



South Shore Community Partners in Prevention

**South Shore Community Partners in Prevention (CHNA 23)
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
8:55 A.M. to 10:00 A.M.
Zoom Meeting**

Meeting called to order by Mike Jackman, SSCPP Chair at 8:58 a.m. He alerted all that the meeting is being recorded. Approximately 40 participants on the call.

Recording may found on our website [here](#).

Mike reminded all that SSCPP is still active and we will be hosting our annual Steering Committee and Officer Elections at our June meeting. We do have a few open seats should anyone be interested. If so, please connect with Kim or Mike. We also have openings on our Health Literacy Subcommittee. Please contact Bethany if you'd like to join the HL subcommittee.

Plymouth HEAL Coalition Update

Merielle Paul, Community Engagement Facilitator, Boston Medical Center

Merielle.Paul@bmc.org

<https://healingcommunitiesstudy.org/communities/maplymouth.html>

- Merielle provided a background on the MA HEALing Communities Study. Plymouth was chosen as one of the communities for the HEAL study (see above link for more information on the study).
- The overall goal of the study is to reduce opioid deaths by 40% in the next three years. There are 8 communities in wave 1. The secondary goals include: engage community stakeholders to distribute Narcan and address safe prescribing and dispensing habits. Study wants to share what services are available in Plymouth specifically, and wants to look at areas of opportunity as well as find any gaps. Funding from this study will help fill these gaps.
- A coalition has been formed that meets monthly (currently via Zoom). Want to get anyone to the table who works with opioid addiction to help select programming and how to implement it within the town.
- It is a study, not just a grant. Hope to have some plans in place by June to continue into 2021. The timeline is not changing despite COVID-19. Want to implement and enhance existing programs.
- SSCPP and Mike are involved. Our CHNA wrote a letter of support. Merielle previously worked for PYDC and has a great knowledge of the community.
- Communications plan: Another piece of the study is a communications campaign which started this month. Will have 3 components. First one is on Naloxone/Narcan. Would like to share these resources widely and can

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distribute to SSCPP. Merielle can also share the toolbox link with anyone interested. Next campaign comes out in May around the topic of stigma.

- Please contact Merielle if you would like to get involved.

Plymouth County Outreach HUB Update

John Rogers, Plymouth County Outreach HUB Coordinator johnjrogers@plymouthcountyoutreach.org

Victoria Butler, Program Coordinator, Plymouth County Outreach

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- Mike introduced John and Victoria. PCO is a collaboration of the 27 police departments in Plymouth County and the Bridgewater State University police department working together to make treatment more accessible for those struggling from Substance Use Disorder and their families.
- John shared brief overview: After an overdose, a plain clothes police officer and social worker have been going out to homes and offering resources. Recently added a fatal overdose component as well.
- PCO has operated for five years and in 2019 they received a grant from South Shore Health to implement behavioral health into PCO through the HUB model.
- HUB team meets to come up with a strategic intervention to help deal with multiple issues. Implemented county-wide. Each region meets once a week to identify issues and get folks needed resources. Have received 60 referrals so far (currently down due to COVID-19). Also partner with Plymouth Schools on this.
- COVID-19 has affected the way PCO is currently operating. No longer doing outreach at homes; instead recovery coaches are making phone calls. One challenge is that not everyone has a phone number.
- Additional resources: Recovery coaches on call 7/week. Leave a voicemail and someone will get back to you. Offering virtual zoom check ins once a week and sharing resources on social media. Also provide Narcan by request.
- On May 1st, they put out an OD spike alert. Saw 11 fatal overdoses in a 10 day period. This was concerning. Was not limited to a certain area- county wide. Thankfully, are now back to baseline.
- Collaboration between departments is key to success. Welcome more folks to join the table. Meetings are not open, but John is happy to talk to anyone interested. Are currently meeting via Zoom.

COVID-19 Community EMS Testing Initiative Partnership

Hanover Fire Deputy Chief Jason Cavallaro and Captain Fred Freeman

Pat McGovern, South Shore Health (SSH) MIH Program Coordinator

- Mike introduced. About 2 months ago, he got a call from Hanover Fire regarding a program to do COVID-19 testing for Hanover residents. SSCPP provided a grant to help.
- Jason shared background. In 2017, the Hanover Fire Department began working with SSH to start a mobile-integrated health tool in Hanover. Did needs assessment and partnered with community stakeholders. Mobile-integrated health has three components including community EMS (education) and ED aversion. Primary focus

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with SSH was on high-utilizers and re-admissions and the high risk potential in Hanover community (chronically sick & elderly). Legwork was done 2 years back.

- COVID-19 pandemic changed plan and the department adapted to meet the changing needs. Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) in partnership with SSH was ready to respond to pandemic. Worked with SSH to do MIH in community –only town in the commonwealth currently doing this.
- Captain Freeman developed a COVID-19 response plan for the community utilizing SSCPP mini grant.
- The key component is collaboration. Were able to get an emergency waiver and plan has two components. Part one is an in-home visit for COVID-19 test. Part two is follow-up with a nurse (volunteers).
- How it works: a resident can call to request an in-home visit and get an order for a swab for test. Get results the next day. After this, a nurse calls to check in with them. Good program for folks that cannot see primary care easily such as elders. Have done 62 swabs as of meeting date.
- Visited Cardinal Cushing site for folks with special challenges- had several positive students and staff. Also put together a great PSA and called all seniors in town to alert them of this service. Have put together a call center and equipped with needed technology. Gives folks access to be tested. SSCPP grant allows folk to access services without a fee for the telehealth medicine visit.
- Pat shared about the MIH program at SSH. Testing and volunteer nurse bank follow-up is incredible- keeps patients out of hospital.
- Have been working on MIH for 10 years. Have done 265 visits since March 1st. Group of paramedics can do a regularly scheduled visit. Goal is emergency department avoidance- to keep folks home and better patient care. Can get into house to do risk assessments. Plan to add a mental health component for follow-up. Call center is key.

South Shore Health Technology Use During COVID-19

Bethany Bergin, SSCPP Health Literacy Coordinator

- In addition to her work as SSCPP HL coordinator, Bethany also works as a Community Liaison at SSH and assist families and patients.
- Now with COVID-19, Bethany has volunteered to work as a Patient Connector and shared her experience. There are currently strict guidelines for patient visitors, so SSH devised a plan to use technology to bring families into patient rooms using Zoom and FaceTime. Bethany helps facilitate this with patients and their families. Not just for COVID-19 patients. Contact with families and friends is such an important part of the healing process. Works with four other patient connectors. Has spanned about 6-8 weeks as of meeting date and have had over 500 calls with patients and families!
- Bethany is making brief (1-2 minute) videos for SSCPP Facebook page so we can continue to get resources out to folks. Connect with us if you are able to participate in a video.

SSCPP Membership: What Are You Doing to Keep Your Spirits Up? & Announcements

Mike opened the floor for folks to share what they are currently doing to stay positive as well as for any announcements.

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Next Meeting: June 10th SSCPP Annual Meeting & Elections

Adjourned at 10:20AM

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