



HOPE ALLIANCE Coalition
February 2, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Mission: The Hope Alliance is a community coalition created to promote awareness and education regarding substance abuse, depression, suicide, and other public health concerns impacting our communities.

Vision: To foster a community that is healthy, educated and empowered to take action to promote healthy lifestyles for the citizens of Monroe County.

Present: Pandora Neuhart, Emily Williamson, Ken Stewart, Cheryl Goodrich, Catherine Lanham, Linda Masters, Yuki Comstock, Christine McGill, Marissa Weckbacher, Chad Webb, Michael Novotney, Andrea Lewis, and Nicole Gallagher.

Introductions were made.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Tina made a motion to approve, seconded by Linda, motion passed.

Old Business:

LOSS Team Update- The team will be meeting again soon if anyone is interested in joining.

Fatality Review Board- A date for the meeting will be set next week. The health commissioner and director of nursing will be coordinating the review.

There was discussion about veteran's services and how they are made aware of suicides. Nicole said the process is not ideal, but she is hoping to be more involved in rural communities and wants to be able to get better information. Pandora asked about the process for getting veterans connected with service dogs. Nicole and Michael shared that training for the dogs is expensive (approximately \$22,000) but there are different programs to help. Most veterans with a PTSD diagnosis are able to get a dog for free through these agencies.

Human Trafficking Awareness- Emily shared that there was a proclamation signed by the commissioners, media coverage through newspapers, radio and tv, and that informational bags were placed at truck stops along the interstate.

New Business:

Hope Sunday- This program has been successful in Tuscarawas County. Area churches would be provided with flyers and resources (Crisis Text Line, 988, etc...) to share with their members. Speakers could also be provided if requested by the church. Tuscarawas County has typically done this during September (recovery awareness month) and they have videos and brochures they could share. The next step for Monroe County is to find churches willing to participate.

Linda will work on updating the 988 informational cards. It was suggested that SOMA, the food pantry and thrift store might be good places to put cards.

Pause Before You Play- Catherine shared that multiple online sports betting agencies have been fined already because of improper wording in ads and because they are targeting underage college students. All ads are required to contain the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio's phone number. If you see ads that don't, they should be reported to PGN. Catherine plans to do the Monroe County gambling survey again in about 8 months.

988 Grant- Catherine shared some slides. There is a toolkit where you can order 988 materials. The grant has paid for commercials on local news stations, radio and newspaper ads, billboards, flyers, posters, window clings and banners. The funds need to be spent by March.

Coalition Connection will have a virtual conference on February 17 from 8 am-4 pm. There will be four guest speakers talking about prevention.

Catherine is working on getting Michelle Toman to present a half-day training at the Monroe County Extension Office on April 10.

February 17 is Random Acts of Kindness Week. There will be several Facebook posts.

The Mental Health Matters podcast will be airing twice a month and is looking for guest speakers or suggestions for speakers.

Mental Health Recovery Board will now have a Facebook page.

The HOPE Alliance received an award from the OSU Youth Resiliency Collaborative as the "Outstanding Community Partnership" within all of the counties participating in the OYRC grant program.

Yuki reported that the withdrawal management facility in Barnesville is making progress and should be finished in March. It does not have a name yet.

Youth Led is looking for adults to serve as facilitators (allies). Contact Sunessa or Tina if you are interested in the training.

There are several trainings available through the VA if people are looking for something.

Emily is currently working on teen dating violence awareness. There will be self-defense classes in St. Clairsville. A PSA will air during a showing of Dirty Dancing at the Monroe Theatre. She also has support and parenting groups.

May 6 will be the mental health awareness walk. Catherine has swag ordered for 200 bags. They are still working on locations.

Motion to adjourn by Christine, seconded by Linda.

Next meeting- March 2 at 1 pm.