MINUTES FOR SUSSEX COUNTY

RECOVERY ADVOCACY MEETING

Tuesday, April 13, 2020

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**ATTENDEES:** Cassandra DeLucci, Joyce Loch, Tonia Ahern, Annmarie Shafer, Marjorie Timmerman

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Annmarie Shafer motioned to approve February minutes and Marjorie Timmerman seconded the motion, minutes were approved.

**REPORTS AND UPDATES**

**NCADD**

* Tonia Ahern reported that Heather Ogden, NCADD Advocacy Coordinator attended Drug Monitoring Initiative monthly meetings. The following information was reported:

Medication Management Distribution- People that need services are having trouble with recovery initiation due to closure of walk in services and people not adhering to the six feet apart suggestion in clinics that are still open. Treatment providers have insufficient PPE’s(Personal Protective Equipment)*.* Inpatient providers now have COVID 19 positive patients and are trying to isolate these clients from the rest of their clients. Homeless and incarcerated persons there still no definitive plans to service those without housing, also how to get masks for this population. Naloxone administration issues no definitive guidelines about rescue breathing. Trainers are looking for better PPE’s and bag valve masks for safer rescue breathing techniques. All state legislation is currently addressing COVID-19 issues, specific legislation not known other than it is bipartisan.

* Tonia also mentioned the low attendance statewide at RA meetings and some of the reasons being that advocates have begun working in the recovery field in NJ which has grown exponentially in the last 5 years. The idea of having “ALL” RA meetings completely virtual moving forward was suggested.

**RECOVERY COMMUNITY CENTER**

* Marjorie reported all in person events/activities have been cancelled and all meetings are virtual. Website has been updated making it user friendly to gain access to meetings online. C.L.E.A.R. line 24/7 for peer recovery support available.
* Annmarie reported NARCAN trainings continue virtually and kits distributed through the Recovery Center.
* Also discussed was all the outreach that is being completed by staff and volunteers to continue to help the recovery community stay connected and in addition to continue to offer recovery support services for high risk and vulnerable populations.

**UPCOMING EVENTS NOTED**

* 5th Annual Heroin and Opioid Art Exhibition <http://drugfreenj.org/HeroinArtExhibit/> whose deadline has been extended for submissions is August 3, 2020.
* Changing the Face of Addiction walk is scheduled for August 1, 2020.

**ADJOURNMENT**

* Meeting was adjourned @ 6:45 PM.

**Next Sussex County Recovery Advocacy Meeting: May 11, 2020 @ 6:00 PM**

**Join others who care about RECOVERY!**