

## Montgomery County Unintentional Drug Poisoning Coalition

March 1, 2011 Meeting Notes

East Dayton Health Center

Attending:

Gary LeRoy, MD; Gideon Adegbile, MD; Rick Buenaventura, MD; Robert Carlson, PhD; Gail Chmielewski, MS; Raminta Daniulaityte, PhD; Russel Falck, MA; Carole Huddleston, MS; Lt. Chris Kinzeler; Karen Kirkham, MD; Tim Lane, MEd; Lee Lehman, PhD, MD; Laureen Marinetti, PhD, D-ABFT; Cynthia Penn; Brenda Roman, MD; Willie Scales; Chris Stieritz, RPh; Monica Sutter, RN; Cathy Trame, RN, MS.

Dr. LeRoy welcomed the coalition members to the first meeting of 2011. Cynthia Penn, from the Ohio Department of Health, attended the meeting as an observer.

Tim Lane distributed a summary of Poisoning Death Review data from the 125 cases in 2010 received to date. There may be 2 additional unintentional poisoning deaths for 2010 forthcoming. These two cases should be closed out soon. Tim called attention to some general characteristics of the decedents. They typically: (1) are in poor health, and often experience heart and circulatory problems; (2) have a history of substance abuse; and (3) experience an overdose resulting from having taken more than one drug. The drugs most often involved are prescription opioids and benzodiazepines. Heroin alone overdoses are rare, although they have increased over 2009 levels. Dr. LeRoy and Dr. Marinetti responded to questions concerning bystander recognition of opioid overdose. Dr. LeRoy suggested the formation of a sub-committee to further investigate the feasibility of a naloxone education and distribution program. Chris Stieritz and Drs. Brown, Carlson, Daniulaityte, and Teller, and a member(s) of the Dayton Fire Department's emergency services division will meet to examine the issue and make a recommendation to the full coalition for consideration for recommendation to Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County and the Ohio Department of Health.

Drs. Marinetti and Lehman presented an overview of coroner autopsy and toxicological procedures. They detailed the multiple steps involved, discussed screening and confirmatory tests, and summarized the relevant constructs associated with death determination: history, autopsy findings, and toxicology results. From the presentation it was clear that at least some of the variation in death rates in Ohio counties is linked to differences in philosophy and procedures in employed coroners' offices around the state.

Russel Falck gave a final synopsis of results from December's on-line symposium. Given a Google web-visit counter and distribution of DVDs, it was estimated that at least 150 people saw some or all of the symposium. He suggested some additional steps for using on-line methods to continue the coalition's public outreach and education efforts. These steps include a series of brief, focused educational sessions that members of the community could access on line.

Dr. Carlson described qualitative research mechanisms that could improve the coalition's understanding of the prescription drug poisoning phenomenon. Existing qualitative interview protocols that could be adapted to examining the experience of overdose survivors would support the coalition's efforts to reduce unintentional overdose deaths. As of this date, three area hospitals have been approached as recruitment sites for subjects.

Russel reported that he had received nearly all of the data on area ED visits due to drug overdoses from the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association. The data set, when complete, will cover 2007-2010. He reported that there were more than 2000 cases. He hopes to begin conducting analyses sometime in March/April and to offer some preliminary insights at the next meeting.

Dr. LeRoy facilitated a discussion of future coalition activities, framing the issue as a progression from an examination of the overdose problem, as dictated by the PH- D&MC/ODH contract, to a more responsive phase. In addition to the possible provision of naloxone education and distribution, the coalition members would like to address accessibility to treatment services, which they perceive as having an impact on the overdose rate. Ms. Chmielewski gave a

treatment provider perspective on the problem. Much consternation about the lack of access to substance abuse treatment services was also expressed by hospital personnel and primary care physicians. This issue will be a focus of the coalition's next meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 1, 3 pm, at East Dayton Health Center.