

Central County Opioid/Heroin Work Group

The mission of the Central County Opioid/Heroin Work Group is to share information and to facilitate capacity building in the Central Berkshire County region to address issues and share information around the harmful use of opioids/heroin and substance misuse disorders related to opioid/heroin.

It is our intent that through the discussion of these topics, we can inform, clarify, encourage, support, enlighten, and unify our community-wide approach to this public health emergency.

Central County is defined as:

*Hancock, Lanesborough, Cheshire, Dalton, Hinsdale, Windsor, Peru, Pittsfield, Richmond, Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, West Stockbridge, Washington and Becket
(but all are welcome to attend)*

The goals of the Central County Opioid/Heroin Work Group are:

- To share information about programs, resources, and events
- To encourage prevention
- To share information about best practices
- To encourage evidence-based practices
- To provide support to all those affected by substance use disorders
- Through an organized approach, to advocate for services and secure funding to address issues related to heroin and RX use.

The Central County Heroin/RX Work Group will meet monthly starting in February 2017 (no meetings will be held in July, August or December), with each meeting dedicated to one primary topic, with 30 minutes of open discussion and information sharing at the end of each meeting.

For more information, please contact Gina Armstrong, Health Director, Pittsfield Health Department at garmstrong@pittsfieldch.com, or Jennifer Kimball, Public Health Planner, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission at jkimball@berkshireplanning.org.

Date	Central County RX Heroin Work Group 2017 Meeting Schedule	Location
February 15, 2017 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Connections to Support, Treatment, and Care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Updates from the Brien Center: Treatment options and accessing optimal care, medication assisted treatment, new programs (Jennifer Michaels, M.D., Medical Director, The Brien Center)</i> • <i>Updates from the McGee Unit: Detox, CSS beds and “warm handoffs” (Shannon Mc Carthy, McGee Unit, BMC)</i> • <i>Medication Assisted Therapy: updates from Spectrum Health (Rebecca Polastri), and The Brien Center (Dr. Jennifer Michaels, M.D.)</i> • <i>12 Step Programs (NA, AA) and other community programming: George B. Crane Memorial Center (Douglas Malins)</i> • <i>Support for Loved Ones and Families: Learn to Cope, Marcy (Julian, Founder)</i> • <i>Transitional and Supportive Housing, Ruth Jacobson-Hardy, DPH</i> 	Pittsfield City Hall (Council Chambers) Pittsfield, MA
March 15, 2017 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Naloxone (Narcan) Access and Best Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Municipal Update: Who is carrying naloxone?</i> • <i>The Pittsfield Fire Department began carrying naloxone in September 2016. Chief Czerwinski reports on how it is going, and what they’ve learned.</i> • <i>After Naloxone Reversal: The North Adams Ambulance Services Post-Overdose Engagement Project, John Meaney (NAAS), Liz Whynott (Tapestry Health)</i> • <i>Pharmacy Access, AHRQ Academic Detailing, Outreach</i> • <i>Berkshire Medical Center: Naloxone dispensing in the Emergency Room, Ann Mc Donald</i> 	Trinity Episcopal Church, 88 Walker Street, Lenox, MA
April 19, 2017	Primary Prevention in the Schools	Lanesboro Town Hall, 83 North Main Street, Lanesboro, MA
May 17, 2017	The Criminal Justice System, Drugs, and Addiction	Dalton Town Hall, Crane Room, 462 Main Street, Dalton, MA
June 21, 2017	Harm Reduction and Disease Prevention	Pittsfield, MA
September 20, 2017	Medication: Prescribing to Disposal	Tri-Town Health Dept., Lee, MA
October 18, 2017	Stigma	Lanesboro, MA
November 15, 2017	Alternative Methods for Pain Control	Pittsfield, MA