



Virtual Opioid Task Force Meeting – Update April 2, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

It was great to see so many of you at our meeting on Wednesday and to hear from our two presenters: Jon Kelly and Dr. Debra Poutsiaka. As always, the Trinity data paint a compelling picture of the continuing crisis of opioid use and disease, and hearing from Dr. Poutsiaka about long-haul COVID-19 helped us all to understand a new wrinkle in this evolving saga - on with which we will be grappling for quite some time.

Our next meeting will be April 24th and we will hear from Congresswoman Lori Trahan on her bipartisan legislation to expand access to MAT and we will also hear from Bob Cox about expanded programming at the Bridge Club of Greater Lowell. Here's the link for that meeting - but you'll get a reminder closed to the date.

The Worcester DA has asked us to share information about an important event that he is sponsoring: **a virtual presentation with Sam Quinones, award-winning author of “Dreamland,” at 1 p.m. on April 15.** Sam will discuss the state of the opioid epidemic, including emerging trends in the illicit drug market, the lawsuits against the pharmaceutical companies and the stigma that still persists around the disease of addiction. Sam previously spoke in Worcester in 2017 and demonstrated his depth of knowledge and keen insights into the substance use disease that claimed the lives of more than 80,000 Americans last year. You can pre register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_SWr-xarsQu6q4xrH5wpUPA

As always, please let me know if you have a promising program in your area that you would like to highlight. Our meetings are built by all of us and I am always gratified by the input and contributions of all of our stakeholders. For that, and for your work every day - thank you.

With warm regards,

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