

Overdose Prevention Team (OPT)
Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2024

- **Call to Order**

Jordan Lewis called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

- **Welcome and Meeting Attendance**

- **Present:**

Jordan Lewis, Allegany County Health Department – Prevention
Kathleen Powell, Local Evaluator
Sherriff Craig Robertson, Allegany County Sherriff’s Department
Jim Raley, Archway Station
Sgt. Daniel Dunn, Frostburg State University Police
Chief Chuck Ternant, Cumberland City Police Department
Jennifer Smith, Allegany County Health Department - Physical Health
Kristi Plummer, Allegany County Health Department – Behavioral Health
Kevin Zarzecki, Maryland State Police
Avery Meyer, Maryland’s Office of Overdose Response
Brent Dressman, Allegany County DSS
Becki Clark, Allegany County Health Department – Local Behavioral Health Authority
James Elliot, State’s Attorney
Mike Malloy, Allegany County Heroin Coordinator
Tracey Leonard, Board of Education of Allegany County
Susan Stewart, AHEC West
Rhonda Pick, Family Crisis Resource Center
Kerri Caporale, The Caporale Group
Rose Taylor, Allegany County Health Department - Behavioral Health Systems Office
Dr. Jennifer Corder, Medical Deputy, Allegany County Health Department
Jessica Colwell, Public Defenders Office, Allegany County
Lieutenant Jeremy Stonebreaker, Maryland State Police
Candice Snavey, Western MD Consortium
Rommel Gonzaga, Gonzaga Health
Kathy Whitacre, UPMC
Renee Gibson, Department of Juvenile Services
Catherine Phillips, Allegany County Parole & Probation

- **Absent:** Andrew Tichnell, Cumberland City Police

Don Swogger, Frostburg State University
Jordan Rhoads, Allegany County Health Department - Prevention
Nicholas Costello, Frostburg City Police
Phoebe Twigg, Allegany County Health Department, Joseph S. Massie Unit
Melissa Clark, AHEC West
Jose Luiggi, Gonzaga Health

- **Guests:** No public attended this meeting

- **Introduction of Chair/Co-Chair – Jordan Lewis and Kathy Whitacre**
 - All guests were reminded that the meeting is under the Open-Air Meetings Act.
 - It was noted that the agenda was published 24 hours before the meeting.
 - Minutes from the meeting will be published after the meeting.
 - Those in attendance were advised on where to locate the agenda and minutes for public viewing.

- **Drug and Alcohol Council (DAAC)**
 - Jordan Lewis explained that DAAC would now be combined with the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC). Becki Clark, chair of MHAC then explained what this will look like moving forward.

- **Funding for FY 25 strategic priorities and opening of the floor to OPT members to solicit feedback on projects for Allegany County**

It was noted by chair Jordan Lewis that there was approximately \$70,000 for projects within this grant. The following ideas were generated and discussed:

- Kathy Whitacre noted how the social determinants of health are always something to focus on improving within the county.
 - Becki Clark suggested that there could possibly be an extension of peer work within the county. She suggested possibly Drug Court. James Elliott for the State’s Attorney’s office then said he felt that peer work would be a good source of funding. Currently Drug Court has about 40 participants and is looking to gain up to 50.
 - Kristi Plummer suggested that peer services could tie into the Mental Health Court that is starting in Allegany County.
 - It was noted to also check on costs of urinalysis funding and see if this would meet the conditions for funding.
 - Brent Dressman spoke for DSS and stated they would like to continue to work with the ACHD to fund peers at DSS to work within the child welfare unit.
 - Discussion was held about Drug Court looking for funding to complete UA’s on evenings and weekends. James Elliott stated he believes they have located funding for this to happen, but he will check. If not, he will reach back out to Jordan.
 - Jordan Lewis then opened the floor for the team to continue to suggest options. After no other submissions were made, the meeting progressed to the next order of business.
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- **Public Comment**
 - No public comments were made.
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- The next Overdose Prevention Team meeting will be held on July 12, 2024 at 8:30a.m.

 - Submitted by Jordan Lewis, Director of Prevention, ACHD