

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**Mental Health and Substance Abuse Committee**  
**May 16, 2016 at 5:00 PM**  
**Council Chambers**

Present: Thomas J. Lacey-Chairman  
Michael Molisse-Vice Chairman  
Patrick O'Connor-Councilor  
Robert Conlon-Councilor

Absent: Brian Mc Donald-Councilor

Also Present: Captain David Phillips-Weymouth PD  
Captain Richard Fuller-Weymouth PD  
Sergeant James St. Croix-Weymouth PD  
Officer Jen Pompeo-Weymouth PD

Recording Secretary: Diane Hachey

Chairman Lacey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**D.A.R.T "Drug Addiction Resource Team"-Community Outreach Services update  
by the Weymouth Police Department**

Councilor Lacey thanked his colleagues for attending an early meeting this evening, he felt it important to call this meeting to get an update on the challenges of dealing with opioid addiction. This is also on the Town Council agenda for later this evening. He met with the Chief and his team prior to the meeting and is very impressed with their work on this challenging issue.

Captain Fuller presented via a power point presentation- highlights are as follows:

-The Investigative Services Division is headed by Captain Richard Fuller and the Community Outreach Unit is headed by Sergeant Jim St. Croix and Officer Jen Pompeo

2015 statistics

-186 overdoses reported with narcan used 114 times  
-24 deaths attributed to overdoses, the youngest victim being 13 and the oldest 68 years of age

2016 statistics

-72 overdoses, attributing to 14 deaths, narcan was utilized 33 times

Actions being taken to combat the opioid epidemic are staffing the narcotics unit with three detectives and one supervisor, one of the detectives assigned to DEA task force and all are members of the South Shore Drug Task Force.

The Community Outreach Services Mission is to build trust and relationships within the community by building partnerships with community groups, residents and businesses. They also provide educational and informal presentations at neighborhood meetings and civic associations.

They actively engage the community to identify problems and create solutions to problems.

Other members of the Community Outreach Services Unit (aside from those officers present this evening) are: Officer Patty Critch, Officer Jim Flanagan, Officer Joe Favreau, and Jacqueline O'Brien (PFS Grant Coordinator).

The DART (Drug Addiction Resource Team) has an initiative of addressing the substance abuse issue by developing partnerships with various organizations to provide resources and services to those effected by addiction. Their mission is to provide assistance, awareness and education.

Assistance is classified as providing resources for families that need help getting into rehabilitation programs, conducting home visits where a prior overdose has occurred, delivering Narcan (Naloxone) training to the families, conduct community narcan training and refer to counseling, support groups and intervention programs.

Community events and activities are highlighted: Awareness Night and examples of display tables are Learn 2 Cope, ADCARE, Youth Health Connection and Narcotics Anonymous. Other events are the Weymouth Emergency Services Day, Coffee with a Cop Program, Bike Safety Rodeo and Face Behind the Badge.

A new program called the "Emersion Program" was presented which is for adolescents that get caught with drugs and alcohol at the high school level and is a five step prevention program.

The following organizations work collaboratively within the community: Drug Addiction Support Team, Substance Abuse Prevention Team, Family Addiction Support Team, Youth Coalition and High School Substance Abuse Task Force.

The following grants have been secured:

Narcan grant-funds are utilized to assist with programs and abuse awareness and are conducted with the help of South Shore Hospital.

Partnership for Success-specifically targets prescription drug awareness and totals \$85,000 for five years.

There is a medication disposal kiosk at the Police Station which residents are encouraged to utilize. Storing medications in bathroom cabinets and flushing old drugs down toilets are discouraged. To date the kiosk has collected in excess of 1800 pounds of medication.

Narcan is in every police vehicle and is administered 16% of the time; training is provided to the community and home visits and training is conducted at homes where prior overdoses have occurred. Narcan reverses the effects of an overdose and works within 1-3 minutes and its effects lasts 30-90 minutes, the victim must be taken to the hospital once administered. It was noted that the effects are only temporary as it knocks the opiate off receptor but, drugs still remain in the body, so they cautioned that an overdose can easy return.

It was also noted that the increase in overdoses can be attributed to the addition of fentanyl into heroine (dealers add it because it is cheaper, but is deadly in even small doses).

Handling of hypodermic needles are to call the Police Station immediately upon discovery, do not touch needle, attempt to cover it, or attempt to dispose of.

Councilor Conlon complimented the Police Department on an excellent and informative presentation. His issue is that the town did away with the DARE Officer and feels strongly that young people identified with them and thought it very helpful in the battle against substance abuse.

Councilor Conlon further commented that he is concerned about the safety of our police force answering calls which are drug related. Captain Fuller confirmed that the Chief is cognizant of this and maintains a safe level of patrol coverage.

Councilor O'Connor finds these numbers unbelievable and applauds the Police Department's work and efforts, from dealing with those on the streets to getting them into rehabilitation and handling the family as well. He cites many people he personally knows who have become addicts because of sports injuries which prompted pain killers.

Councilor Lacey notes that there are many helpful resources in the schools, and this work is impressive, as these are crises that need to be dealt with. He confirmed the support of this committee and the full Town Council, should the Police need anything in their efforts to curb substance abuse. He thanked everyone for their commitment and participation this evening.

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 6:04 PM; there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor O'Connor to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Thomas J. Lacey- Chair of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Committee  
Voted favorably on 6 September 2016

