

September 16, 2010, Meeting Notes

Montgomery County Unintentional Drug Poisoning Coalition

Meeting Location: East Dayton Health Center

Attending:

Gary LeRoy, MD, Chair; Rick Buenaventura, MD; Robert Carlson, PhD; Gail Chmielewski, MS; Raminta Daniulaityte, PhD; Russel Falck, MA; Jim Gross, MPH; Andrea Herman, MPA; Andrea Hoff; Tim Lane, MEd; Lee Lehman, PhD, MD; Laureen Marinetti, PhD; DFD Lt. James King; DFD Asst. Fire Chief Jeff Payne; Willie Scales; Chris Stieritz, RPh; Cathy Trame, RN, MS.

Dr. LeRoy opened with introductions and a restatement of the purpose of the coalition: to consider relevant data and literature in order to make recommendations to the local health department as well as the Ohio Department of Health regarding practices and policies that may produce a reduction in unintentional prescription drug overdose deaths. The work is being conducted by WSU under a contract with Public Health –Dayton & Montgomery County.

Dr. Daniulaityte discussed the results of the coalition member survey from the initial meeting.

Russel Falck noted the substantial contributions of the Montgomery County Coroner's office in meeting the contract's objectives, particularly in relation to drugs and death data. He spoke briefly about the poison death review process and reiterated the data-driven nature of the coalition's work. Tim Lane distributed a summary of Poisoning Death Review data from the first 53 cases in 2010. Data are similar to what has been seen in recent years in terms of age groups, ethnicity, and drugs involved. The majority of the decedents had a history of substance abuse and many had serious physical ailments as well. Montgomery County is on pace to reach the death rates last two years, although that could change. Tim provided a description of the data sources. Dr. Marinetti and Dr. Lehman responded to coalition member questions concerning death investigations and toxicology.

Dr. Carlson reviewed the recommendations of the Ohio Poison Action Group/New and Emerging Drug Trends Working Group (PAG/NEDTW) and led a discussion of how the recommendations relate to the actions of the coalition.

Andrea Hoff provided an update and handouts on the Governor's Ohio Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force activities, including a summary of the recommendations made by the Law Enforcement, Public Health, Treatment, and Regulatory work groups. She discussed the timeline for submission of the final report to the Governor and offered some insights into the process leading to the recommendations.

Tim provided information on naloxone distribution programs and handed out a packet of information, including background information from peer-reviewed literature, article abstracts, and other sources of information on the use of naloxone for preventing accidental drug poisoning. Robert told the group about Project Lazarus, a program in Wilkes County, NC, that is responding directly to the threat of prescription opioid abuse. The coalition will use this information to inform its recommendation on local naloxone distribution and education.

Russel previewed the needs assessment survey form. Post card "invitations" to participate in the web-based survey are being sent to members of the Montgomery County Medical Society and Dayton Dental Society. Invitations to participate in the anonymous survey for prescribers are also being sent to physicians through area hospital list serves as well as the faculty of the WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine. The results will be used to inform education and training programs. The survey will run on-line until September 30th.

Gary led a discussion of the proposed symposium, a requirement of the contract, to respond to prescription drug poisoning, and solicited coalition member's views on whom to target. Russel raised the issue of whether some of the well-founded suggestions of the membership (e.g. Dr. Buenaventura's suggestion of providing prescription drug overdose education during grand rounds) would satisfy the requirements of the grant. Jim Gross and Andrea Herman suggested that effective responses to this specific grant requirement might take a number of forms during this pilot program.

Russel described efforts to obtain and examine Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) data on overdoses. GDAHA has been very helpful and it is likely we will have the all data requested by the end of next week. Preliminary data suggest that nearly 1000 people show up in area ED rooms each year for drug overdoses suggesting the scope of the problem is wider than many suspect.

Next meetings: Early November and early December, 2010. Dates and times to be announced soon. These are critically important meetings as the coalition will begin formulating and completing its recommendations at these meetings.