

NYC CSB Substance Use Disorder Subcommittee Meeting | Thursday, June 30, 2022 | 3:00 – 4:30 AM

 Welcome and introductions: Alex Harocopos (DOHMH), Tina Saha (DOHMH), Jason Graham (Office of Chief Medical Examiner), Sean Walker (NYPD), Victoria Merlino (DOHMH), Deb Pantin (Outreach), Roxana Hernandez (DOHMH), Rick Tibbetts (Dept of Probation), Myrela Bauman (DOHMH), Kailin See (OnPoint NYC), Sam Rivera (OnPoint NYC), Felecia Pullen (Pillars/SAFE in Harlem), Shivani Mantha (DOHMH), Sara Atlas (DOHMH), Ross MacDonald (Correctional Health), Jessie Schwartz (Dept of Homeless Services), Mike Selick (National Harm Reduction Coalition), Soteri Polydorou (Northwell Health), Sarah Church (Wholeview Wellness), Melissa Moore (Drug Policy Alliance), Marvin Scott (affiliation not stated) Eugene Patron (Fund for Public Health of NY), Julia DeWalt (DOHMH), Alex-Ane Mathieu (DOHMH), Eve Cleghorn (DHS), Mindy Nass (DOHMH), Diane Arneth (Community Health Action of Staten Island), Anne Aronson (DHS), Noah Isaacs (Health+Hospitals), Hiawatha Collins (National Harm Reduction Coalition), Yarelix Estrada (DOHMH), Noah Heau (DOHMH)

2. NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Updates:

- a. DOHMH provided overdose mortality update during third quarter of 2021.
- b. Discussion was held about reducing lag in overdose mortality reporting.
- c. DOHMH uses syndromic data to track overdoses in real-time.
- d. Turn-around times are being reduced for final toxicology (Office of Chief Medical Examiner) with the aim to return to pre-pandemic levels of under 30 days.
- e. OCME tracks suspected overdose deaths, but that does not allow for disaggregation of overdose deaths by drugs involved.

3. Department of Probation (DOP) Updates:

- a. April 2022: New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) approved application for DOP to have an Opioid Overdose Prevention Program (OOPP). DOP is training staff to dispense naloxone kits to clients.
- b. DOP opened waiting rooms to CBOs and behavioral health agencies and is placing certified managed care organizations in waiting rooms to help people get SUD treatment.
- c. Starting in September of 2021, DOP Health Services team began partnership with Common Justice to address gun violence by providing voluntary gun violence treatment to survivors of gun violence.

4. Department of Homeless Services (DHS) Updates:

- a. Continuing naloxone administration in suspected overdoses at shelters.
- b. Currently following up with referrals, harm reduction service provision.
- c. Starting harm reduction peer program and piloting fentanyl test strip (FTS) distribution.
- d. Piloting Nurse navigator program.

5. Health + Hospitals Updates:

- a. Continuing to utilize mobile units with nurse, nurse practitioner, addiction counselor, peer on board. This helps to build relationships with people who are experiencing street homelessness and SUD.
- b. The vans provide basic material needs, wound care, counseling, connection to care, etc.
 - i. Locations span Harlem and Midtown.
 - ii. Concept: Will be in certain locations at a steady pace so that people know when to expect to see the vans.
 - iii. Mobile units will be licensed through Article 28 facilities.
- c. Virtual express care: 24/7 behavioral health and substance use urgent care hotline. Can be accessed via phone or video. Services include brief interventions and bridge clinic for buprenorphine.

6. Policy Updates:

- a. From Drug Policy Alliance: This session in Albany:
 - i. Expansion of Kendra's Law:



- 1. The data points to mandated treatment not being effective and instead driving overdose risk.
- 2. Harshest provisions were blocked.
- ii. Cannabis policy updates:
 - 1. Final appointments to Cannabis Control Board/CCB were made last week.
 - 2. Lockbox fund: This body was codified last week and first meeting was held today.
 - 3. Passed through in budget: public/private partnership for social equity licenses and capital investments.
 - 4. Conditional cultivation licenses have rolled out.
- iii. Opioid Settlement Board
 - 1. Almost entirely appointed
 - 2. NYC will receive 286M; first round is 150M over the next five years
- iv. 988
 - 1. Launches in July.
- v. NYS legislation which saw movement but did not pass
 - 1. Pre-plea treatment not incarceration legislation
 - 2. Infant maternal care center
 - 3. Safe Consumption Site (SCS) Act (Passed Assembly, but not the Senate)

7. OnPoint Updates:

- a. As of this meeting, there have been approximately 1400 enrollees, 25,000 usages, and 350 overdose interventions in OPCs. (Source)
- b. OnPoint also diverts large amounts of hazardous waste.
- c. Many OPC participants have engaged in care coordination services with our agency. This includes accompaniments to treatment and buprenorphine (bupe) coordination.
- d. Challenges: Funding has to be found through private mechanisms.
- e. NYPD at both 34th and 46th precinct play major role in OnPoint's success in how they've interacted with participants, being part of the process, referring people to the OPC.
- 8. Brainstorm for next steps for CSB/MDSC (recommendations on what to prioritize going forward):
 - a. Reminder that MDSC will cease to exist once 2022 report is published; the group will revert to CSB Substance Use Disorder Subcommittee.
 - i. Continue to convene this space twice a year as the SUD Community Services Board
 - b. Major topics to focus on in the future:
 - i. Increase focus on racial equity with policy discussions to address disproportionately deaths of Black and Latinx residents.
 - ii. Ensure funds are going to communities most impacted.
 - iii. Continuing to intentionally develop person-centered, non-coercive programs and how to prevent overdoses among people experiencing homelessness. Drug-related deaths are the leading cause of death for the sixth year in a row among people experiencing homelessness.
 - iv. Continue to include those with lived experience in all processes and conversations.
 - v. Monitoring of best clinical practices adopted across the city.
 - vi. Continue to recommend partnerships.