

Opioid and Mental Health Committee
Meeting Millinocket, ME November 26, 2019

Present: Randy Jackson Chairman, Bob Peterson, Chief Worster, Chief Malcolm, Jane Danforth, Louis Pelletier, Nichole Morrison RN, Katie

Carr RN Guest: Velma Rudge, Michelle Anderson, Ginger Collins from

Pir2Peer

Reviewed the success of the Recovery Boys movie presented in East Millinocket with approximately 50 in attendance

Review of current efforts in our community:

Pir2Peer presented their current standing of opening a recovery building and program similar to the BARN in Bangor. They are awaiting finance from the State of Maine Opioid Program. They plan to open within a month depending on monies. They need \$2,400.

Health Access Network presented their current build up to offer treatment for those with addiction. They now have 11 providers trained for MAT therapy and the Health Center has 7 Behavioral Providers. HAN has a program whereby they can provide walk in assessment and start care immediately. HAN has opened their doors to individuals not currently in their care.

There was talk of establishing a referral process for those in custody of the police similar to a program in Portland, Maine.

The local School is working to establish a NARCAN program in

compliance with the State program. The school department is working on policy changes and updates. The State Narcan program is up and running groups may request a training program and supply for use.

The Town of Millinocket Police Department has adopted a puppy Labradoodle to establish a Therapy dog program. This only the second in the state. It will go through Dog Therapy training to assist in comforting those in need and hopefully de-escalating stressful situations. The police chief shared several incidents in which the dog (Sadie Sue) had already assisted the department with a mental health case and an individual with dementia.

Mental Health issues were reviewed noting the frustration due to the lack of beds to admit pts. requiring immediate hospitalization. Mr. Peterson cited an instance in which a 5 year old child was held in a “holding” bed (the ER) as no beds were available for this needed admission. There was a program in which Maine was sending it’s overflow mental health pts to New Hampshire. While this did provide the necessary care the hardship to the families involved was noted.

There seems to be adequate addressing of Mental Health issues through CHCS and the tele-psyke program offered at MRH but the placement of pts. remains our biggest problem. There are multiple bills in the legislature trying to resolve these issues. Mr Peterson is trying to keep abreast of them.

MRH has been working on an ER policy of immediate MAT treatment. Guidelines and follow up along with close work involving our health centers will be needed. This is a great example of our healthcare providers working together and becoming partners in this Opioid crisis.

Jane Danforth MPH MRH provided up dates on The Katahdin Recovery Network sharing the news of a \$5,000 grant providing administrative monies for our Regional Collaborative. Here was brief talk surrounding the possibilities that the Indiginous members of the Micmac's may be looking into establishing a recovery house in this region. This will be followed.

The next meeting was not set as there may be a combination meeting involving several groups such as this working on the same issues so as to combine our resources.

Submitted by Randy D.
Jackson Chairman