



ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

DELAWARE COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION & AWARENESS TASK FORCE

www.delcosuicideprevention.org

DCSPATF, Box 175, 4 State Rd, Media, PA 19063-1413

Meeting Location: DELCO Intermediate Unit, 200 Yale Ave, Morton, PA 19070

Wednesday, 31 January 2018

Jim Elliott, Chairman, opened the meeting around 9:00 am with a welcome to all 41 in attendance. Minutes and various materials were handed out.

BREAKFAST. A nice breakfast of eggs, home fries, bacon, French toast, and sweet buns was provided by the Johnson & Johnson representatives.

ELECTION. A ballot was presented to the assembled membership and they were asked to vote for four positions on the 2018 Executive Committee. Results:

Chair: Ellen Chung

Co-Chair: Maggie Pruett-Saratan

Treasurer: Joe Simpkins

Secretary: Wylie Johnson

PRESENTATION. Dr. Frederick Hellman.

OPIOID DRUG EPIDEMIC AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE INVOLVEMENT IN COMPLETED SUICIDES.

Some Highlights of his presentation:

- Poly Drug Abuse relationship to suicide.
- DELCO averages 70 suicides annually since 2008, prior average was 56.
- True numbers are higher, perhaps 90, most of the difference are in the undetermined category.
- Firearm deaths declining, however an increase in hangings and prescription overdose.
- #3 national cause of death are “Unintentional Injuries” (drug overdoses included)
- 2017 about 64K drug induced deaths. [2014 36,667 overdose deaths]
- He maintains gateway drugs are smoking & alcohol (16 to 25 times more likely to become addicted to drugs).
- THC (active ingredient in marijuana) causes death by malignant hypertension.
- Estimate that 2/3rds of deaths in DELCO are poly Drug Abuse.
- Chronic Suicidality results from high risk behavior.
- His presentation is still under development and research as he investigates the larger problems in the context of Delaware County.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON REPRESENTATIVES.

- The spoke about the efficacy and options available for powerful new medications (*Invega Sustenna and Invega Trinza*) for treating schizophrenia. Chris Gibson and his Associate made the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT. The meeting concluded about 11am.

IMPORTANT DATES

5K Walk-Run Fund Raiser – May 5, 2018 @ Ridley Creek State Park

15th Annual Symposium: November 15, 2018, 8am - 4pm @ Springfield Country Club

Next Executive Committee: Feb. 14th @ Elwyn, 9-11am.

Next Steering Committee To be scheduled in April.