

**MINUTES OF THE  
MEETING OF THE  
MAYOR'S OPIOID TASK FORCE  
FIRST FLOOR MEETING ROOM  
JUNE 20, 2019  
6:30 p.m.**

**ATTENDEES:** Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu  
Councilwoman Mary Fortier  
Councilman Scott Rosado  
Marco Palmeri  
Chief Gould  
Sandra Camens  
Courtney Pope  
Theresa Rozyn  
Frank Caputo  
Laura Lewis  
Courtney Dollar  
Lisa Coates  
David Haberfeld  
Paula Garces  
Noelle Bates – Recording Secretary

**ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS OF MEMBERS**

Councilwoman Mary Fortier opened up the meeting at 6:30 p.m. She welcomed the members and the members introduced themselves.

**ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 2019 MINUTES**

A Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.

**ITEM #3 – PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Councilwoman Fortier explained that Public Participation is on all City Hall agendas, but this forum is a free flowing meeting and participation will be conducted throughout the meeting.

## **ITEM #4 ACTION ITEMS**

### **RECOVERY COACH GRANT**

Marco Palmeri updated the Committee stating that he has received funding from DEMAS and can now reimburse Wheeler Clinic. Theresa Rozyn has been logging the amount of patients she meets with and the time frame in which she meets them. Theresa is finding that the time when most people need help are outside her hours of 9am to 6 pm. Frank Caputo mentioned that the Access Line is always available if people need them. Marco and Theresa will continue to work with Wheeler to set up a schedule that is more convenient and will benefit more people in need.

Lisa Coates stated that Bristol Hospital will have a Recovery Coach in the Emergency Room Department within the next couple of months to support Theresa's work.

Marco provided the group with more data that he collected since December 20<sup>th</sup> which he passed out. He stated that fentanyl is the factor that is killing people. Dog prescriptions contain fentanyl and people are now abusing their pet's medication. Marco will reach out to the Hartford County Veterinary group.

### **BEST 4 BRISTOL**

Laura Lewis attended the Best 4 Bristol meeting and reported to the group that there will be a recognition dinner in October and they would like the Committee to be involved. She stated that more teens are attending the meetings and they would like to do a dialogue for the members of the Task Force at the recognition dinner. They also plan on doing three more Hidden in Plain Site events.

## **ITEM #5 NEW ITEMS**

Chief Gould and Lisa Coates attended a meeting at Bristol Hospital recently to talk about the HOPE initiative diversionary program. The program allows First Responders to use their discretion and not make an arrest for opioid use; but can choose to get the individual medical attention and get treatment if the individual chooses to do so rather than be arrested. Another meeting will be scheduled and they are trying to bring the Fire Department on board to allow them to do the same as the Police. Marco stated that this program shows that Bristol is truly a Recovery Friendly Community.

Lisa Coates thought of an acronym for the Recovery Friendly Committee which is called COBRA, City of Bristol Recovery Alliance.

The Committee then discussed access to insurance and the different types that are available.

A motion was made and passed to appoint Frank Caputo to the Insurance Sub-Committee.

## **OPIOID PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT SERIES (13 EPISODES)**

### **BY MEMBERS**

Councilwoman Fortier discussed the service announcements stating the City received a bid from Maz Media. There will be a meeting next Friday with Mary Lynn Gagnon which Marco will be attending. She also stated that Chief Gould will shoot a re-enactment for the video and will get the Fire Department and EMS involved. Cathy Savino in the Mayor's office is coordinating the tapings for the video. Mary encouraged members of the group to contact Cathy if they want to get involved.

### **BY MEMBERS**

David Haberfeld discussed housing for individuals once they get clean so they have a stable environment. He opened a sober house in Waterbury but has since closed it as it wasn't right for him. He stated that it would be a great opportunity to have in Bristol if you could get the right entrepreneur to run it. To his point, the Mayor stated that the City needs to do better to get the community to be acceptable of these homes. Courtney Pope discussed Boarding Houses as an alternative to people coming off re-housing or disability.

Frank Caputo discussed doing a series with Nutmeg TV. He was asked to do a series of possibly 6 segments which would include a question and answer from members of the Committee. The Mayor asked Frank to look into pricing and said it would be more convenient to conduct it prior to a City Council meeting since Nutmeg is here hours before the meeting.

### **ITEM #6 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

#### **TOBACCO 21 STATE LAW ENACTED**

Councilwoman Fortier passed out the new law recently enacted regarding changing the tobacco age to 21. Olivia Kilbourne, the summer intern in the Mayor's Office, did research on who's going to enforce this law. She determined that DEMAS will be conducting compliance checks.

The Mayor suggested sending another round of letters to the gas stations. After the previous letters went out, 3 establishments made changes to and are in compliance with the new law.

Councilwoman Fortier stated that she is on the Persons with Disabilities Committee and they passed out information on mediation/yoga. She passed out information to the Task Force.

### **ITEM # 7 – ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the First Floor Meeting Room.**

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Mayor Zoppo-Sassu, Chairwoman  
Mayor's Opioid Task Force