

Greater Middletown Opioids Task Force

Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 12pm

Virtual Meeting

Co-Chairs:

Rev. Robyn Anderson, MS, LPC, LMFT, LADC
Executive Director, Ministerial Health Fellowship

Kevin Elak, RS/REHS, CP-FS, Director of Health, City of
Middletown Department of Health

Member Organizations

- Alliance for Living Program
- BHcare
- CCAR
- Chatham Health District
- City of Middletown
- City of Middletown Department of Health
- City of Middletown Fire Department
- Community Foundation of Middlesex County
- Community Health Center (CHC)
- CT Harm Reduction Coalition
- DCF Region 3 (Norwich, Willimantic, Middletown)
- Department of Children and Families
- DMHAS
- Durham Middlefield Local Wellness Coalition / DMYFS
- Gilead Community Services
- Hunter's Ambulance Service
- Middlesex Community College
- Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce
- Middlesex Health
- Middletown Police Department
- Middletown Public School System
- Middlesex YMCA
- Middletown Substance Abuse Prevention Council
- Ministerial Health Fellowship
- River Valley Services, DMHAS
- Root Center for Advanced Recovery
- Rushford
- St. Vincent de Paul Middletown
- Street Fire Ministries
- The Connection
- Town of Cromwell Department of Health
- Victory Church
- Wesleyan Harm Reduction Team/Middletown Harm Reduction Initiative (MHRI)

Agenda

- Welcome New Members
- Data Updates
- Workgroup Updates
- Task Force Updates
- New Business
- Presentation:
 - Sarah Messier-Smith, LCSW, LADC, Senior Program Director, Adult Services, The Village for Families & Children - Village Expanded Recovery Vehicle (VERV)
- Work in Progress / On the Horizon
- Announcements

Mission & Vision Statement

- **Mission:** To engage the Greater Middletown community in working together to promote opioid awareness, education, prevention, harm reduction and access to treatment thereby reducing opioid-related overdoses and deaths and building a healthy, safe and drug-free community.
- **Vision:** A community working together to prevent and to help people experiencing opioid use challenges.

Opioid Overdoses Nonfatal and Fatal

April 18 – May 16, 2023

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

Opioid Overdoses Nonfatal and Fatal

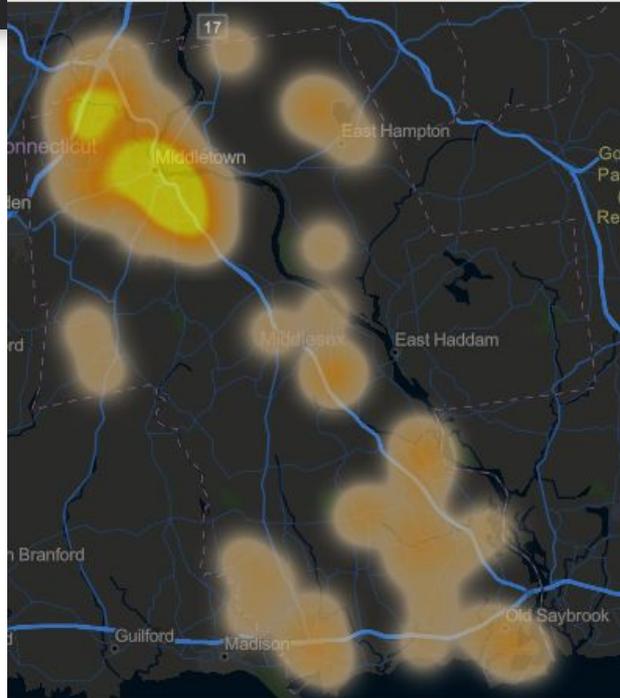


Total Suspected Overdoses	14
Fatal Overdoses	2
Naloxone Administered	12

4.18.23 – 5.16.23

Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

Opioid Overdoses Heatmap



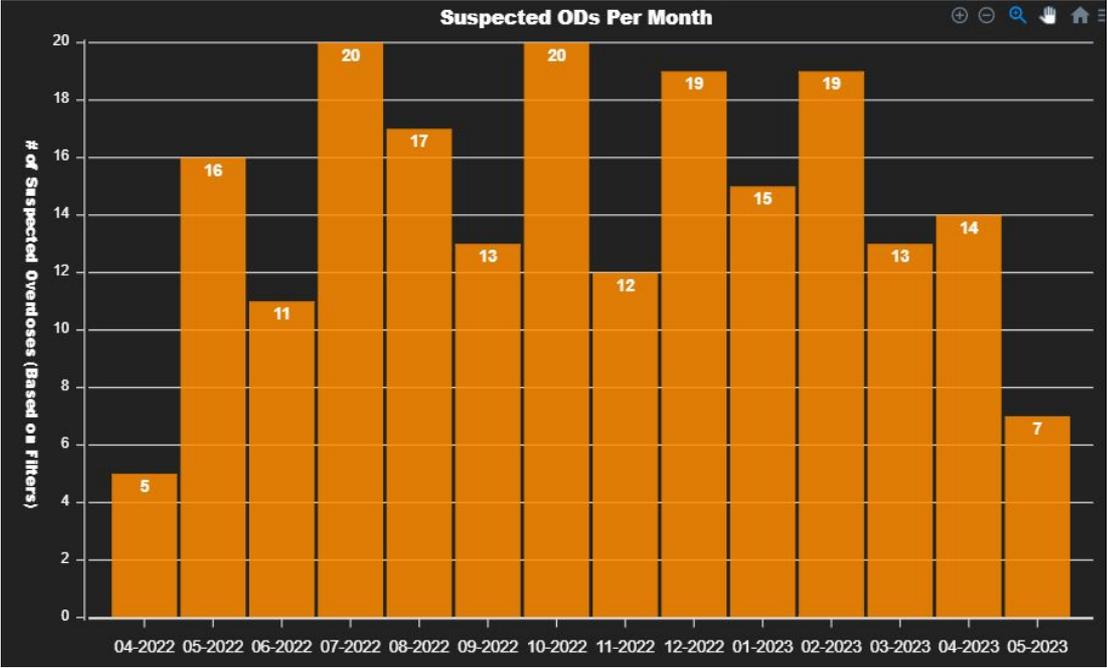
<https://www.odmap.org:4443/>

1.18.23 – 5.16.23



April 18, 2022 – May 16, 2023
Cromwell, Durham, Middlefield, Middletown and Portland

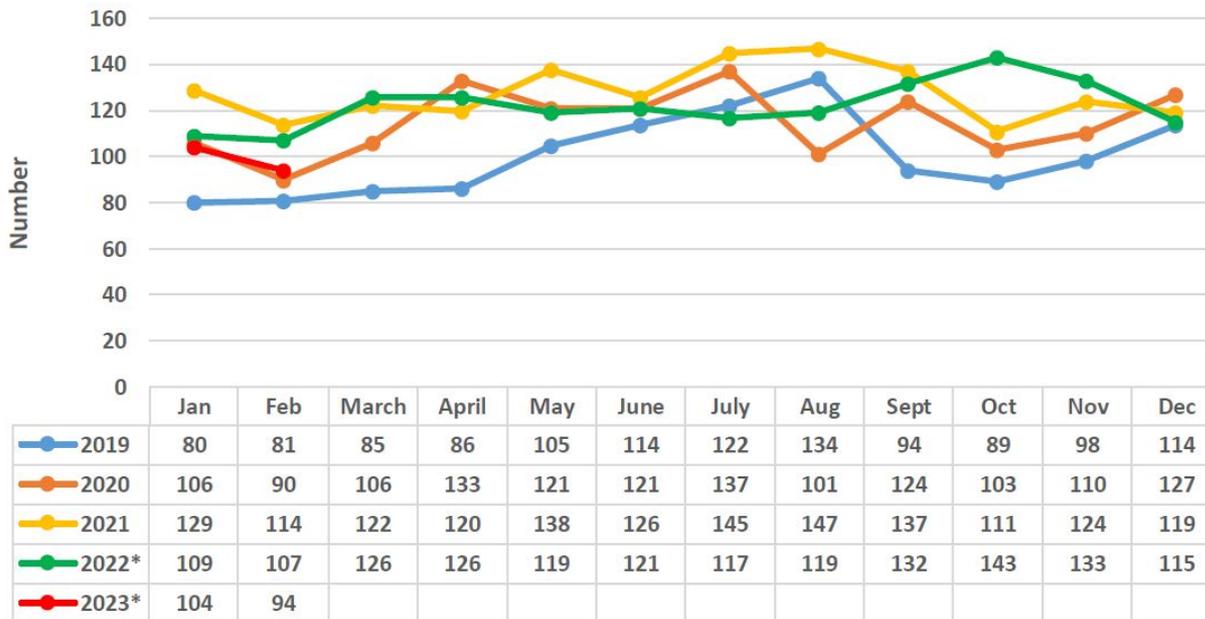
Suspected Overdoses Per Month



<https://www.odmap.org:4443/>

Overdose Data for Connecticut

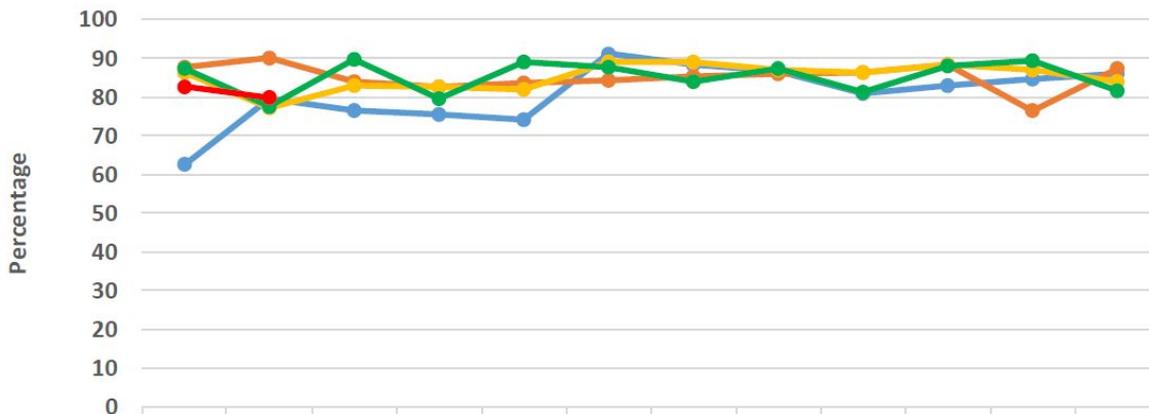
Number of Drug Overdose Deaths, by Month, Connecticut, 2019 - February 2023*



Data subject to change ● 2019 ● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023*

Data source: Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

Percentage of Fentanyl-Involved Overdose Deaths, by Month, Connecticut, 2019 - February 2023*



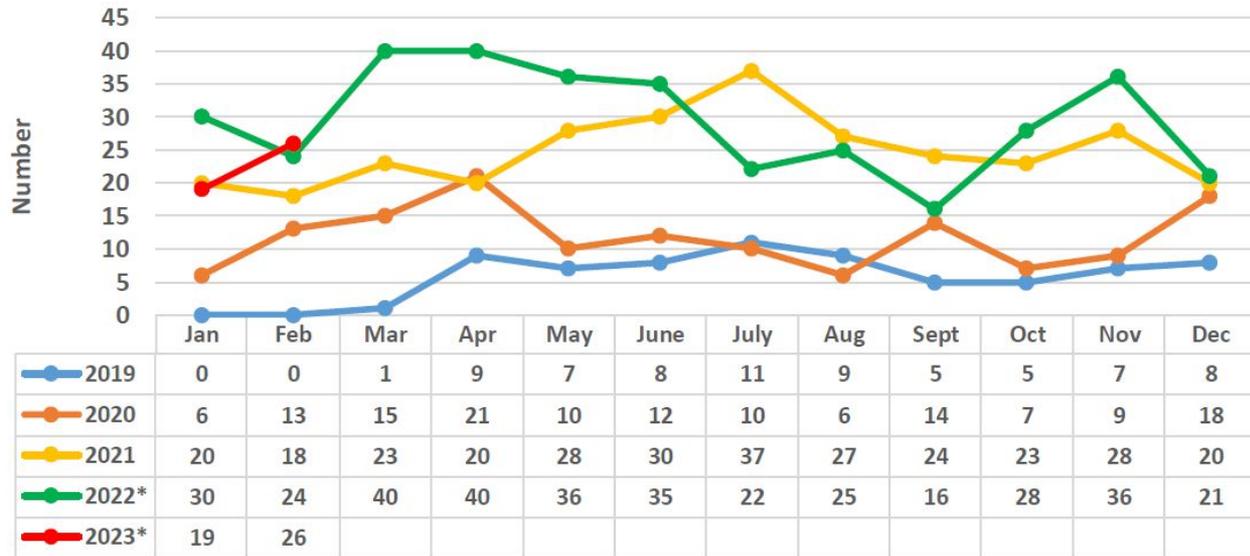
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	62.5	79.7	76.5	75.6	74.3	91.2	88.5	86.7	80.9	83.1	84.7	86.1
2020	87.6	90.1	84.1	82.7	83.5	84.3	85.4	86.1	86.2	88.3	76.4	87.4
2021	86.2	77.2	82.8	82.5	81.9	88.9	89.0	87.0	86.2	88.3	87.1	84.0
2022*	87.2	77.6	89.7	79.4	89.1	87.6	83.8	87.4	81.1	88.1	89.5	81.7
2023*	82.7	79.8										

2019 2020 2021 2022* 2023*

*Data subject to change

Data source: Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

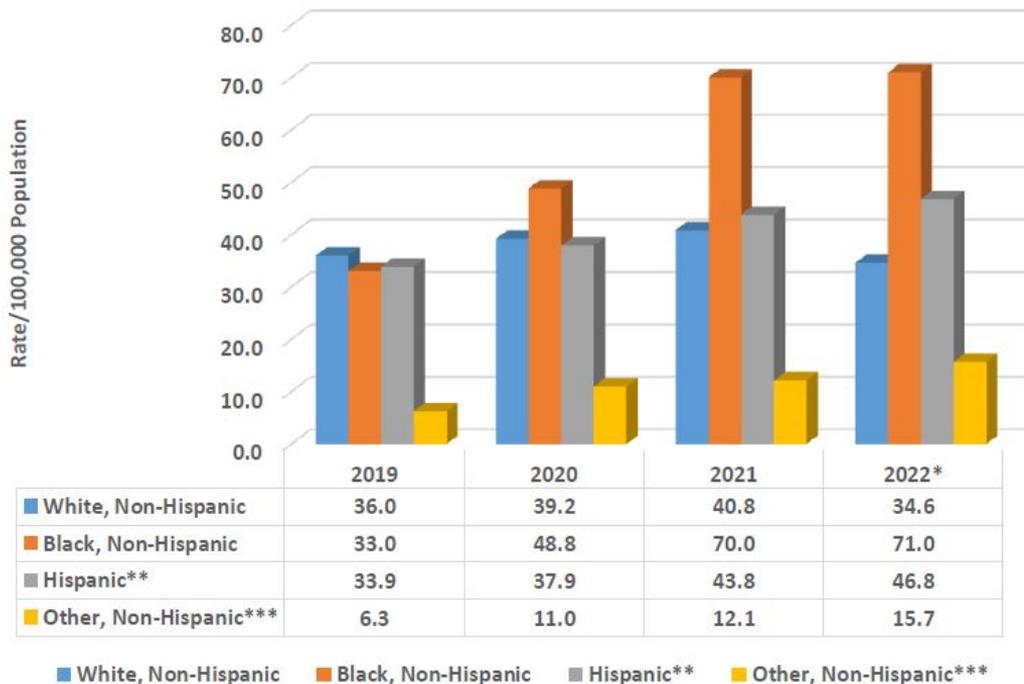
Number of Xylazine-Involved Overdose Deaths, By Month, Connecticut, 2019 - February 2023*



*Data subject to change

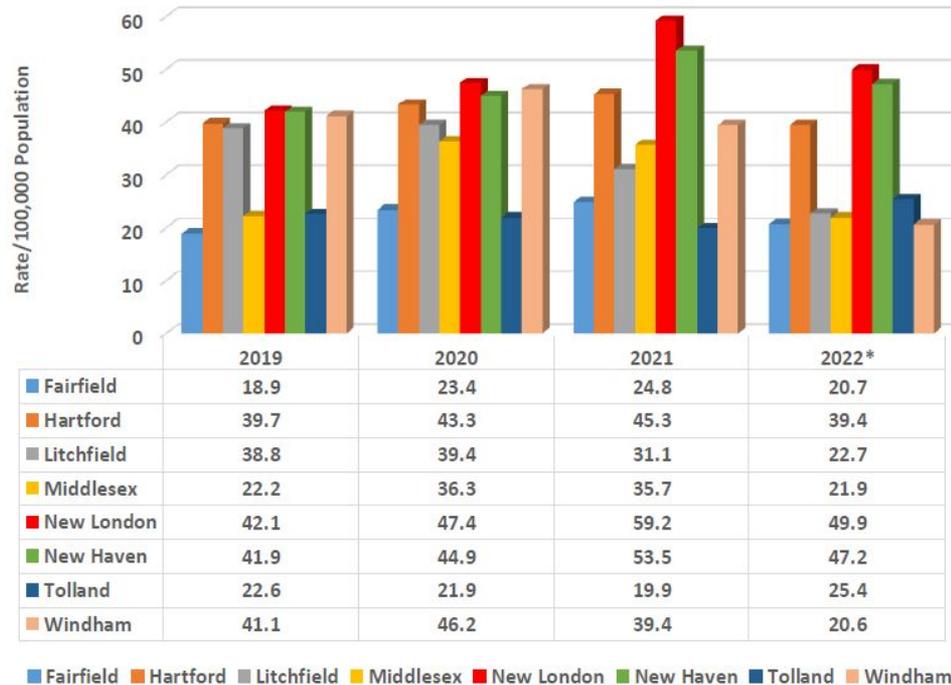
Data source: Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

**Rate of Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Overdose
Deaths per 100,000 Population, by Race/Ethnicity, Connecticut,
2019–2022***



Data source: Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)

Rate of Unintentional and Undetermined Drug Overdose Deaths per 100,000 Population, by Injury County, Connecticut, 2019–2022*



Data source: Connecticut Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME)



Workgroup Updates

Workgroup Updates - Access to Treatment

- **Purpose:** To increase access to Substance Use Disorder services through improved communication and collaboration among stakeholders.
- **Chair:** Barry Richardson, CCAR
- **Meeting Schedule:** 3rd Friday of the month at 11am (Zoom)
- **Report out:**
 - Discussion re: combining the Access to Treatment Workgroup with the Intervention / Harm Reduction Workgroup

Workgroup Updates - Education & Prevention

- **Purpose:** To enhance community awareness and knowledge of the harmful impacts of opiate use in order promote prevention, reduce stigma and offer hope by centering those with lived experience and by providing education and training in collaboration with community partners.
- **Chair:** Alie Bates, Rushford
- **Meeting Schedule:** 1st Monday of the month at 1pm (Zoom)
- **Report out:**
 - Xylazine informational piece distributed (5.8.23) & posted on Task Force website
 - Naloxone How To informational piece developed and provided by Livia Cox, Middletown Harm Reduction Initiative, distributed (5.10.23) & posted on Task Force website
 - Next steps: will re-group and plan for next educational deliverables



Workgroup Updates - Education & Prevention

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Xylazine: Know The Facts

"Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier," DEA Administrator Anne Milgram

What It Is

Xylazine

Also known as tranq, tranq dope, sleep cut, zombie drug, xylazine is a very strong tranquilizer used for large animals like cattle and horses. It is not approved for human use and no amount of xylazine is safe for humans. Xylazine use by humans is increasing.

Xylazine is a non-opioid but is frequently mixed with fentanyl; it has also been detected in mixtures containing cocaine, heroin, and other drugs. Xylazine-containing drugs can be injected, snorted, swallowed or inhaled.

Effects

The Effects of Xylazine

Xylazine depresses the central nervous system. Effects include:

- Drowsiness, lethargy, muscle relaxation
- Slowed breathing and heart rate
- Low blood pressure
- Unresponsiveness

Dangers

Xylazine can Cause Overdose or Death

Xylazine can increase risk of life-threatening overdose and death. When combined with a substance like heroin or fentanyl, the effect on the central nervous and respiratory systems can be deadly. Xylazine has been detected in a growing number of overdose deaths.

Response

What to do When a Xylazine Overdose is Suspected

It is recommended that naloxone be administered when a xylazine overdose is suspected as xylazine is nearly always found in combination with opioids.

If an overdose involving xylazine is suspected, follow these steps:

- Call 911 immediately and follow the dispatcher's directions
- Administer naloxone
- Administer CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) if directed by the 911 dispatcher

Xylazine: Know The Facts - page 1

Middletown, CT

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Xylazine: Know The Facts

Detection

How to Detect Xylazine

It is difficult to detect xylazine in other drugs because it does not have a distinct taste, smell, color or texture. People may or may not know xylazine is in their drug supply. Test strips are available for detecting the presence of xylazine, but their effectiveness is currently unknown.

Dependence

Xylazine can be Addictive

People using xylazine may develop a physical dependence to xylazine and some may experience severe withdrawal symptoms including sharp chest pains and seizures.

Wounds

Xylazine can Cause Wounds

People who inject drug mixtures containing xylazine can develop severe skin wounds, including necrosis (the rotting of human tissue), skin and soft tissue infections and osteomyelitis (bone infection), which may lead to limb amputation. Wounds may develop in areas of the body away from the injection site.

- People should see a medical provider for wounds due to xylazine use to receive information on wound treatment to prevent them from getting worse
- People should get medical attention immediately if the wound is worsening or not improving (turns black, becomes infected / has redness and swelling or if large pieces of skin fall off)

In an emergency, always call 911

*People looking for substance use treatment can call the DMHAS
24/7 Access Line (800) 563-4086*



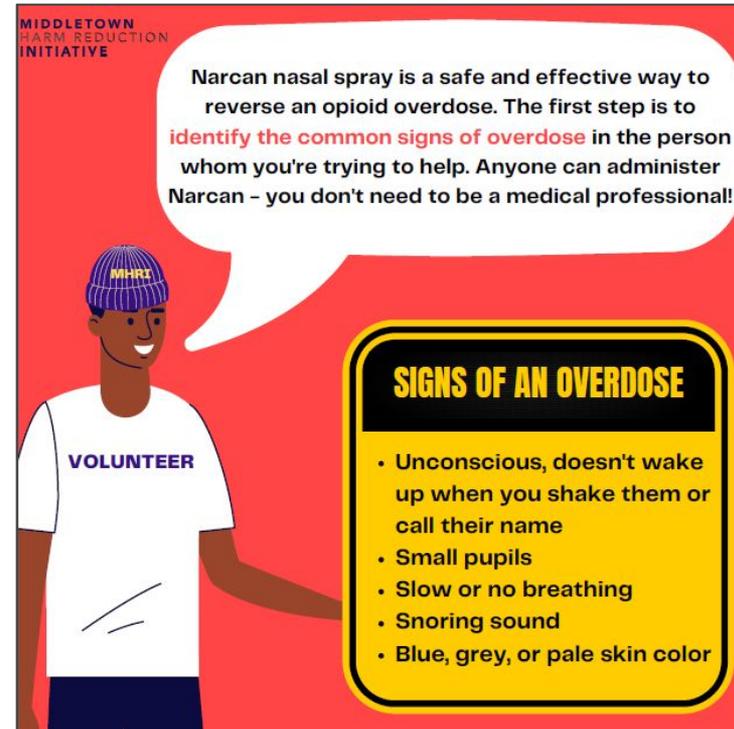
Xylazine: Know The Facts - page 2

Middletown, CT

v050523

<https://www.middletownct.gov/1371/Educational-Materials>

Workgroup Updates - Education & Prevention



<https://www.middletonct.gov/1371/Educational-Materials>

Workgroup Updates - Intervention / Harm Reduction

- **Purpose:** under development
- **Chair:** TBD
- **Meeting Schedule:** 4th Tuesday of the month @ 10am (Zoom)
- **Report out:**
 - April 26th - introductory meeting re: the Village Expanded Recovery Van (VERV)
 - May 23rd meeting: Jessica Matyka, LCSW, Clinical Director, Crisis and Community Acute Programming, Rushford and Lea Crown, MPH, City of Meriden, Director of Health and Human Services, Department of Health and Human Services Meriden, will join to give an overview of the MORR program in Meriden
 - Areas of focus:
 - Narcan Distribution
 - Fentanyl Test Strips - with a focus on people using cocaine
 - Getting to people who are using opioids in their homes
 - Drop in Prevention Center

Workgroup Updates - Resource Awareness

- **Purpose:** To facilitate awareness of prevention and treatment resources for substance use in the Greater Middletown community in order to increase access to services.
- **Chair:** LeAnna Basque, intern, City of Middletown Department of Health
- **Meeting Schedule:** 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 2pm (Zoom)
- **Report out:**
 - Resource Guide for Agencies (in final proofing stage - QR code will be added; will be posted to the Task Force website and shared soon)
 - Resource Guide for Community Members (in final proofing stage - QR code will be added; will be posted to the Task Force website and shared soon)
 - Next steps: will re-group and plan for next deliverables



Updates

Updates

- **Legislative / Policy Updates:**

- Harm Reduction / Prevention Centers

- Email from Francesca Maviglia, Interim Fellow, Yale Global Health Justice Partnership (5.10.23): *I'm reaching out on behalf of the Yale Global Health Justice Partnership (GHJP) to share a Request for Proposals for an experienced consultant to oversee the Feasibility Assessment, Stakeholder Engagement, & Planning for an Overdose Prevention Center (OPC) in Connecticut. The consultant will work with a community-based organization to (a) determine the feasibility of an OPC in New Haven, CT; (b) engage a variety of stakeholders to inform...policies, and operations; and (c) develop an implementation plan for launching such a program.*

- An opportunity for us to learn from the results of this feasibility study / process?

- Other Raised Bills

- **Opioids Settlement Funds:**

- City
- State: CT Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee <https://portal.ct.gov/COSAC>
- Use for Narcan Leave-Behind kits?

Member Updates

Any member updates? Please share!





New Business

New Business

- Branding: (assign to a workgroup?)
 - Develop a task force logo
 - List partner organizations on material / presentations, etc. (when possible)

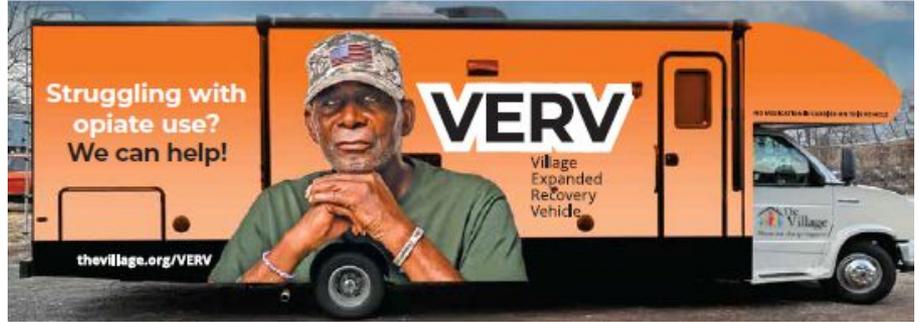
Presentation

Presentation

Sarah Messier-Smith, LCSW, LADC
Senior Program Director, Adult Services
The Village for Families & Children
smessiersmith@thevillage.org



Village Expanded Recovery Vehicle (VERV)





Misc.

Reminders

- Task Force Website:
 - Reminder regarding member logos - if you would like your organization's logo posted on the website and you have not already sent it, please send to catherine.rees@midhosp.org
 - <https://www.middletownct.gov/1336/Greater-Middletown-Opioids-Task-Force>



Announcements

Any Member Announcements?



Work Status / Tracking

Work in Progress

Work in Progress 2023

- Resource Guide for Agencies (to be completed April 2023)
- Resource Guide for Community Members (to be completed April 2023)
- Village Expanded Recovery Vehicle (VERV) partnership

Completed Work

Completed 2022	Completed 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Formation of Task Force (January 2022)● Member Prioritization Survey (April)● Formation of 4 Workgroups (Access to Treatment; Education & Prevention; Intervention / Harm Reduction; Resource Awareness)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Flier for Narcan Leave Behind Kits (April 2023)● Narcan Leave Behind Kits partnership with South Fire District, Middletown (April 2023)● Xylazine Informational piece (May 2023)

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, June 21, 12pm, Zoom

