



Quarterly Meeting
Bismarck Burleigh Public Health
Microsoft Teams
Tuesday, August 6th, 2024
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Attendees: Andrea Sailer (ND Brain Injury Network), Bea Kaiser (Bismarck Veterans Memorial Public Library), Brad Brown (WCHSC), Carrie Sorenson (Carries Kids), Cathy Palczewski (Heartview), Charolette Williams (CDC Foundation), Christine Kujawa, Dan Schaefer (MAAS), Dave Draovitch, Doreen Eichele (Dacotah Foundation), Elizabeth Kapella (BPH), Erin Ourada (WPPH), Jacob Sutton, Jason Ziegler, Jen Harrington (Sanford Behavioral Health), Jenessa Reinisch (Centre Inc.), Jenna Gullo (United Way), Jess Follman, Jodie Fetsch (WPPH), Katie Fitzsimmons (NDUS), Katie McNamara (ND Federation for Families), Kodi Pinks (ND Dept Health & Human Services), Lindsay Timm (St. Alexius Health), Luke McKay, Lynden Ring (WCHSC), Marnie Walth, Melanie Hanson (Centre Inc.), Mike Ness (Midwest HIDTA), Michelle Erickson (AARC), Nicole Schurhamer, Renae Moch (BBPH), Sue Kahler (BBPH), Tessa Lee (BBPH), Theresa Schmidt (BBPH), and Tom Volk (DHHS).

Total Attendance: 35

Welcome/Introductions:

Renae Moch, Director, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH)
Renae Moch welcomed participants and coordinated introductions.

Overdose Response Strategy Program

Charolette Williams, PhD, Public Health Analyst
Mike Ness, DIO, Midwest HIDTA.

Charolette and Mike gave updates on the program and how they are using aspects of both public health and public safety to effectively manage their program. Some of the collaborative roles they play include sharing data, strategies, and different interventions. They discussed how public health analysts can collaborate with drug intelligence officers to work as team. Mike shared his experience working on the reservation and described those areas of North Dakota as rural with minimal resources. They are currently working on providing behavioral therapy to all populations as well as mental health services to areas in need. They want to complete an overdose fatality review along with a map showing where overdoses are occurring in North Dakota. Recently, there has been an increase in cocaine and mushrooms in the state. Meth is currently the most used drug in the state, followed by fentanyl. There has also been a lot of crossovers with marijuana from states that have legalized it.

Subcommittee Updates:

Prevention & Education Subcommittee

DFC Grant- Tessa Lee, Sap Intern (BBPH)

Tessa shared the Drug-Free Communities grant Core Measure Survey results. The survey is taken every two years and is given to 6th, 9th, and 11th-grade students with the same questions each time. Students are asked about past 30 days' usage, perceived risk, and perceived peer disapproval. In the March 2024 survey, a new question was added regarding the perception of parent, caregiver, and guardian disapproval. Other than the perception of parent, caregiver, and guardian disapproval, all other questions showed progress in the areas of alcohol and marijuana, indicating that intervention efforts are working. She also shared about the environmental scan she conducted with the student committee. They attended a popular community event to address youth accessibility to alcohol.

SOR Grant- Sue Kahler, SAP Coordinator (BBPH)

Sue provided updates on the new OneBox locations, including UTTC, Ministry on the Margins, and various hotels in Bismarck. Additionally, there will be a Free Community Narcan Training on September 12th at 12 p.m. If you know someone interested in attending, please contact Sue Kahler at skahler@bismarcknd.gov to register.

Intoxication/Withdrawal Management Subcommittee:**Brad Brown and Lynden Ring (West Central)**

Brad and Lynden have been working on follow-ups with crisis services. One crisis service, 1st Link, which is a statewide answering service, reported 982 calls from July 2023 to June 2024. 761 of the calls resulted in connections to their crisis services staff, and 221 of those were managed by live conversations with FirstLink staff.

Treatment & Recovery Subcommittee**Cathy Palczewski, Heartview**

Cathy talked about their current overdose grant and how she has been able to use it to conduct Narcan and opioid training. She also discussed adding referrals to other available services for individuals in need. They changed their previous practice of having Emergency room staff call them in the event of an overdose. They have since stopped this practice and now focus on certain local clinics. They have opened for clinics to make referrals for anything drug and alcohol related not just overdoses. It is important to bridge the gap from clinic into treatment. Regarding that, when a referral is made the Heartview staff will show up and get the patient into potential treatment. The DOJ has approved the grant allowing this to happen. Phase 3 will be implemented which involves reducing stigma and paying gratitude to first responders. Training for the UND Medical students has begun.

ND Data Information

Kodi Pinks, MPH, Director Non-infectious disease Surveillance & Data Management

Kodi provided information on the data for recent years involving overdoses and overdose deaths in ND. The demographic with the highest number of overdose deaths is those aged 30-39 years. Two-thirds were male, 78% occurred at home, two-thirds were not married, and 29% also had alcohol present. She stated that males account for around 66% of those who have overdosed. Counties with the highest rates were Sioux, Mountrail, and Benson. Toxicology reports show opioids as the most common, followed by fentanyl. She expressed that they usually see a combination of multiple drugs. Fentanyl overdoses have increased from 2 in 2019 to 27 in 2022. Another issue she reported on was "Diamond Mushrooms." Additionally, they are seeing more cocaine than usual in toxicology reports, possibly indicating a resurgence in popularity. The 2023 reports indicate that the data is not final as toxicology reports for the year are not yet complete.

New Members/Organizations**Additional Comments:**

Carries Kids is hosting a back-to-school event for 2 weeks it starts on August 10th. Brochures and handouts would be appreciated

Carrie Sorenson had updates on an upcoming meeting, Great plains Qin LAN Event which focused on decreasing stigma and increasing access in terms of treating opioid use disorder in rural communities. The webinar took place 8/06/2024 at 3pm.

Renae Moch, Director, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health (BBPH) Discussed Unsheltered Point in Time count results. January 2024 reported about 63, and the summer count was 70. The number of unsheltered individuals during the summer months was expected to increase.

Jenna Gullo (United Way) Informed us that United Way has been working with around 35 other agencies to continue offering support and services. United way is currently averaging 80 men, women, and children a night. They are seeking funds in order to stay open 24/7.

Lindsae Timm (CHI) Shared that they will be opening children's and reopening adult behavioral health services. It will be a transitional area from inpatient care to the next step.

Katie Fitzsimmons (NDUS) Katie shared that there will be a Suicide Prevention Coalition meeting on September 5th at the North Dakota Career Academy.

Assignments/Next Meeting

Tuesday November 5th 2024 at 10am-11:30am

Meeting Adjourned at 11:05 am

Meeting minutes taken by: Tessa Lee

The Mission Statement:

"To lead and guide a continuum of care model to reduce substance abuse & behavioral health issues in our communities."

The Vision Statement:

"A safe, healthy, vibrant community, free of substance abuse, addiction and behavioral health issues."

