

ACCESS TO CARE COALITION

DETAILS

Thursday, September 21th, 2017

9:00am-10:30am

Columbus Public Health, Room 119C

ATTENDEES

Emily Fisher, Jamie Schreffler, Rick Barclay, Kathryn Bamberger, CeCe Harris, Ken Grace, Arlene Vance, Nicole Miller, Perry Jenkins, Teresa Rios-Bishop, Lori Houston, Artina Brooks, Sudarshan Sharma, Ladonya Brady

MINUTES

- ✓ **Introductions:** Meeting began at 9:10AM with introductions
- ✓ **Safe Point Presentation:** Rick Barclay
 - An anonymous syringe access program, the only program of its kind offered in Ohio.
 - Overseen by CPH, managed and run by Equitas.
 - Program started in October of 2015 in response to a state of emergency for opioid use.
 - Most of the staff is comprised of volunteers
 - **Access to Safe Point:** there is no ID or insurance necessary to receive services, an ID card is issued to clients using an anonymous system.
 - Clients must be 18 years of age, however all ages are self-reported.
 - Provides needles for opioid drug users, athletes, and hormone injection needles for the transgender and gender non-conforming community.
 - Free sharps containers upon request. (for needle disposal)
 - Program receives a grant for HIV and Hepatitis C testing, reducing the amount of Hepatitis cases drastically since the beginning of the program.
 - **Bus passes:** unable to provide passes, except for HIV patients who receive services through other programs.
 - **Results of the program:** 33% of clients using the syringe program get connected to treatment as a direct result of the program.
 - In six months of the program (January-June 2017), there were 3,500 total visits, 200-250 visits a week.
 - Participants are limited to one visit per week, and about 50% claim to be first time clients.
 - **Biggest Challenge:** Equitas requires an ID for enrollment; when Safe Point recommends clients to Equitas, this becomes a big issue.
 - **Contact Information:** Facebook and Website for updates (hours scheduled to change by September 28th) <http://safepointohio.org/>
 - Tuesday, Friday and Saturday at various locations for about 10-10.5 hours a week, first come-first serve basis.
 - Friday: 8:30-12:30pm at Franklin Station
 - Saturday: 8:30-12:00pm at the Short North Medical Center
 - Hotline: 614-460-1406
- ✓ **Open Enrollment Kickoff Discussion:**
 - BNCC Health Fair – November 4th, 11am-3pm (Sign up here)



- ✓ **Columbus Recreation and Parks Department**
 - The Director of Recreation Centers and Parks and the Mayor are focused on providing access to health care at 11 Rec Center locations in Columbus
 - So far, 5 of them have responded with interest in the program.
- ✓ **Challenges:**
 - Connector appointment availability has decreased over time
 - How can we promote open enrollment despite decreased federal media funding?

NEXT MEETINGS

- ✓ **Joint Access to Care Coalition and Health Literacy Subcommittee:**
 - Wednesday, October 11th from 9am-10:30am
 - Columbus Public Health, Room 119D
 - Topic:
 - Presentation from the Charitable Pharmacy: Prescription Assistance
 - JFS will be invited
 - Continued discussion of the transportation forum