

# La Crosse County Heroin and Other Illicit Drug Task Force Highlights – Revised April 2017

## 2017 Highlights of the Task Force Include:

- Organizing two drug forums with over 550 participants for May 15 – Heroin & Prescription Painkillers: A Time for Community Action and the Community Drug Forum
- Formed workgroups to address the following:
- Improperly Disposed Needles: distributed over 1,200 sharps containers to AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin to provide their monthly IDU with. Installed two outdoor sharps containers in La Crosse to increase collection (As of December 2017, over 400lbs of needles and sharps have been collected).
- Medicated Assisted Treatment – main goal of promoting MAT in the community. Gathered and met with the 3 MAT providers to discuss strengths, gaps and what they feel needs to be accomplished. A meeting with healthcare officials is being planned for May/June
- Treatment workgroup to address funding, advocating for early intervention and screening, and using evidence-based treatment options workgroup to:
  1. Advocate for effective treatment funding
  2. Advocate for early intervention and screening
  3. Providers using evidence-based treatment options
- “Lighthouse” is another workgroup of approximately 15 task force members and concerned citizens to develop a peer run respite center
- Two members (Jen Rombalski, La Crosse county Health Department Director and Rep. Jill Billings) serve on the Governor’s Opioid Task Force and provide statewide recommendations for addressing the opioid/heroin issue
- Continue to promote medication drop boxes and collaborate with La Crosse County Prevention Network (Leveraged over \$10,000 from local Drug Free Communities grant to pay for radio, TV and print ads. Rx postcards provided to pharmacies to include into patient Rx bags)
- Numerous community presentations including schools, civic groups and other organizations
- Wisconsin DHS Statewide webinar – presented to all local health department directors and other staff statewide on the La Crosse County Heroin & Other Illicit Drug Task Force
- Collected key informant interviews (15) of treatment providers in the region to identify strengths/gaps and utilize main themes to encourage work of the “treatment workgroup” bulleted above
- Met with both healthcare providers to encourage consistent Rx prescribing practices and collaborate on messaging to patients about opioids
- Added past 30 day meth use question to 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Presenting at WPHA in May 2017 on Aligning Pain In Our Communities project with Mayo, IPMA and La Crosse County Health Department
- Completed 2017 Burden Report on Illicit Drugs in La Crosse County of La Crosse
- Updated Resource/asset list of treatment, support and prevention services in our region

## **2016 Highlights of the Task Force Include:**

### **February 29, 2016 Western Healthcare Coalition Stakeholder Illicit Drug Symposium Update:**

- 230 leaders met to discuss the illicit drug epidemic and to hear from a variety of speakers. A networking opportunity provided a regional strategic planning process for over nine surrounding counties. Sponsored by Western Healthcare Coalition and the La Crosse County Heroin and Other illicit Drug Task Force, and La Crosse County Health Department.

### **February 29, 2016 Community Illicit Drug Forum: A Night for HOPE!” Update:**

- Over 350 community participants attended the evening event “Community Illicit Drug Forum: A Night for HOPE!” The Lybert family shared their journey from addiction to recovery. Panelists included Sheriff Helgeson, Dr. Eberlein, Pat Ruda from Addiction Medical Solutions, Rita Von Haden from Coulee Council on Addictions and Rep. Jill Billings on the HOPE/Heroin legislation efforts. Sponsored by La Crosse County Heroin and Other illicit Drug Task Force/La Crosse County Health Department, La Crosse County Prevention Network (LCPN) and Addiction Medical Solutions, Onalaska.
- Between the Lybert family (the family of four who presented during the Feb 29 Community Illicit Drug Forum) and Al Bliss, Health Educator, nearly 100 emails and phone calls from families asking for addition resources was fielded within two days after the evening event!
- To view the evening event, please click on the below link. Thanks to Mid-West Family Broadcasting for recording the link and promoting the event!  
<http://livestream.com/MWFB/events/4837105>
- Partnered with Mayo Healthcare on “Aligning Pain in Our Communities” grant project. Developed academic detailing sessions to 64 clinicians in 6 partnering clinics

## **2015 Highlights of the Task Force Include:**

### **Harm Reduction:**

- Collected over 2000lbs of prescription medications from the seven La Crosse County law Enforcement Drop Boxes
- A new program change for La Crosse County inmates who now view an educational video about drug overdose.
- Developed partnership between La Crosse Fire Dept. and ARCW (AIDS resource Center of WI) for used needle pick up in public locations
- Working with healthcare, Tri State and ARCW to increase awareness of Narcan
- Gundersen Health Systems resident physician develop new guidelines and protocol for opioid overdoses

### **Access to Treatment/Recovery:**

- Updated treatment, support and recovery resource information to the public
- Support of HOPE legislation such as treatment and Diversion (TAD) funds
- Task force discussions about access to treatment (barriers, options), recovery and support services.
- Meet with Family Policy Board
- Guest speakers on recovery from meth
- Engage the School District of La Crosse - Interviewed 28 staff from K-12 schools on substance abuse efforts, programs, etc

### **Education/Media:**

- Presentations to middle schools provided on the dangers of prescription drug misuse, legislative update on Rx drugs, Viterbo Lunch & Learn, Gundersen Health Systems Palliative Care physicians, Rotary and other civic groups, health fairs, La Crosse Medical Health Science Consortium Health Summit, Family and Children's Center staff and The Parenting Place staff.
- Media coverage (awareness and education) plus earned media
- Website (educational materials, presentations, resources, drop boxes, etc.)
- Prescription Drug Monitoring training to over 140 local providers (increase from 1% of providers using PDMP to over 23% in 2015)
- Statistics gathered from law enforcement, medical (drug related hospitalizations, those in treatment, infants born into addiction/withdrawal)
- Present at local legislative gathering on the problems with prescription drugs (pain killers).
- Presenters to the task force on meth lab cleanup from La Crosse Fire Dept., Investigator Tom Johnson (Sheriff's Dept.) and Al Bliss (Meth 101)
- Presenters to the task force on DARE from Onalaska and La Crosse Police and on Too Good for Drugs program in schools by Rita Von Haden, Coulee Council on Addictions

### **Funding/Sustainability:**

- Designing Jewelers of La Crosse provided \$15,000 to the MEG (Multijurisdictional Enforcement Group) Unit, which serves in the five surrounding counties and Coulee Council on Addictions to help cover cost for MEG and for those seeking treatment who are unable to afford it or have insurance.
- Addiction Medical Solutions of Onalaska provided \$3,000 to the task force for prevention efforts, which funded the Feb 29 Community Illicit Drug Forum and two high school presentations by the Lybert Family at Aquinas and Luther High Schools.
- Partnership with Mayo Healthcare Systems for \$8,750 subcontracted grant from Pfizer to address "Aligning Pain Management." Mayo will be training all their prescribers in safe prescription drug/narcotic practices, use of the PDMP, and on community resources available
- New partnerships, including new co-chairs Chris Eberlein, MD from Gundersen Health Systems and Joe Chilsen, Mayor of Onalaska, Troy Harcey and Regina Siegel, School District of La Crosse
- Task Force strategic planning and evaluation conducted