

**Meeting of the
Western Connecticut Council of Governments Drug Task Force**

Wednesday, October 13, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.

Trackside Teen Center

15 Station Road, Wilton, CT 06897

Agenda

1. MEETING CALL TO ORDER and INTRODUCTIONS
2. FEATURED SPEAKER: Charles Grady from FBI
3. DISCUSSION:
 - Next Steps – How do we keep momentum going?
4. INFORMATION ITEMS:
 - Next Meeting
 - Suggestion of presenters/ topics for next meeting
5. OTHER BUSINESS

6/29/2016
**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
WESTCOG DRUG TASK FORCE**
HELD AT REDDING COMMUNITY CENTER
37 LONETOWN ROAD, REDDING, CT 06896

ATTENDING

Albright, Michelle, Weston Youth Services
Brezorsky, Ellen, Silver Hill Hospital
Daniel, Nina, First Selectman Weston
Esposito, Elizabeth, Western CT Council of Governments
Gaberman, Teri, Weston

Marconi, Rudy, Ridgefield First Selectman
Montgomery, Joanne, AIDS Project Greater Danbury
Sudhakar, Soumya, Western CT Council of Governments

CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth Esposito of the Western CT Council of Governments (WestCOG) staff called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

DISCUSSION

Liz Esposito opened the meeting with discussion on how to continue the groups momentum and have some of the recommendations presented to the CEOs implemented. There was consensus that a good next step would be to encourage towns to give data on what they are already doing on drug abuse in order to help neighboring towns connect with resources and see how they are doing in comparison to the region.

Joanne Montgomery mentioned the need for funding for additional Narcan kits to meet demand for trainings. The group discussed sources of public and private funding for initiatives such as surveys and youth programs.

The group discussed further steps including looking into what resources were there for a youth at risk and looking into what other COGs were doing on this topic.

The group also discussed data collection from school and police to continue with regional reporting. WestCOG staff will check if police in the region are able to share data. The group also considered the best way to share this information with the public, press releases, SROs, and health districts were discussed.

Joanne Montgomery led a Narcan training and gave kits to each attendee.

NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT

A call for suggestions for featured speakers at the next meeting was announced. Contact information for those suggestions can be emailed to Liz Esposito.

Discussion on the next meeting date ended with consensus that the next meeting would be held in late August. The WestCOG staff would poll the members online for the exact date. The meeting was then adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Opioid Crisis Update 1: Recommendations

The WestCOG Drug Task Force acknowledges that the opiate abuse crisis is a far reaching issue with many facets, affecting many areas of a single community. Also realizing that each community is unique with different challenges and resources, we have created a “menu” of recommendations to help improve the municipal reaction to this crisis. We have organized the suggestions to reflect which area of the problem they tackle.

We strongly encourage you to choose the measures best suited for your community and take decisive steps toward curbing this epidemic. Your pledge to pursue these recommendations will help, address this important issue and the allow the Task Force to better support your activities. It is our hope that through your action, our region will become a model for others.

Response

- Require all first responders and/or all emergency personnel to be trained to use the opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone, and carry it with them.
- Create a municipal task force that brings together town departments and local resources to share information and data, and identify strategies to combat town specific issues. Stakeholders could include; Police, Fire, EMS, Youth Council, local hospitals and treatment centers, etc.
- Create an anonymous tip line for citizens to report ODs that did not require Naloxone or other treatment.

Recovery

- Support and advocate for the maintenance and expansion of addiction services.
- Create a safe haven, similar to the program in Gloucester, MA, where people battling addiction can find resources without fear of prosecution.
- Create a support group for friends and family touched by addiction. If your community already has one, ensure it is effectively advertised to maintain/increase utilization.

Prevention

- Provide at least one drug disposal drop box. If your community already has one, ensure it is effectively advertised to ensure public awareness and use.
- Host at least two Pill Drives per year.
- Create a stamp or stickers for pharmacists to put on prescriptions that lets customers know where to dispose of unwanted medications – the local drop box.
- Involve youth and local colleges in the creation of educational programming.

Intervention

- Create a Juvenile Review Board to divert at-risk youth from the court system. If your community already has one, advertise it and continue your support for it.
- Support the expansion of a regional forum for School Resource Officers to collaborate.
- Hold a community forum and use the emergency channels to advertise it. (National Overdose Awareness day is August 31st, www.overdoseday.com)
- Assist local groups in holding community meetings that teach people to recognize the warning signs for addiction, and that train them to use Naloxone.

Sustainability

- Provide continued funding and legislative advocacy for addiction, prevention, and mental health services.
- Stay up to date with programing at your Local Prevention Council and Regional Action Council, and help them spread the word.