

## **Opioid Issue**

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I appreciate the sense of urgency on this issue and I respect the work Chief Keefe and others have done to propose solutions.

Based on the job descriptions for the “Coordinator” and “Clinician”, it looks like we are trying to create both preventive and reactive resources to provide Education, Awareness, Training, Outreach, and to expand access to treatment.

I believe, however, it is premature to be thinking about two new full-time positions before we have a complete understanding of the resources we have available to us both within the town and through outside agencies through the State and non-profit organizations.

### **Internally**

- Have we fully evaluated our existing resources on both the Town/School side to see if existing resources can be reallocated to provide some of the education and outreach services that have been identified?
- The new position at AYS created in 2014 was justified on the basis that it would help address this Opioid addiction issue. (See the BOS meeting on 4/16/2014 and the first night of Town Meeting when an Andover resident moved an amendment to block funding for this position.) Should this position be re-purposed from its current role to take on some of these education and awareness duties?

### **Externally**

There are a number of existing resources and hotlines through State agencies such as

- Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) has a hotline and website to direct patients and/or family members to resources.
- Non-profits (like Learn to Cope.org and Recoverage.org) that provide hotlines and access to help.
- Health insurers will be reaching out to subscribers with newly required substance treatment coverage that become effective 10/1/2015 (Chapter 258)
- There is a apparently a standing order from Gov. Patrick’s administration for access to Narcan and training at CVS/Walgreens
- Are there substance abuse services at local health care providers/hospitals that we should be exploring?

## **Best Practices for Municipalities**

We have heard about Gloucester's Angel program and efforts in other communities. The MMA formed a Municipal Opiate Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force in 2014 to assist local officials as they take action in their communities. Have we checked with them to see what they recommend?

To me, this issue requires a multi-faceted approach with a combination of local, regional, state resources as well as non-profit organizations. I think we need to do a lot more work on this before considering additions to staff.