**Meeting Minutes**

 **November 15, 2016**

 **Logan County CORE – Medical/Harm Reduction Action Team**

 **3PM in the North/South Conference Room**

Call to order at 3:00 PM by Grant Varian

Attendance

 Grant Varian, Chair X

 Dr. Scott Costin, FQHC

 Dr. Charles Kratz, FQHC

 Dr. Scott Mackey, MRH ED

 Tammy Allison

 Melanie Gossard, County

 Tammy Gump, MRH

 Mitzi Hess, MRH/Community

 Melannie Hunsicker, MRH Pharm

 Steve Marshall, Kroger Pharm

 Robin Reames, Mayor, R.P.

 Kay Schroer, Health District

 Heidi Terrill, MRH/Community

 Steve Terrill, Community

 Tara Bair, FQHC X

 Jeanne Dempster, CCI

 Jan Rhoades, CCI X

 Leslie Nurton, Family/Youth Init

 Missy Usher, Help Me Grow X

Minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2016 were approved.

Committee discussion

Needle Exchange:

 1-1. Kay planned to attend a breakout session on needle exchange at the meeting of the Ohio Public Health Association. She had intended to report back, but she was unable to be present, today.

 1-2. Tara’s pharmacist at CHWPLC has experience with “under the table” needle exchange.

 1-3. Some potential patients are known.

 1-4. We need to overcome the potential apprehensions eligible patients might have about revealing their addiction to anyone.

 1-5. Perhaps, we can start small with a case of needles and syringes, probably at Community Health, and allow the word of availability to

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 get out on the street. We would have to be open to the possibility of some clients, who are not CHWPLC patients. That might require some thought.

 1-6. Dr. Varian learned that a case of 1000 count 22 gauge 1½ inch needle costs MRH $68, and a case of 800 count 3ml syringes costs $28. Each exchange would require at least 30 needles and syringes, usually, more. Funding will be an issue to address.

Practitioner education:

 2-1. Dr. Varian continues to meet with providers to discuss their opiate prescribing practices and the status of opiate use in Logan County.

 2-2. Dr. Varian has reviewed some of the courses on opiate prescribing that are available. SmartRx, which is offered by the Ohio State Medical Association, costs $50 for non-members, so it is not a great option. Upon investigation, GCOAT does not appear to be an effective option, either. The American College of Physicians offers a free course that focuses on long acting opiates. Health.gov and the American Society of Addiction Medicine also offer courses free of charge.

 2-3. We will communicate these opportunities to providers in the community.

Addicted newborns:

 3-1. Missy Usher reported that 19 addicted newborns have been referred this year to Help Me Grow. Six of the mothers had prenatal care. Five had no prenatal care. The remaining eight are unclear about any prenatal care.

 3-2. The committee needs more information about best practice in the prenatal setting with a pregnant woman, who is using.

 3-3. Missy said that when they are involved, CCI initiates suboxone therapy, but if the mother is not already in prenatal care, there is usually no prompt access for these high risk pregnancies.

Action items:

 1. Dr. Varian will discuss with our obstetricians the best practice in the management of addicted pregnant women.

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 2. Missy will attempt to get more information about the prenatal care of the eight unknowns who have been referred this year.

 3. Tara will confer with her pharmacist to get more information about an office based needle exchange program.

 4. Dr. Varian will seek funding for a needle exchange start-up, perhaps, in the office of CHWPLC.

 5. Dr. Varian will continue to communicate with physicians about opiate prescribing patterns and about available education opportunities.

Grant Varian, chair