MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MAYOR'S OPIOID TASK FORCE FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM APRIL 18, 2019 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Councilwoman Mary Fortier Councilman Scott Rosado Tim Gamache Barbara DiNoia Eileen McNulty Marco Palmeri Chief Brian Gould Lisa Coates Linda Hall Sandra Camens Richard Colbert Courtney Pope Jenny Cannon Theresa Rozyn Cynthia Vasquez Frank Caputo Jeff Quamme Miiram Delphin-Rittman Noelle Bates – Recording Secretary

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS

Councilwoman Fortier opened up the meeting at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed the members and the members introduced themselves.

ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF MARCH 2019 MINUTES

A Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

ITEM #3 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councilwoman Fortier explained that Public Participation is on all City Hall agendas, but this forum is a free flowing meeting and participation will be conducted throughout the meeting.
ITEM #4 – UPDATE ON LAMONT ADMINISTRATION “LIVE LOUD” INITIATIVE

Miiram Delphin-Rittman, PhD, Commissioner of CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services introduced herself and stated that Governor Lamont has announced a new statewide effort to confront opioid addiction and save lives through an app called NORA. This Smartphone App will assist with overdose and create a public awareness campaign to educate residents on opioid misuse and encourage treatment.

She also talked about a new campaign called LiveLOUD (Life with Opioid Use Disorder) which can be accessed at www.liveloud.org. In an effort to prevent, discourage and destigmatize opioid addiction, DMHAS launched LiveLOUD, a series of social media, radio, transit, and billboard spots directed to those who are actively using heroin or misusing prescription opioids, their families and communities.

ITEM #5 – ACTION ITEMS

RECOVERY COACH GRANT UPDATE FROM RECOVERY CHAMPION, MARCO PALMERI AND RECOVERY FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PROFILE

Director of the Bristol-Burlington Health District, Marco Palmeri introduced the new Recovery Coach, Theresa Rozyn who will be working with Wheeler Clinic. Theresa introduced herself and shared her personal experience with addiction and her recovery. She is the co-founder of a 501(C) 3 which supports victims/survivors of drug trafficking. She can be reached at 860-324-6105 and she looks forward to meeting with members of the group to determine what the City’s needs are. Marco would like to introduce Theresa into the community so that she becomes a familiar face so people know they can go to her (i.e. Brian’s Angels, Agape House, soup kitchens, etc.).

BEST FOR BRISTOL GRANT UPDATE

Eileen McNulty discussed the deliverables for the grant. Her office has created 4 new Public Service Announcements to appear on AMP radio. She then played some of the PSAs to the members.

Eileen talked about the Ground Rounds event that recently took place at Bristol Hospital and stated that it was very well received. Lisa Coates stated that 8 prescribers attended and Courtney Pope and Marco Palmeri attended and presented data.

Cynthia Vasquez stated that DCF/DMHAS is conducting a program for pregnant woman in Meriden on April 10th. She will forward the details to the recording secretary for distribution to the committee members.

Eileen stated that all the Opioid pamphlets have been distributed and will be doing a reprint shortly. She asked if anyone had any changes to please get them in soon before it goes to print.

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None.

ITEM #6 – NEW BUSINESS

STAR GRANT APPLICATION

Eileen McNulty stated they just received the new deliverables for the grant application and the ones they chose are:

1. Distribute Opioid Use Disorder information to parents through schools and other venues.
2. Collaborate with the North Central Regional Behavioral Health Organization (NCRBHO) and other Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services (DMHAS) prevention contractors to host and advertise opioid addiction and overdose prevention and education opportunities including Naloxone administration trainings. Assist the NCRBHO with identifying individuals/organizations to provide Naloxone training.
3. Support the establishment of a “Recovery Friendly Community” as defined by the CT Alcohol and Drug Policy Council and Guidelines, provided by NCRBHO.
4. Conduct Training of Trainer sessions for select providers on naloxone training and distribution.

The City Council voted to approve the City of Bristol as a Recovery Friendly Community and will be working with Human Resources to add this on their application.

APRIL 27TH, 2019 – DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

The Drug Take Back day will be held on April 27th at the Bristol Senior Center, 240 Stafford Avenue.

MEMBERS

Councilwoman Fortier stated that the Mayor received a grant application entitled Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program FY 2019 Competitive Grant Announcement. The application deadline is June 5, 2019 and involves a $250,000 grant. The committee discussed whether they would be able to use that amount of money and decided to discuss it at the next meeting with the Mayor.

ITEM #7 – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

TOBACCO 21 PROGRAM

Eileen McNulty stated that the marijuana bill is still out there and we are just waiting to see what happens at the State level.

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ITEM # 8 – ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16th at 6:30 in the First Floor Meeting Room.

Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, Chairwoman
Mayor’s Opioid Task Force