

Meeting Notes – Final Meeting

Montgomery County Unintentional Rx Drug Poisoning Coalition

December 6, 2011

East Dayton Health Center

Attending:

Gary LeRoy, MD; Jim Gross, MPH; Rick Buenaventura, MD; Robert Carlson, PhD; Gail Chmielewski, MS; Raminta Daniulaityte, PhD; Russel Falck, MA; Lt Col Mark Hess, Tim Lane, MEd; Brenda Roman, MD; Monica Sutter, RN.

Dr. LeRoy, chair, welcomed those in attendance to the final meeting of the Coalition. The Coalition and the Unintentional Rx Drug Poisoning project, of which the Coalition is a part, will cease operating on December 31, 2011, because the Centers for Disease Control Injury Prevention block grant that funds the project (with money passing through the Ohio Department of Health and Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County) is being eliminated from the federal budget (although it may continue into the first quarter of 2012). Dr. LeRoy and Mr. Gross noted that the elimination of these block grant funds affects programs across the country. Our project was one of many and was not singled out for de-funding. Dr. LeRoy led a discussion concerning future efforts to prevent prescription drug abuse and overdose deaths, including the anticipated formation of an opiate task force to be led by the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board. Russel Falck said he had spoken with both Andrea Hoff and Helen Jones-Kelley of ADAMHS and was told that members of the coalition may be invited to serve on the task force.

Tim Lane distributed a summary of Poisoning Death Review (PDR) data from the first 97 cases in 2011. The number of overdose deaths is trending slightly above what occurred in 2010. Tim highlighted some differences in the 2011 data that may indicate some changes from the drug overdose demographics and drug use patterns observed in 2010. He emphasized that the data were incomplete because the year had not been completed and, consequently, results and indicators may change. Preliminary indications of change included: 1) a shift toward greater representation in the 35-54 year age group; and 2) in the prescription opioid class, a minor decrease in the presence of hydrocodone (such as Vicodin) and increase in the presence of methadone. Again, at this time, it should not be assumed that these preliminary indications are indicative of actual changes in decedents' demographics or drug use patterns. Russel emphasized the importance of the PDR as it gives all concerned a detailed perspective on the problem, something that was lacking prior to 2010. Russel explained that current PDR data, as

well as end of calendar year 2011 data (which will probably be available at the end of March), will be provided to Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County, will be posted on the Coalition website, and will be made available to the ADAMHS Board opiate task force. Russel made a motion to adopt a resolution to continue the Poisoning Death Review process, if resources become available. Dr. Roman seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously, with Mr. Gross and Dr. LeRoy abstaining due to their roles at Public Health-Dayton & Montgomery County. Tim and Russel noted the extensive cooperation of the Montgomery County Coroner's Office, without which the PDR would not be possible.

Russel described the educational videos targeting community members and prescribers. They were produced to meet an educational objective in the contract. The video series is now available on YouTube as well as a WSU channel. Links to the videos are also available on the coalition web site. The series consists of 9 stand-alone segments that run from 4-9 minutes in length. The topic areas covered include pain management contracts, alternatives to opioids for pain relief, substance use disorders, prescribing opioids, talking with someone who has a drug problem, and epidemiology of the problem from national, state and local perspectives. Links to additional resources are provided for each video. The series is being publicized through local hospitals and professional societies. Russel thanked Drs. Buenaventura, Roman, and Teller and Ms. Sutter and Mr. Lane for their work and participation in the videos. He noted publicity for the videos would continue into next year.

Tim Lane reviewed a study report provided by Lt. Brad Nickels, Dayton Fire Department's Division of Emergency Services. The study examined San Antonio, Texas, Emergency Department (ED) usage by individuals who received naloxone from EMS personnel, and subsequently refused transport. The study addressed the concern that people whose overdose is reversed by administration of naloxone are more likely to continue to overdose if they receive no further intervention at an ED. The authors found that individuals who received naloxone and refused transport were not likely to overdose in the following month.

Mr. Lane also reported on activities of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and the Prescription Drug Abuse Action Group (PDAAG) to implement the Montgomery County recommendation to adopt naloxone education and distribution in Ohio and to conduct a naloxone pilot program. ODH has asked that Montgomery County prepare a concept paper or proposal detailing the activities, objectives, and costs of conducting a naloxone education and distribution pilot program. CITAR will forward the request to the ADAMHS Board task force.

Dr. LeRoy thanked the members for serving and encouraged them to participate on the ADAMHS Opiate Task Force. Russel also thanked Gary for serving as coalition chair and also offered his sincere thanks to all who worked on the Coalition.