



HOPE ALLIANCE Coalition
January 5, 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: Christine McGill, Ken Stewart, Cheryl Goodrich, Linda Masters, Zoey Miller, Gwynn Stewart, Michael Novotney, Lauren Brown, Emily Williamson, Catherine Lanham, Marissa Weckbacher, Yuki Comstock, JaQue Galloway, and Chelsea Scott.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Old Business:

LOSS Team Update- Catherine is working on making new folders through the ESC to get out to first responders. They are 2-sided; one for suicide resources and one for overdose resources.

Fatality Review Board- Kara Dixon is leading this effort for the Health Department. Yuki volunteered to serve on the board.

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.

Human Trafficking Awareness Month- A proclamation will be taken to the commissioner's meeting on January 9. They will also be given resources on identifying victims. January 11 will be wear blue day to support survivors. Catherine has posters and will leave them at the Extension Office if anyone wants some.

Pause Before You Play- Online sports betting is now active in Ohio. States where it has been previously have seen increases in suicide hotline calls within three months of legalization. The gambling survey got 172 responses in Monroe County. Catherine plans to do it again in 1 year to see if there is any change in attitudes. Online betting is being heavily promoted on radio and TV with promises of "risk free" bets. Catherine is attempting to find out about gambling locations in Monroe County.

988 Grant- The \$50,000 media grant has to be used by February 28, so there will be lots of promotions in the next few weeks. On February 17, there will be a full day training for prevention professionals from the professional development grant.

Sources of Strength- Sunessa is now a certified trainer in this suicide prevention program.

New Year Goals- The Health Department still has about \$3,000 available for the HOPE Alliance for any projects. Kiwanis meetings were suggested as a place to do presentations on prevention. They are always looking for speakers for their meetings.

Project Hope- Catherine brought the plywood cut-outs to the meeting representing individuals and families affected by overdose in the county. We will work on volunteers to get them painted and having signs made. Swiss Hills students may be able to make more from these templates.

2023 Officers- Sunessa would like to step down as Vice-Chair due to time constraints. Cheryl would also be willing to give up the Secretary role if anyone else is interested. Send nominations to Catherine and she can send out a ballot.

Upcoming events:

- QPR – February 7th, 2022 at 9am
- YOUTH MHFA- March 16th, 2022 @ 9:30am- 2:30
- Tea Time Tuesdays- January 10 @ 9:00 am
- Appalachian Allies RLC session- Feb. 3 @ 12:00-2:30 pm at Undo's in St. Clairsville.
- Southeast Ohio Suicide Prevention speaker- March 18 @ 1:30 pm in St. Clairsville.

Motion to adjourn by Christine, seconded by Linda.

Next meeting is February 2 at 1 pm.