

HITF
May 15, 2015
Meeting Minutes

1. Agency Updates

a. ECHO: Funding is available for rapid rehousing – some funds have to be used by June 30. Building expansion is underway. Eat Out For Hunger (multiple locations) is June 1. Kutter Bike Night for ECHO is June 16.

b. Project 16:49: 84 unaccompanied homeless youth will be graduating this spring. A Graduation Party will be held for them on Sunday, June 14th at the Large Pavillion, Riverside Park, Beloit. An LDA small group has been working on updating marketing materials for the organization, and is planning a fundraising event (volleyball tourney and outdoor concert) to be held September 12 at The Rock in Beloit. Planning is underway for a Lip Sync Battle fundraising event – tentatively February 12.

c. G.I.F.T.S: Shelter and services are now being offered year round. The summer/fall shelter location schedule is available. There currently are 10 men on a waiting list. The second Shelter Me fundraiser is Sunday at 2 PM at JPAC. May 29 & 30, there will be a cream puff fundraiser at Choice Cleaners on Memorial.

Sleep Out to End Homelessness is coming up on June 5-6 at the Rock County Fairgrounds. Please share information, posters, FB postings, etc with your network. Five percent of event proceeds will go to HITF.

d. Edgerton Community Outreach: Sarah was on Stan Milam's radio show this morning promoting the Sleep Out event.

e. YWCA: The Care House Golf Outing is June 5, and Walk-a-Mile is August 15.

f. Housing for Vets: Kutter Bike Night is July 7. Raffle tickets are now available for \$10 (4,000 will be sold) – prizes include a new Harley or \$7,500 cash, a vacation package, a Packer package, and an Ironworks package

g. Family Services: Shelter is continually full.

2. Presentation by Carolyn Smith (ARCW - AIDS Resource Center WI) and Sara Johnson (Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change) on local efforts to reduce negative outcomes of heroin use

- QUICK FACTS:
 - Hepatitis C can live for 63 days in a needle.
 - In 2013, there were 163,000 reported intravenous drug users in Wisconsin; and 241 new cases of HIV reported.
 - 85% of overdoses are witnessed by someone.
 - Heroin users attempting to quit have a 70-80% relapse rate.
 - Overdose is the #1 cause of accidental deaths – even more than vehicular.
- ARCW is working to reduce the spread of Hepatitis C and HIV by focusing on 3 target groups: men who have sex with men, intravenous drug users who share needles, and the sexual partners of those two groups. The organization offers a needle exchange program as a public health service. One of the biggest critiques of the program is that needle exchange enables

continued use. In reality, it is a public health / safety service, as it aims to reduce needle sharing and the spread of diseases.

- Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change is offering Naloxone training and supplies to support team members (family / friends) of heroin / opiate users. A copy of their training hand-out was distributed. The SCARE ME process was explained, including how Naloxone is administered; and overdose prevention tips were shared.
- Naloxone (brand name: Narcan) is an injected medication that stops/reverses an opiate overdose for about an hour.
- When opiates / heroin are in the body, they go into our brain receptors. Naloxone goes into brain receptors, kicks out the opiates and blocks them from returning. It lasts for 30 to 90 minutes, then receptors open up again. Depending on the situation (how much was ingested of what drug), when the Naloxone wears off, the person could go back into an overdose state. That is why it is critical that someone remain with the person and that follow-up medical care is sought.
- The Good Samaritan Law protects the person who reports an overdose or administers assistance (within the reasonable scope of their abilities) from legal repercussions. 1,100 peer rescues were reported in WI last year.
- Walk-in treatment is actually the best first step. Residential treatment centers aren't the best setting for, and generally won't take, an active user. The person must be stabilized first.
- Treatment options for heroin users include medicated assisted treatment (evidence-based treatment). This lowers the relapse rate from 70-80% to 50-60%. It is important to note that medicated assisted treatment (i.e. Methadone) is not 'replacing one addiction with another'. The goal is not get the client/patient off of methadone / medication; rather to get them to be productive in their family, in their community, and in their own life -- able to be in counseling, work their recovery plan and stop other high risk activities.

Opiates change/lower our base line of 'feeling normal / good'; medication re-establishes/ increases that base line, reduces cravings, and blocks receptors so if drugs are taken, they don't give the expected high (no more incentive to use).

The analogy was given of someone with diabetes, heart problems or other health / mental health issues that require lifelong medication. The medications they take are not viewed as an addiction, nor should the medication taken by those suffering drug addictions be.

A big issue for our community is that there are only 3 prescribers in the county, and each can only have a case load of 100. The need is much greater.

3. Matters not on Agenda

Project Connect: The event will be held following the summer homeless count.

July 30

6 to 9 AM (breakfast served 7 to 8:30 AM)

Salvation Army in Janesville

Service providers are encouraged to 'connect' by having an information table and representative at the event. Haircuts, blood pressure screenings, heat stroke prevention information and personal hygiene supplies will be available for attendees.

Next HITF meeting: June 19 at Noon at Rock County Job Center (Room D/E)