

CONNECT Public Safety, Health, and Human Resources
Working Group meeting
Thursday | April 8, 2021 | 1:00pm
Via Zoom



Municipal Attendees: Patty DeMarco, Forest Hills; Tim Komoroski, Millvale Police; Tim Rodman, Etna Police; Josh Schneider, Pittsburgh; Kelly Robertson, Duquesne; Tim Rogers, Shaler; Brittany Reno, Sharpsburg; Connie Tinsley, Turtle Creek; Vanessa McCarthy-Johnson, Homestead

Other Attendees: Alyssa Lloyd, ACHD; Joni Schwager, Staunton Farm; Eric Hulsey, Vital Strategies; Aaron Lauer, Institute of Politics; Rebecca Lerman, Institute of Politics; Lucas Musewe, Star Consultant, LLC; Alison Keating, University of Pittsburgh; Jolene Brantle, Local Government Academy

CONNECT: JoEllen Marsh, Lydia Morin, Tess De Jong, Kelley Kelley, Brett Stewart

Welcome and Introductions

“Walk into the room” breakouts

Community Surveys / SAMHSA Grant Update

- Explanation of history doing surveys in the Triboro. About 15 brave souls weathered the absolutely freezing January weather
- We say we knocked on 100 doors and talked to 50 people! We had resources they may be interested in, outreach materials, and we talked about harm reduction
- We gave out 50+ Narcan kits that wouldn't have gotten out otherwise
- We will do this again with greater LEAD if it makes sense in your areas. Does your community want this? We have volunteers ready to go again.
- People are much more likely to talk on their porch for 10 minutes than fill out a survey
- Comment from a police chief” “if we had 14 fatal drive by shootings, we'd have a much different reaction than the 14 overdoses in my first year as chief.
- Comment from municipal official: “CONNECT is the main way we have gotten this life saving medication out to people. Our overdoses are down to a quarter of what they were.”

LEAD Updates

- Listing the communities that have passed LEAD resolutions. 11 have passed so far; our original goal for this time was 5!
- It has been very positive in communities and with police: “In almost 30 years into this war on drugs, it's clear we were not winning, so something has to change. LEAD can go a long way to change lives.”
- Requesting funding this year for case manager and ACHD is open to that

- DHS is committed to funding LEAD
- The LEAD National Support Bureau wants to provide us funding
- Way more people know about this than we have even talked to ourselves – this means you guys are really doing the work spreading the word, thank you!!!!
- Let joellenmarsh@pitt.edu know if you are interested in helping develop a plan for LEAD NSB site development plan. Probably two 90-minute meetings.
- Update on June LEAD summit speakers
- We can offer continuing education credits at the Summit
- Next LEAD summit planning meeting is 4/20th at 3pm
- Register for the Summit - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connect-pre-arrest-diversion-summit-tickets-148372912375>
- LEAD Subcommittee meetings are every other Monday.

The Future of Fire (biweekly meeting) Report Back

- Brett Stewart is now the official CONNECT intern working on this and he has been since January
- Fire is a topic that looks like it will go from [Exploring to Monitoring to Implementing](#)
- Summary given of the [first](#) and [second](#) GSPIA reports written
- Biweekly subcommittee meeting to build collaborative capacity with members and the county
- Instead of one size fits all programming, what do CONNECT members want to see?
- We also have people from other parts of the state who have been involved in this, they have ideas for more efficient ways of emergency management without losing the “club” aspect and culture that people love
- Building needs assessment, kind of like survey approach, but different in that there is a significant community outreach component. Meeting with chiefs, elected officials, and community to get good grasp of what may work. I’ll have a design and methodology for needs assessment done by this summer.
- Ideally, in the fall we’ll have results for potential programming early spring 2022
- You can come to our recurring meeting or just grab virtual coffee with me!

Closing Thoughts

- CONNECT is starting new project, Strategic Network Leadership Training, to give us tools for what we’re all theorizing around. It will be with partners, so that we can move in same direction in same time.

Adjourn 2:01pm