program, and special guest lecturers.
5. Parent Education. Drug prevention education will be provided to parents at open houses, parent meetings with guidance counselors and prevention resource officers, and presentations by law enforcement.
6. Community Education. Drug prevention education will be provided to the community at community forums, athletic functions, and social media presentations.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE		
CHAIRPERSON		
Chuck Jackson	Sheriff	Brooke County
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS		
Pat Butler	Sheriff	Ohio County
Ralph Fletcher	Sheriff	Hancock County
Mark Simala	Special Agent (DTF Coordinator)	Drug Enforcement Administration
Dave Robinson	First Sergeant (Wheeling)	West Virginia State Police
Jim Gibson	Sergeant (New Cumberland)	West Virginia State Police
Dave Stafford	Sergeant (Wellsburg)	West Virginia State Police
Mike Hogan	Sergeant (Wheeling)	West Virginia State Police
John Schwertfeger	Chief	Follansbee Police Department
Rob Alexander	Chief	Weirton Police Department
Shawn Schwertfeger	Chief	Wheeling Police Department
Todd Murray	Deputy Chief	Chester Police Department
Lester Skinner	Lieutenant	Wellsburg Police Department
Joe Barki	Prosecutor	Brooke County Prosecutor's Office
James Davis	Prosecutor	Hancock County Prosecutor's Office
Scott Smith	Prosecutor	Ohio County Prosecutor's Office
Representative		Ohio Valley Drug Task Force

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- a. Increased cooperation in the investigation of overdose deaths
- b. Treat overdose death scenes as a homicide
- c. Share intelligence with drug task forces and other agencies to avoid duplication
- d. Train law enforcement in the investigation of overdose scenes
- e. Better methods for collecting data and statistics
- f. Submission of overdose data to the HIDTA Heroin Project for analysis

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

1. Overdose death investigation protocols. Law enforcement officers are often in the best position to identify and investigate an overdose scene and ensure that crucial information and evidence is collected and preserved. The Law Enforcement Subcommittee has conducted fourteen (14) training

sessions providing critical investigative recommendations to nearly 200 law enforcement officers from the following agencies:

1. Brooke County Sheriff's Office
2. Wellsburg PD
3. Follansbee PD
4. Chester Police Department
5. New Cumberland PD
6. Hancock County Sheriff's Office
7. Ohio County Sheriff's Office
8. Weirton Police Department
9. Wheeling Police Department
10. West Virginia State Police

The Subcommittee also developed and distributed laminated cards outlining a recommended protocol for investigating overdose death scenes. The cards contained the following recommendations:

Responding Officer Protocol (Overdose)

- Treat as a homicide crime scene
- Follow department death scene investigation policy
- Direct nonessential personnel from area
- Contact supervisor
- Conduct interviews of everyone at the scene
- Collect evidence (drugs, cell phones, documents, pill bottles, syringes, etc.)
- Check ashtrays, trash cans, etc. for evidence
- Photograph scene (including victim)
- Notify drug task forces of overdose (exchange of information)
- Establish investigator(s) for overdoses
- Interview family members of victim
- Complete detailed report

Sample Witness Questions

- Who was the source of the heroin?
- Where did the delivery of the heroin occur?
- Where was the victim when he used the heroin?
- Were there any phone calls made or texts sent to arrange the delivery?
- How often did you use heroin with the victim?
- How was the heroin paid for?
- Did the victim use any other drugs?
- How long after the heroin use did the victim become unconscious?
- When was the last time the victim used heroin prior to this occasion?

- Did other people use the same heroin as the victim? Same dosage?

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

1. Overdose data collection. The Law Enforcement Subcommittee will collaborate with the Medical Subcommittee to establish a centralized data collection system to provide accurate and timely statistics on overdose reports in the Ohio Valley. The reporting system will coordinate data from 911 emergency responses centers and hospital emergency rooms.

The data collection system will track the following information for each reported overdose, regardless of whether the overdose proves fatal:

- Age
- Sex
- Drug(s) present in system
- Town of residence

The Subcommittee will also form an oversight committee that will meet periodically to review the collected data. The oversight committee will consist of both law enforcement and medical professionals.

2. Enhanced Overdose Investigations. The Subcommittee is committed to improving and enhancing overdose investigations in the Ohio Valley. Several law enforcement agencies have already implemented written protocols and procedures based upon the aforementioned training provided by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of West Virginia. The Subcommittee will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies to encourage that each department or agency crafts and implements written protocols for overdoses investigation.

MEDICAL SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Angelo N. Georges, MD	Chief Medical Officer	Wheeling Hospital
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jorge Roig, MD	Anesthesia	Weirton Hospital
Bryan Woodford, MBA, MSN, RN	Director Critical Care Services	Wheeling Hospital
Andrea Dobkin, BSN, RN	Nurse Manager - Cardiovascular Service	Wheeling Hospital
Car Gadzik, MSN/ED, RN, CEN, NREMT	Nurse Manager - Pediatrics, Nursery & Staff Development	Wheeling Hospital
Lance Gossett, RPH	Pharmacist	Wheeling Hospital

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- a. Promote best practices for physicians prescribing opioid medications through prescriber education efforts
- b. Diminish the stigma associated with heroin and opioid addiction through concentrated community education, profession education, and public health campaigns
- c. Gather accurate, real time overdose data

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

1. Overdose Data Collection. The Subcommittee has initiated the process to collect and report accurate, real time overdose data from local emergency departments.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

1. Prescriber Education Conference. The Subcommittee will coordinate a conference to provide comprehensive education on best practices for prescribing opioid medications. In collaboration with the West Virginia University Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry and the Chestnut Ridge Treatment Center, the 2015 Addiction Training Institute will feature a full-day prescriber education conference on Friday, June 12, 2015.
2. Community Education. The Medical Subcommittee will collaborate with other subcommittees to provide public education on heroin and opioid abuse. Specific topics will include:
 - Recognizing the signs and symptoms of heroin/opioid addiction

- Differentiation between heroin/opioid addiction and other types of addiction and substance abuse
 - Diminishing the social stigma associated with heroin/opioid abuse
3. Pharmaceutical Protocols. The Subcommittee will collaborate with local pharmaceutical professionals to develop protocols to identify individuals who are abusing opioid prescriptions and physicians who are overprescribing. The Subcommittee will also recommend that the Business and Legislation subcommittee draft legislation that provides clear referral guidelines to pharmaceutical professionals.
 4. Public Health Prioritization. The Subcommittee will collaborate with local health departments to prioritize heroin/opioid abuse as a public health concern. Public health professionals can play a critical role in addressing heroin/opioid abuse in the Ohio Valley by launching public awareness campaigns and publicizing treatment resources.
 5. Emergency Department Training. The Subcommittee will collaborate with local emergency department staff members to implement protocols to identify and respond to patients that exhibit drug-seeking behavior.
 6. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. The Subcommittee will also coordinate an educational initiative to address neonatal abstinence syndrome. This educational initiative will ensure that expectant mothers struggling with addiction have access to the appropriate resources. Medical professionals will also be trained to respond appropriately when an expectant mother tests positive for drug use. The Subcommittee will also advocate for standardized and mandatory referral protocols that medical professionals are required to uniformly follow.
 7. Overdose Data Collection. The Subcommittee will formalize the process to provide accurate, real time overdose data to all Action Plan Subcommittees.

TREATMENT SUBCOMMITTEE		
CHAIRPERSONS		
Terry Stemple	Chief Executive Officer	Healthways
Mark Games	Chief Executive Officer	Northwood Health Systems
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS		
Dave Blum	Clinical Director	Healthways
Judy Kesterson	Program Director	Miracles Happen
Charles Clark	Clinic Director	Wheeling Treatment Center
Lori Garrett	Program Director	OC SA Prevention Coalition
Susie Birch	Assistant Director	Lee Day Report Center
Christopher Harris	Probation/Parole Officer	WV Division of Corrections Parole Services
Jim Stock	ADC Probation Officer	Drug Court-1 st Circuit Northern Panhandle
Chip Railing	Community Outreach Coordinator	Hillcrest Behavioral Health
Kathy Szafran	President & Chief Executive Officer	Wellsprings
John Moses	Executive Director	YSS
George Smoulder	Chief Executive Officer	United Way
Sean Hughes	Outreach Worker	Oxford House
Pat Condron	Executive Director	Lazarus House
Ed Nolan	Director of Operations	Northwood Health Systems
Jeremy Sagun	Billing/Collections Supervisor	Northwood Health Systems

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- a. Increase access to local Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) resources
- b. Develop simple “road map to treatment”
- c. Develop a method to better communicate currently available capacity within the treatment system for detoxification and outpatient services.

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

1. Roadmap to Treatment Website. The Subcommittee will develop and publish a roadmap to treatment website. The road map would include information on all substance abuse treatment resources / providers in the Ohio Valley, as well as (1) a description of signs and symptoms that may indicate a need for treatment, (2) a description of each resource / service provider and the services they offer, and (3) contact information for each resource / service provider. To date, the

Subcommittee has identified provider directory information, data, treatment descriptions, learning materials, screening instruments and referral procedures to be included in roadmap to be included on the website. The Subcommittee has also identified web design firm and obtained a cost estimate for developing the website. The website will be finalized and published in early 2015.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

1. SBIRT Training. The Subcommittee will seek funding from the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health & Health Facilities to provide SBIRT training in the Ohio Valley.
2. Justice Reinvestment Program. Implement the Justice Reinvestment program cooperatively funded by the Department of Justice and the Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities in Marshall County. Tie the program into Ohio County drug court and probation office, to make it available to assist in this project. The purpose of this project is to reduce drug-related crime and prison recidivism.

NEWS MEDIA SUBCOMMITTEE		
CHAIRPERSON		
Brenda Danehart	News Director	WTRF
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS		
Heather Ziegler		Wheeling Intelligencer/News Register
John Blackmore		WKKX & WVLY
DK Wright		WTRF
Crissy Clutter		WTOV

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- Bring Awareness to serious Heroin and Opioid abuse
- Educate citizens on the dangers of drug use
- Provide information on where people can get help
- Produce additional Public Service Announcements
- Utilize Social Media to provide information about the epidemic

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

- Multi-Platform Public Service Announcement. The Subcommittee developed and produced a Public Service Announcement “PSA” to promote community awareness of heroin and opioid abuse in the Ohio Valley. The PSA has repeatedly aired on television and will soon be available on the radio and various internet and social media outlets.
- Programming focused on heroin and drug use. The Subcommittee has produced multiple stories highlighting the predominant heroin and opioid abuse in our region as well as efforts to combat the growing drug problem. The Subcommittee will continue to produce and promote stories that highlight heroin and opioid abuse.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

- Student-Driven Drug Awareness Public Service Announcement. Collaborate with the Education Subcommittee and the Business & Legislation Subcommittee to produce and promote the student-driven PSA described above on page 9.
- Social Media Campaign. The Subcommittee will coordinate a social media campaign to promote drug abuse awareness and community resources.

3. Community Forums. The Subcommittee will partner with the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of West Virginia to plan and promote a series of community forums throughout Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock counties during 2015.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

James Lee	Retired	First Judicial Circuit Probation Department
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

William Ball	Chief Probation Officer	First Judicial Circuit Probation Department
Fred McDonald	Executive Director	Northern Panhandle Community Corrections
James Stock	Coordinator	First Judicial Circuit Adult Drug Court
Jody Mankowski	Coordinator	Brooke/Hancock Juvenile Drug Court

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- a. Reduce the prevalence of drug abuse in the Ohio Valley
- b. Develop additional treatment resources
- c. Educate the community about the hardships that families face when they have a loved one who is addicted to heroin
- d. Support the use of medication, such as, Vivitrol and Narcan in the treatment of heroin use

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

1. Federal Drug Court Training. On Friday, December 5, 2014, members of the Subcommittee conducted a training session on the federal drug court which will open in the Northern District of West Virginia in January 2015.
2. Federal Drug Court Planning. Members of the Subcommittee have assisted in planning and coordinating aspects of the upcoming federal drug court.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

1. Federal Drug Court. In January 2015, a federal drug court will open in the Northern District of West Virginia.
2. Community Education. The Community Corrections Subcommittee will partner with other subcommittees to provide community education on the dangers of heroin and opioid abuse. Such education will also focus on the availability of treatment and prevention resources. The Subcommittee will partner with the News Media Subcommittee and the United State Attorney's Office to host a series of community forums to foster a diverse and insightful discussion on drug

abuse. The contribution of parents, students, educators, social workers, clergy and law enforcement should be utilized to combat heroin and opioid abuse in the Ohio Valley.

3. Educational Resources. The Community Corrections Subcommittee will partner with other subcommittees to develop and publish a series of readily-accessible online educational resources capitalizing on input from experts in mental health, addiction and substance abuse.
4. Public Health Prioritization. The Community Corrections Subcommittee will partner with the Medical Subcommittee to prioritize heroin abuse as a public health threat.
5. Legislative Initiatives. The Subcommittee will advocate for the Business & Legislative Subcommittee to support several proposed legislative initiatives that would provide immunity for individuals reporting or responding to drug overdoses.
6. Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement Education. The Community Corrections Subcommittee will partner with the Law Enforcement Subcommittee to provide training for those in the criminal justice system about heroin abuse and treatment.
7. Treatment Courts. The Community Corrections Subcommittee will partner with the Law Enforcement Subcommittee to promote treatment courts and their impact on making communities safer.
8. Fundraising. The Community Corrections Subcommittee will partner with the Business & Legislation Subcommittee to identify sources of federal, state, local, and private funding that can be utilized for education and treatment programs.

SUPPORT GROUPS SUBCOMMITTEE		
CHAIRPERSON		
Patti Barnabei	Founder	Never Alone, West Virginia
SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS		
Donny Lytle	Founder	Family Care Excellence
Donna Lytle	Founder	Family Care Excellence
Dr. Darlene Sperlazza-Anthony DNP	Nurse Practitioner	
Stacy Flowers Cullinan	Board Member	Never Alone, West Virginia
Walter Ruszkowski	Board Member	Never Alone, West Virginia

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- a. Promote drug awareness and education to local medical professionals, community leaders, students, religious groups, and law enforcement officers
- b. Diminish the social stigma associated with drug use

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

1. Never Alone West Virginia Support Groups. The Support Groups Subcommittee established weekly Never Alone West Virginia support group meetings in both Weirton and New Cumberland, West Virginia. The Weirton support group meets each Monday at 6:30PM at 149 Preston Avenue. The New Cumberland support group meets each Wednesday at 6:00PM in the Old City Building.
2. Training/Education. Never Alone West Virginia partnered with Family Care Excellence to sponsor the “Discovering Freedom” training course, a twelve week, twelve step program. The inaugural “Discovering Freedom” program graduated fourteen individuals in October 2014. A new “Discovering Freedom” program will begin in March 2015.
3. Tony Ruszkowski/ Never Alone West Virginia Memorial Scholarship. The Subcommittee has partnered with Walter Ruszkowski, who lost his son in an alcohol-related accident, to support an annual scholarship to be offered to graduating high school seniors whose lives have been impacted by addiction. The scholarship will award \$1,000.00 each year to a graduating senior at each of the following schools: Weir High, Oak Glen, Weirton Madonna, and Brooke High Schools.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

1. Community Day of Prayer. The Subcommittee will arrange a Community Day of Prayer in early 2015 in Ohio, Brooke, and Hancock counties to bring awareness and support to those families and individuals struggling with addiction.
2. First Responder/Law Enforcement Education. The Subcommittee will collaborate with the Law Enforcement Subcommittee to develop a series of recommended protocols for first responders and law enforcement officers to follow in dealing with family members during an overdose or other drug-related investigation. These recommendations may take the form of tangible protocol cards to be distributed or a readily-accessible online resource.
3. Never Alone Website. The Subcommittee will develop a Never Alone West Virginia website to provide an open forum for questions, access to information, and to promote upcoming events.
4. Wait House. The Subcommittee will develop a “wait house” facility to house those individuals that have been placed on a wait list for detox or inpatient rehabilitation.
5. Peer Support Groups. The Subcommittee will collaborate with the county Boards of Education to establish peer support groups for middle and high school students.
6. Never Alone Support Groups. The Subcommittee will work to establish Never Alone support groups throughout West Virginia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.
7. Sober and Safe Events. The Subcommittee will continue to sponsor “Sober and Safe” events for local middle and high school students. Such events may include dances, concerts, speakers, etc.
8. Interactive Radio Program. The Subcommittee will develop a blog talk radio program which would host a live chat with families and individuals struggling with addiction.

BUSINESS & LEGISLATION SUBCOMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Erikka Storch	Delegate	West Virginia House of Delegates
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SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carmen Prati-Miller	Manager: External Affairs	AEP
Matt Branstetter	Executive Vice President	The Citizens Bank
Roberta Olejasz	Automobile Dealer/Principal	Robinson Automotive
Gary Gwynn	Principal	Gwynn Advertising
Chad Broadwater	Agent	State Farm Insurance
Ryan Ferns	State Senator-Elect	West Virginia State Senate
Tanner Russell	Vice President	First National Bank
Ty Lollini	Safety Director	Project BEST

I. SUBCOMMITTEE GOALS

- a. Ensure that local high school students are equipped with all necessary tools to excel in the workforce, including an understanding of the importance of being drug free
- b. Identify corporate partnership opportunities with organizations such as Drug Free Clubs of America
- c. Support community education for local schools, organizations, and boards
- d. Develop support program for local business employees facing addiction in their families
- e. Provide education for local business employees through partnerships with local prevention coalitions and law enforcement agencies

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

ACTION ITEMS COMPLETED TO DATE

1. Community Education. The subcommittee will coordinate a community education initiative through a series of discussions with local boards and organizations to highlight how community business leaders can combat drug abuse and support the treatment and recovery communities. To date, the Subcommittee has identified a group of target boards and organizations to launch the education initiative.

FUTURE ACTION STEPS

1. Legislative Roundtable. In January 2015, the Subcommittee will host a legislative roundtable. Local lawmakers, community leaders, and other interested stakeholders will gather to discuss potential legislative initiatives to impact heroin and opioid abuse in the region. Stemming from

the legislative roundtable, state legislators will consider proposing draft legislation during the 2015 legislative session.

2. Workforce Preparedness Education. The Business & Legislation Subcommittee will partner with the Education Subcommittee to ensure that local high school students are poised to successfully transition into the workforce. The Subcommittee will arrange for local business leaders to mentor and train students on the skills necessary to excel in the workforce, with a focus on the importance of being drug free.
3. Business Community Support Network. The Subcommittee will develop a series of readily available resources to support local business employees facing addiction within their own families.
4. Student-Driven Drug Awareness Public Service Announcement. Collaborate with the Education Subcommittee and the News Media Subcommittee to produce and promote the student-driven PSA described above on page 9.