MINUTES ROTARY DISTRICT 7890 SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ADDICTION TASK FORCE- JULY 31ST – 4 PM

CANTON COMMUNITY CENTER -40 DYER AVE. COLLINSVILLE, CT 06022

In attendance:

Harry Schuh- District Governor Lions International Dist. 23B -cell: 860-307-0807- hschuh@charter.net

Carol Kearns (co-producer TV series: “Lion Around Ct”)-860-307-0807 – carolkearns@charter.net

Bob Bessel - Lions District 23B Publicity Chair – 860-324-8267 – rbessel@yahoo.com

Clair Cote, MSW Director of Senior and Social Services- 860-693-5811 – ccote@townofcantonct.org

Maria Coutant Skinner, LCSW- Exec Dir. McCall Center 860-496-2100 – maria.skinner@nccallcenterct.org

David A, Mangs Ph.D. Rotary District 7890 PDG- cell: 860-992-2610 – davemangs@gmail.com

Today’s meeting was called to organize a combined effort focused on substance abuse and addiction between Rotary District 7890 and Lions District 23B. The committee agreed that working together we could have a greater impact, share ideas for programs or services that could be brought to the communities in which our service clubs are located, establish working relationships at both the District and Club level, and eventually bring our best ideas to Rotarians and Lions outside of our respective Districts.

Today was a” brain storming” meeting to share ideas on what could and should be done to address the substance abuse crisis especially regarding opioids.

Dave Mangs (Rotary District Governor 7890- 2017-2018) reported on the Rotary initiatives that began in the last year. The District 7890 Substance Abuse/Addiction Task Force was established under the leadership of Rotarian Marc Montminy who is the Police chief in Manchester, CT. The Task Force decided to focus on three broad areas: **Awareness, Reduce Stigma, and Access.**

**A Rotary Substance Abuse Survey was distributed to the Rotary Clubs in District 7890. Only 20% of the Clubs reported the they were working on or had started a substance abuse program. Every respondent indicated interest in participating in a district wide substance abuse initiative. Regarding the three areas of focus: the first priority reported by our Clubs was that we should focus on “Awareness”, second “Increase Access”, and third “Reduce Stigma”. The survey results were shared with the committee.**

**Second, the committee received a copy of the Project Hope program. We are prepared to bring this program to communities throughout our Districts. Our service clubs could introduce this program within their communities, and Marc Montminy could assist in presenting this program. The program is flexible and can be built around the resources available within our different communities.**

**Third, Dave shared information on the** Rotarian Action Group: Addiction Prevention (RAG-AP) **–(www.rag-ap.org ). Rotary Action Groups allow Rotarians across Districts and countries to share ideas, programs and services. Rotary Action Groups can also work together on Global grants in partnership with the Rotary Foundation. Rotary Global grants requires a Rotary partner in a foreign country, involvement by the local community to ensure projects are “sustainable”, and each grant must be a minimum of $30,000.**

**This RAG-AP focuses on:**

1. Training, Addiction Treatment, and Prevention **focused on tobacco, alcohol, drug, substance abuse, gaming, and internet addiction. This program will improve the capacity of local health care professionals, educators, students, and community social service organizations to promote disease prevention, enhance the health care infrastructure, and educate our communities.**
2. Opioid and Heroin Abuse Rotary Global Grants **– focuses on six components:**

 **1) educating teenagers about the dangers of drug abuse through a program called TEEN INSTITUTE,**

**2) helping furnish an ambulatory detox treatment center,**

**3) purchasing and installing drug box kiosk,**

**4) mounting a major media campaign**

**5) alleviating the lack of affordable transportation to detox centers and hospitals,**

**6) distributing all needed materials**

**C)** ADDICTION PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE PILOT- this project will educate both adult and youth on substance misuse and the brain chemistry of addiction. It will work to lower the rates of use and addiction by strengthening local level infrastructure to implement best practice addiction prevention programs.

Clair Cote MSW presented information on the “Canton Drug Give Back Program” .

This program allows the return of prescription drugs, expired medication and over the counter medication at the Canton, CT Police Dept. 7 day a weeks… any time to protect children, family members and pets while protecting our water supply and soil.

The committee discussed the drug box kiosk idea as a project that could be supported by Lions and Rotarians. Located in Police Departments, they are securely bolted in the floor in the local police departments and are under video surveillance. We need only check to see if our local police departments are willing to install a Kiosk. For example, In Manchester, drug users can dispose of needles and drugs without the fear of being arrested, and the police are available to bring addicts to detox or treatment. It was mentioned that kiosks jointly funded by Lions and Rotary should have both of their Logos visibly displayed. This would also help to de-stigmatize the “disease” of addiction by showing community support for a non-punitive response to those who are struggling with this “disease”.

We will need to know costs of the Kiosks-the best design and manufacturer, identify police departments that do not have these kiosks and are willing install them, determine any other decisionmakers who need to be involved, and to ask for support from our Local Lions and Rotary Clubs.

The committee adjourned with the goal of meeting again to begin identifying programs and services that Lions and Rotary can begin working on with our local Clubs.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Mangs Ph.D.

Rotary District 7890

District Governor 2017-2018