INTER-Agency HEROIN AND OPIOID COORDINATING COUNCIL

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032 – 1st Floor Conference Room, Side B
Friday, September 8, 2017, 1-3 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

1:00 – 1:05  Welcome
Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health

Council Chair Secretary Dennis Schrader called the Council meeting to order and began with introductions and a reminder that September is National Recovery Month. Secretary Schrader and Director Stamp briefly discussed the potential for an emergency declaration on the federal level, either as a Stafford Act declaration, national public health emergency, or general national emergency, noting that there has been no clear decision/mobilization on the federal level yet. State and local coordination and engagement continues as the Opioid Operational Command Center is working to shift from an incident management posture to a long-term program management phase.

1:05 – 1:10  Advocate
Carin Miller, Maryland Coalition of Families

Carin Miller, a family peer support specialist, shared her personal story of her family’s struggles with addiction, including the difficulty her husband encountered when seeking help to detox and her son’s escalation from prescription drugs to heroin. Ms. Miller emphasized that there is no quick fix to this crisis and that the community needs to stand together to ensure full circle treatment.

1:10 – 1:15  2017 1st Quarter Results
Dr. Jinlene Chan, Acting Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services, Maryland Department of Health

Dr. Chan presented the following overdose trends for the first quarter of 2017 (January – March):

- 35% increase in opioid-related deaths compared to first quarter of 2016
- 21% increase in heroin-related deaths compared to first quarter of 2016
- 137% increase in fentanyl-related deaths compared to first quarter of 2016
  - Toxicity in fentanyl is incredibly high
  - Carfentanil is a subset of fentanyls; carfentanil first showed up as a death in April and so is not included as an independent category for this quarter
- Baltimore city shows the highest number of opioid-related deaths in the state
  - This number would include residents from other counties going into Baltimore

Dr. Chan shared that local jurisdictions are working to capture the total number of overdoses (fatal and non-fatal) through EMS/police/hospitals. There are a number of different systems that could potentially track non-fatal overdoses; however there are significant limitations which MDH is working to address.
Director Stamp stated that this initiative is a high priority to Governor and Lieutenant Governor and shared the following OOCC updates:

- **Local engagement with Opioid Intervention Teams (OITs)**
  - OITs reflect a cross-section of community and are led by the local health officer and supported by the local emergency manager
  - The OOCC is providing grant funding through OITs for local projects and monitoring progress, augmenting work that is being done in counties already
- **Information Sharing**
  - The OOCC is engaging with partners and the public through its website beforeitstoolate.com and social media sites
- **Messaging**
  - Working to share good things that are happening, tell the story, convey a message of hope/success, and reminder of work still left to do
- **Driving projects and plans to achieve goals and objectives**
  - Working with agency partners – 14 agencies participate directly/meet frequently, growing coalition
  - Have begun engaging with the Department of Housing & Community Development and the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation

### 2:00 – 2:45  
**Benchmarks/Report-Outs**

**Housing and Community Development**

- Opioid addiction is one of the largest reasons people are struggling with homelessness
  - Maryland one of the first states to try to get count on homeless youth - over 1,000 (many LGBTQ and opioid addicted)
- Working on new facility, hope to be underway by 2018
  - Need collaboration with other council agencies for supportive services that go along with facility
- Suggestion: utilize social media as an outreach/interaction platform

**Maryland State Police**

- There has been a paradigm shift in law enforcement; "arrest your way out of it" mentality won't solve problem
- Law enforcement in the state is meeting regularly to compare data, looking to target bigger picture e.g. dealers, supply stream, etc.
- Dealing with safety issues related to contact with drugs on deployments e.g. shipments of fentanyl
  - 97 deployments this year to date vs. 60 last year
  - State police have handled 65 fatal and 420 non-fatal this year.
- Every state barrack has a drug drop box
Education - Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Higher Education Commission

- Have identified school systems to participate in grant which will fund training teams to assist students with drug issues.
- Any use of naloxone in school system will be reported
- MSDE has created new website, linked into the beforeitstoolate website
- Let’s Start Talking Maryland workshop has had two meetings
- Received funding from OCCC for strategies that will assist in recovery schools
- Will provide an update on parental involvement and outreach at the next Council meeting

Department of Human Services

- The needs of every county are different but there are recurring themes that can be seen
- Many of the younger children coming into foster care system are due to substance abuse issues/neglect in home
- Looking at how to help those with substance abuse connect to health services
- Information sharing is a challenge - antiquated data systems, data not easily accessible
  - In process of updating data systems over the next several years
- Offering naloxone training to employees in field; will be reaching out to state police for more information on exposure procedures

Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems

- EMS responds to thousands of overdoses and look alikes and there is no tool that shows definitively whether it is opioids
- Working to identify repeat overdoses - most at risk population.
- Providing crisis hotline information on scene
- Expanding to make sure that all EMS personnel have naloxone training.
- Future discussion - intervention strategies

Mike Gimbel, a recovering addict shared that heroin addiction is unlike any other drug addiction and suggested that an over-intellectualized approach is unlikely to be very productive because addicts are not operating from a rational mindset. Mr. Gimbel urged the Council to consider and invest in long-term residential treatment options. Jo Martin of Addiction News Network also asked the Council to consider the long-term effects of drug use and chronic health problems that addicts/recovering addicts may encounter.

2:45 – 3:00  Open Discussion, Questions, and Closing Remarks
Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary, Maryland Department of Health

Director Stamp closed the meeting with a reminder of four areas of focus - continue to elevate conversation to attack stigma; target and focus energy; continue to identify data to evaluate progress, and persevere.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

The next Quarterly Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 12, 2017 from 1-3 p.m. at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032 – 1st Floor Conference Room, Side A