



Virtual Opioid Task Force Meeting – Update May 21, 2021

Dear Colleagues - thanks for joining an information filled Opioid Task Force meeting. I know I threw up a lot of links in the chat and I'll include there here for those who might be interested in some of the events that the DA referenced.

- As Marian mentioned, last week, the MA Department of Public Health released its semiannual report on opioid deaths. Here is the [link](#) and here is the article in [the Globe](#).
- Here is the [report](#) that Ellen and Alan presented - and thanks so much to both of you for your work and for taking the time to present to us today! And here is the link to their [fascinating slide presentation](#):
- The Mental Health First Aid Toolkit for workplaces can be [found here](#). And if you know people who might be interested in the webinar [Moving Forward as a Workforce: Reflecting to Learn and Refocusing to Grow](#) (scheduled for May 27, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.) that the Mental Health First Aid team is putting together to close out Mental Health Awareness Month, here is the [link to register](#) for that webinar.
- We've been hearing a lot about the funds coming from the Opioid Settlement at the federal level. States, cities, and counties will soon be receiving funds from opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distributors and pharmacies as a result of litigation brought against these companies for their role in the opioid epidemic that has claimed more than half a million lives over the past two decades. Governors, attorneys general, and legislators will face difficult decisions in determining the best use of the funds. Here is one article you might find interesting: Published by a coalition of 51 different organizations, it is called, [Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation](#). As Marian noted, the authors noted three guidelines for policymakers in creating dedicated funds for the settlement money: 1) Give priority to evidence-based programs and services; 2) Develop a multiyear budget, and; 3) Publicly track and report spending. and the study offered five guiding principles including SPend money to SAVE LIVES; use EVIDENCE to guide spending; focus on youth prevention; focus on racial equity;, and develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to direct the funding. [Here is that link](#).
- And, finally, our friends from the Mystic Valley Public Health Coalition are offering a three-part training series - next week. The goal of the program is to deepen our collective community knowledge and understanding around inequity. This training series is developed for organizations willing to create space for meaningful and equal participation of individuals with lived experience in the process of identifying issues and determining possible solutions. Participants will gain knowledge and build practical skills to develop meaningful, people-centered partnerships to address inequity in our work. The Mystic Valley Coalition encourages folks to invite and support others from your community and coalitions to attend. Here are the links: [Register here for Day 1](#): Monday, May 24: 11:00-12:30 [Register here](#)

[for Day 2](#): Tuesday, May 25: 12-1:30 ; [Register here for Day 3](#): Thursday, June 3:
11:00-12:30

We are looking at a single meeting for June and July - please stand by for the date and agenda and until then, please stay safe and enjoy this period of coming out of isolation, with care, consideration and..... hopefully.....some joy.

Warm regards