

**CONNECT Public Safety, Health, and Human Resources**  
**Working Group meeting**  
Thursday | January 14, 2021 | 1:00pm  
Via Zoom



**Municipal Attendees:** Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Rebecca Vargo, Wilkins; Mark Sampogna, Green Tree; Jack Betkowski, Ross; John Stinner, Jefferson Hills; Tara Yaney, Edgewood; Betsy Monroe, Fox Chapel; Tim Komoroski, Millvale Police; Tim Rodman, Etna Police; Mindy Ranney, Mt. Lebanon; Sean Frank, Shaler Police; Deneen Underwood, Carnegie; Laura Drogowski, Pittsburgh; Josh Schneider, Pittsburgh; Phyllis Anderson, Oakmont

**Other Attendees:** Nick Mackereth, DCED; Melissa Brekenridge, Renewal; Shelly Thayer, Renewal; Caroline Hamilton, ACHD; Alyssa Lloyd, ACHD; Corinna Yazbek, LEAD National Support Bureau; Rebecca Lerman, Institute of Politics; Earl Hord, ACHD; Joni Schwager, Staunton Farm; Mica Williams, Foundation of HOPE; Gabby Warner, Prevention Point Pittsburgh; Maryanne Patton, Foundation of HOPE; Najja Morris, LEAD National Support Bureau; Eric Hulse, Vital Strategies; Kate Vander Wiede, Allegheny County DHS; Janet Ector, LEAD Support Bureau; Joy Ruff, Local Government Academy; Aaron Lauer, Institute of Politics; Swain Uber, Community Justice Project; Colin Clearly, Randy Lamb, Ellis Watson

**CONNECT:** JoEllen Marsh, Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, Kelley Kelley, Sarah Downing, Kaleigh Dryden, Brett Stewart

**Welcome + Introductions in the chat**

- Summary of this working group's first year. The high priority issue of opioids led to the LEAD response, we're now helping police chiefs help their communities. The Future of Fire is now 2 capstone reports deep, and we are pushing for a deeper, funded community engaged study led by fire officials themselves.
- Read the [April 2019](#) and [November 2020](#) GSPIA CONNECT Capstone reports

**Opioid Data Update**

- View the [PowerPoint](#) here; contact [Earl.hord@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:Earl.hord@alleghenycounty.us) with questions
- An epidemic in 3 waves: the highest deaths were prescription opioids 2008-2011, heroin 2011-2015/6, and a rise in fentanyl deaths recently
- EMS Naloxone distribution rose in 2020 (but dropped off 4<sup>th</sup> quarter)
- Race and gender: Much higher death rate for males and higher for Black people
- A hot spot analysis of places that are over 1 standard deviation high. Many meeting attendees were interested in more details about the hotspot map, including zip codes.

**SAMSHA Grant Update**

- History: the EMS Narcan leave behind piece was the first partnership between CONNECT & ACHD

- Part of our current grant is for door-to-door surveying in neighborhoods. With COVID there is a pin in that, but we are optimistic about summer months - stay tuned for those events
  - Comment: Etna, Millvale and Sharpsburg partnered with CONNECT/ACHD staff to do a door-to-door survey like this in those communities. It went really, really well and we had great engagement
- Narcan, EMS, etc. will stay on this working group's agenda even after our grant ends

### **LEAD Committee Updates**

- LEAD Subcommittee
  - There was lots of movement over last 6 weeks. We met with ACE Fitzgerald right before Christmas, he gave his support to LEAD Subcommittee
  - The subcommittee broke out of this working group because members said they needed it. They have been meeting every 2 weeks and going very well.
  - We discussed the application process for the first LEAD cohort (*since this meeting, the cohort interest form has been distributed to CONNECT*) Even if you can't make the subcommittee meetings, you can still apply! Email [kellykelley@pitt.edu](mailto:kellykelley@pitt.edu)
  - We will ask relevant municipalities to adopt the LEAD pilot resolution in February. We're looking for a late spring/early summer 2021 roll out for initial cohort!
  - Even if you can't make those meetings – you can still apply and reach out to Kelley
- Diversion Summit Update
  - Our first planning meeting had 16 people attend
  - For and with stakeholders from all areas – those working in the field, those with lived experience, government – we want to bring voices together to talk about it
  - To educate the public about LEAD and models of diversion
  - To deepen community understanding of how diversion fits into crisis response
  - To generate police buy in and get every stakeholder on the same page
  - Continue to give us feedback on who should speak, what time of year we should hold it and time of day. Our next meeting is January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please invite others! [Kan84@pitt.edu](mailto:Kan84@pitt.edu)

### **Pathway to Care and Recovery Center**

- View [PowerPoint](#)
- View [handout](#)

- Introduction. We're excited to finally bring Pathway to Care and Recovery to CONNECT! Just opened in November, so very young.
- Primarily for substance use disorder (or suspected). If it seems the main issue is mental health, we will call Resolve instead.
- 24/7: Anyone can walk in, call, make referrals, it can come from 1<sup>st</sup> responders or helpline. Then someone can meet with a clinical services coordinator. We don't provide treatment, we do referrals.
- It's largely a place to be kept safe when waiting for a free bed. A "safe place to stay" is coming to downtown Pittsburgh hopefully the end of February
- No one gets turned away for any reason. Primarily for Allegheny County residents – others won't be turned away but we aren't advertising to them
- We divert instead of sending people to jail. We received a great response from EMS and police departments.
- Discussion around how Pathway to Care and Recovery might fit in with LEAD
- Comment: "This program (LEAD) as well as the opioid intervention are really important parts of rebuilding a robust social safety net! We need to be documenting what works and best practices to elevate this for legislative support and administrative support at both state and federal levels. Communities are hurting and struggling. We need to put the value of serving this pain and acting to support and help people in great need."
- Discussion around elevating people's complex experiences. "People don't know that people are homeless because there are waits for shelters, or that to get treatment you have to make 11 calls a day. Renewal should document and elevate these stories. You are in a position to do that. A Pitt intern can also probably help you do that!"

### **The Future of Fire (biweekly meeting) Report Back**

- Our first meeting of the year was yesterday. We had a discussion around the report and collaborative capacity.
- We will probably do a press release around the report
- Exacerbated problems, rise in operating costs, revenue shortfalls, decline in volunteers
- Building tangible opportunities to actually increase collaborative capacity now: regional educational opportunities, potential summit for idea sharing. All between elected officials and fire chiefs
- Working with ALOM and DCED to secure funding
- Email Brett Stewart at [bms142@pitt.edu](mailto:bms142@pitt.edu) to join our biweekly subcommittee meeting

Next PSH working group meeting: Thursday, April 8, 1:00pm

<https://pitt.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAvC-qorj4jHtzvByZdaLqNpAdFrcQ4I-jw>

**Adjourn 2:10**

*Go to breakout rooms if you want!*