

**MINUTES: 6/26/23 ATODS - Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs Task Force
12 - 1 PM**

PUBLIC HEALTH - 380 FALER AVE

Chairs: Sarah Murdock and Peggy Weber

Online on zoom

Present:

Sarah Hixson, High Country Behavioral Health

Cassie Crumpton, Sublette County Treatment Court

Darren Hull, Business, Sublette Unified Fire

Warren Phillips, Recovery Community

Kaisha Simpson, DFS

Hazel Kennard, DFS

Aaron Preece, High Country Behavioral Health

Peggy Weber, USFS; recovery community

Janna Lee, Sublette Public Health

Joanie Christie, Sublette Public Health

Justin Lee, community member

Trisha Scott, coalition coordinator

Notes:

Sublette resident Warren Phillips presented the story of his 18 year addiction to prescription pain meds that resulted in a fentanyl overdose in August 2021 Warren reported that a dose of Narcan saved his life. Warren has been sober for 18 months. He participates in the NA community, and in Sublette County Treatment Court. Warren is working with Public Health Nurse Manager Janna Lee to promote free Narcan distribution and Narcan training to pharmacies and organizations. The goal of Warren's project is to assist Public Health to enlist 3 Sublette organizations to develop an internal Narcan policy and to provide Narcan.

Task force discussion following Warren's presentation focused on a) identifying opportunities for prevention in Warren's story, and b) questions on the Narcan project.

Prevention opportunities:

- Focus prevention efforts on middle school. "High school is too late" - patterns are in place.
- Growing up in a family culture of substance use can set substance use as a family and social norm. 'This is what everyone does so it is normal that I do this, too'. Educating and informing all ages is critical to keep the conversation going in all the generations about harms and impacts of substances.
- Oil field safety training addressing addiction and treatment can reduce stigma by approaching substance use as a health and safety issue. Not a moral issue.

- Drug Take Back events like the senior lunch promoting safe disposal and storage are important to make meds harder to access. Seniors are vulnerable to overdose because they can forget when they took their last pain med. Important to educate seniors about Narcan and overdose.
- Whiplash story: Warren was prescribed opiates for pain from whiplash. Discussion: Medical providers may be prescribing pain meds as a short term fix for pain and not treating the root cause of pain. What is the root cause of this prescribing practice? Is insurance more likely to reimburse for pain med prescriptions than physical therapy? Prevention strategies around prescribing are important.

Narcan education and promotion:

- After meeting with Warren, the Sheriff's Office will add Narcan to every patrol vehicle and possibly every first aid kit all deputies carry on their person.
- Sublette County Public Health can assist organizations to receive free narcan through the Wyoming Department of Health program. The organization must have an approved policy for Narcan and complete the required training.
- Warren will be doing a 3 month, 6 month, 1 year and 3 year follow up with the Sheriff's Office, Big Piney Library, and Burney's to ensure that the Narcan program is functioning and sustainable.

Action items:

Task force members invited Warren to join the ATODS Task Force, when his schedule permits.

The coalition will invite Warren to attend the 2024 Drug Take back senior lunch to tell his story to seniors - to encourage them to dispose of unused meds. Many seniors report they save their unused meds "in case I need them".

Darren Hull reported he will speak to Unified Fire supervisor to request Narcan training and Narcan in all Fire vehicles.

Adjourn 1:15 PM.