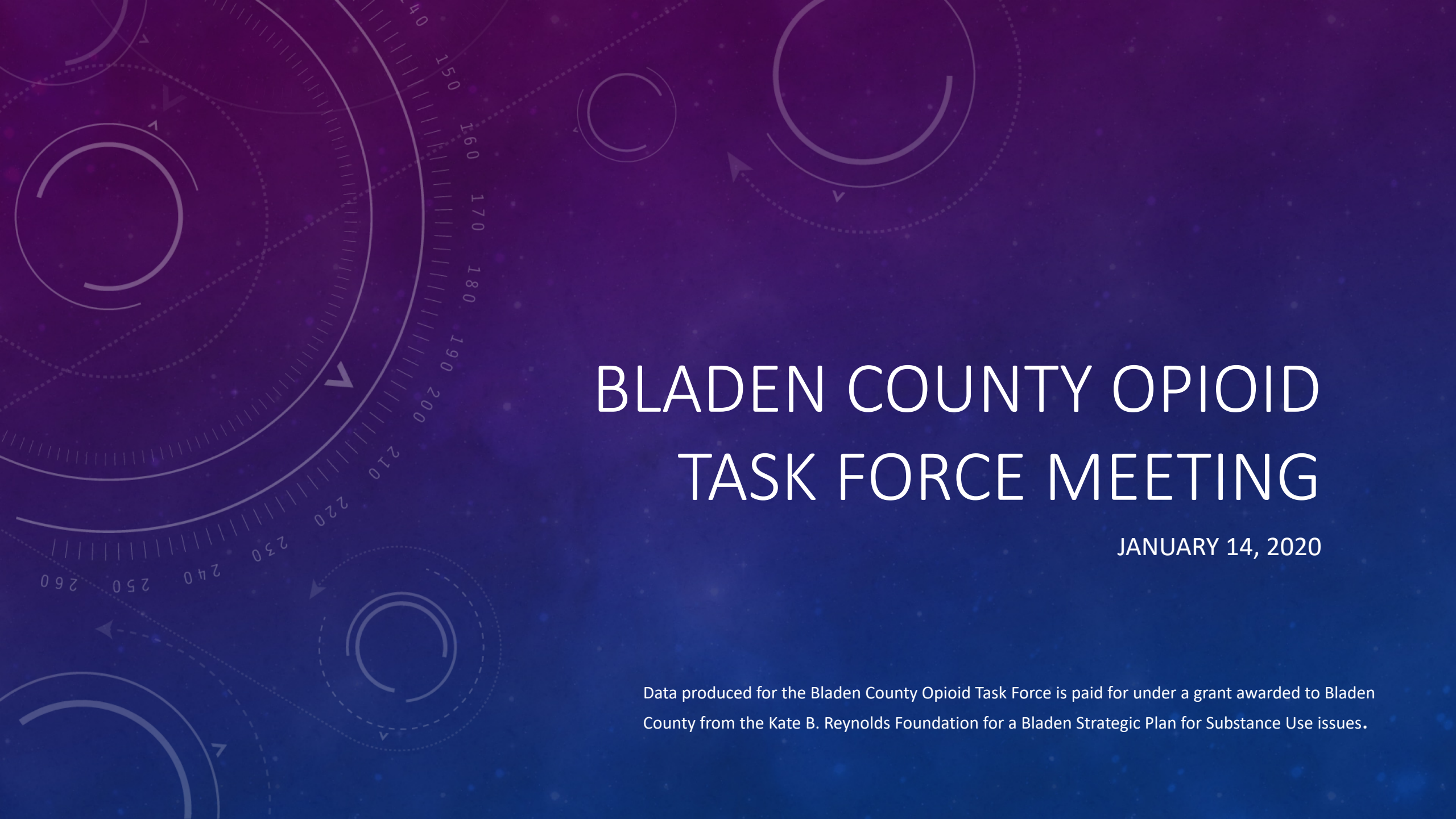


The background is a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. Overlaid on the left side are several concentric circles and a large circular scale. The scale has markings from 140 to 260 in increments of 10, with smaller tick marks in between. There are also several smaller circles, some with arrows indicating a clockwise direction.

BLADEN COUNTY OPIOID TASK FORCE MEETING

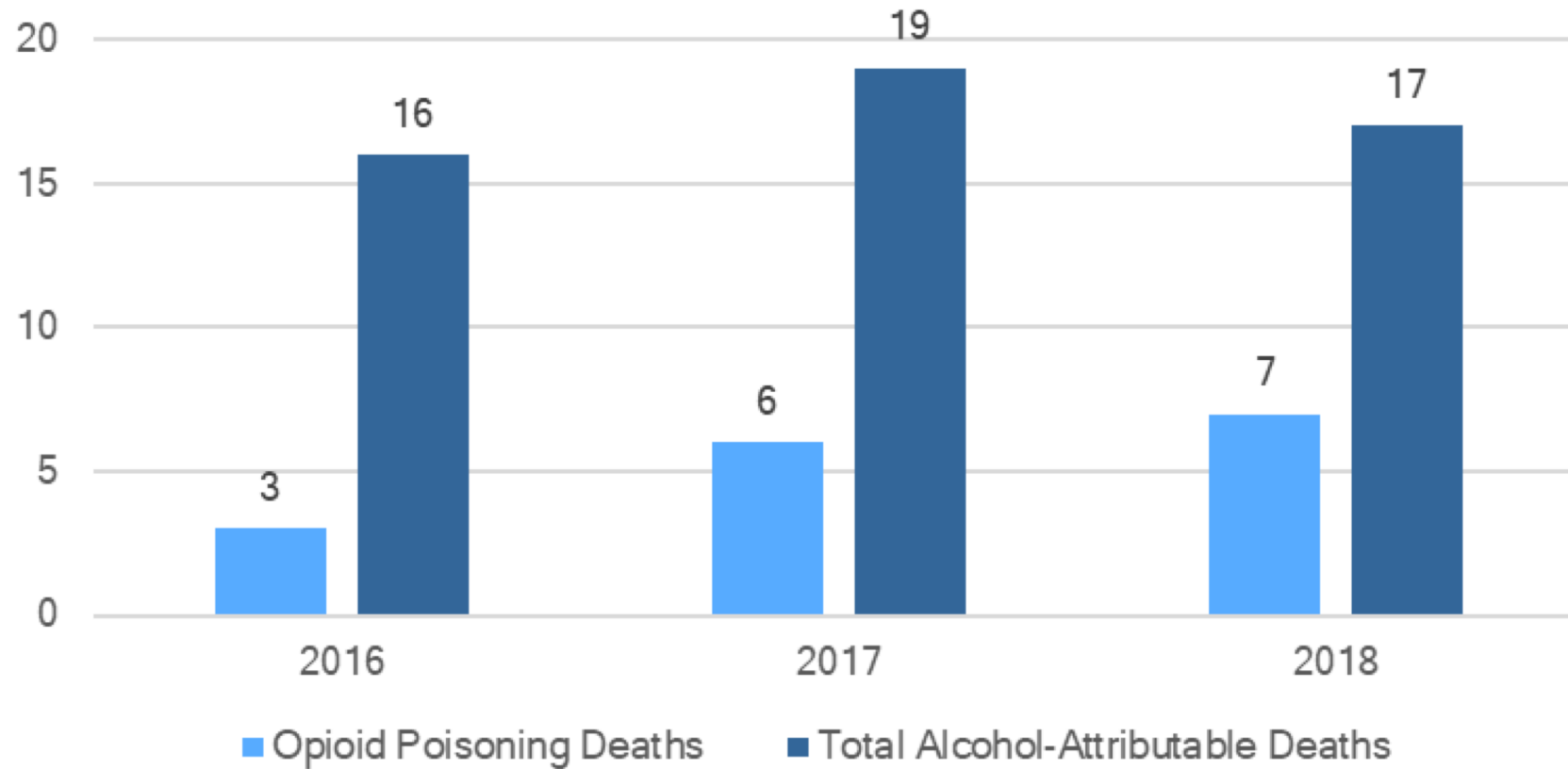
JANUARY 14, 2020

Data produced for the Bladen County Opioid Task Force is paid for under a grant awarded to Bladen County from the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation for a Bladen Strategic Plan for Substance Use issues.

Eastpointe LME/MCO Substance Use Disorder Provider Locations for Bladen County 2019



Bladen County Opioid Poisoning Overdose Alcohol-Attributable Death Comparison



BLADEN COUNTY SUBSTANCE ABUSE TASK FORCE

STRATEGIC SUBSTANCE ABUSE PLAN

1. Rename the Opioid Task Force the Substance Abuse Task Force.
2. Convene a leadership group of County Department Directors, Law Enforcement and the School Superintendent to get buy-in for a coordinated county wide approach to the alcohol and other drug use issues. Set realistic milestones for change and determine process for holding departmental personnel responsible for reporting on implementation the new direction.
3. Meet with Eastpointe LME/MCO to discuss the following issues:
 - Increase number of individuals getting Substance Use Disorder help from Eastpointe LME/MCO.
 - Increase amount of funds spent on Bladen residents who have substance abuse diagnosis and issues.
 - Locate a DWI Assessment Service and DUI School in Bladen County.
 - Hold LME/MCO providers accountable for using evidence-based practice as per the state service definitions for Medicaid and uninsured when assessing and treating all alcohol and substance use disorders.

STRATEGIC PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS

Eastpointe Cont.

- Request regular LME/MCO reports be made to Bladen County Substance Abuse Task force which address improvements agreed upon with the County, the impact and outcomes of services.
- Direct prevention effort in the Bladen County Schools to financially support and initiate a comprehensive evidence-based practice prevention program in the Bladen County Schools appropriate to each grade levels and appropriate to a rural setting.
- “of those that had experience a crisis, members in Columbus, Bladen and Scotland Counties had the highest percentage who answered that they had not received the services required.
- “Crisis services are identified as most frequently insufficient. When those who reported that they have experience a crisis in the last year were asked if the required help was received, 46.67% responded no. The highest share of those answering no are in Columbus and Bladen Counties.
- Partner with Bladen County to develop a comprehensive community education and marketing campaign which educates the Bladen County residents about services in the county and surrounding counties, including how to access help, criteria for admission, dangers of alcohol and drug use and addiction and family support for those with addiction issues within the family.
- Actively participate with the County to pursue additional funding to expand access and quality of services.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Law Enforcement

- Develop a law enforcement mentality for the county of being tough on drugs and alcohol to save county residents' lives. The outcome that is necessary to truly affect the alcohol and other substance abuse issues affecting County residents needs to result in increased arrests and convictions for DUIs, underage drinking charges, contributing to the delinquency of a minor charges, possession of substances, charges related to dealing and manufacturing of drugs.
- Meet with the Sheriff to determine how to increase arrests and convictions for all alcohol and drug charges for adults and adolescents.
- Determine if financial and personnel resources are adequate to address increase in alcohol and drug arrests and convictions.
- Consider submitting a proposal to the Bureau of Justice for funding the implementation of an evidence-based assessment (alcohol and other drug) tool in the County Jail .
- Meet with municipal law enforcement units with the same goals listed above.
- Meet with District Attorney office to determine how to insure when individuals are charged with alcohol and drug crimes, convictions are the norm.
- DA, Law Enforcement, Sherriff need to support the County's seeking out BJA grant funding to support increase in activities identified above by participating in grant planning sessions, letters of support and implementation of new programs.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Court System

- Meet with Judges to get buy in for increase in arrests for all alcohol and drug related convictions.
- Encourage Judge to create a drug court, potentially inter-county to process all alcohol and drug related crimes, develop a protocol for how to handle all alcohol/drug related crimes within the Bladen Courts utilizing sentences, treatment alternatives and/or a combination of jail and treatment to increase the intervention and recovery rate of those Bladen County residents charged with alcohol and drug related crimes who are assessed as having a problem and needing intervention and follow up.
- Support the County's seeking funding to support the increase in activities related to alcohol and drug related crime, intervention and treatment.

Schools

- Adopt an Evidence based prevention model that can be implemented in each school and appropriate to the grade level.
- Support the County's ability to apply for grant money to intervene in violence, bullying, gang recruitment, alcohol/drug education, awareness and intervention.
- Continue with Youth Survey Risk assessment and annually monitor for changes in risk factors (improvements or less risky behaviors).
- School handbook could be updated to include grade specific/appropriate information and should target expectations of behaviors, consequences and intervention steps should problems arise.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Bladen County Social Services and Child Welfare

- DSS and Child Welfare Services are a natural intervention point for alcohol and drug issues. Over 85% of the child welfare cases in the country are related to at least one parent having an alcohol or drug problem.
- Bladen County DSS and Child Welfare services need to employ an evidence-based practice screening tool during the application process or investigation process that screens applicants or parents suspected of child abuse and/or neglect for alcohol and/or drug issues. Screening tools that could be used in these services include the CAGE-AID, AUDIT, Brief Screener for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (all of which are free to the public).
- When potential applicants are identified as having an AODA issue in their families a referral to a treatment provider needs to be written into the case plan as well as treatment expectations and appropriate follow up to ensure that the individual/family is following thru with case plan recommendations.
- Family Court processes need to reflect intervention, treatment and recovery efforts as part of the family court process. Recovery goals for each case need to be tracked and monitored by the case worker to ensure that progress is being made.
- Any DSS or Child Welfare staff making home visits needs to be trained in recognizing the warning signs of substance use in home visits and how to intervene when it is apparent harmful alcohol or drug use is endangering the family unit.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Bladen County Health Department.

- Set the expectation that alcohol and drug addiction will be treated as a disease and woven into the services that the health department offers to individuals it serves.
- All clinics operating within the public health department need to screen clinic populations for alcohol and drug use, abuse and addiction. Referrals into appropriate treatment services for those screened with a problem use or addiction should be required and follow up with to insure that this issue is addressed. Particular attention should be made with the pre-natal clinics. Appropriate no cost Evidence based practice screening tools are available and should be utilized for this purpose.
- Train health department staff who are responsible for home visits to recognize warning signs of substance use in home visits and how to intervene when it is apparent harmful alcohol or drug use is endangering the family unit.

ABC Boards operating in Bladen County.

- Approach the ABC Boards and advocate to earmark a percentage of the ABC profits to support indigent SUD treatment for residents of Bladen County.

Oxford Houses.

- Contact the Oxford Houses of North Carolina and advocate to have two Oxford Houses (1 male and 1 female) located in Bladen County. Work with Oxford House of North Carolina to acquire the properties develop job and community college opportunities for Oxford House residents.

Self-Help Groups and support.

- Work to support the establishment of AA, Al-anon, Nar-anon support groups in the County. Advertise for any existing AA members in Bladen County to volunteer to help Inter-group of Cumberland County establish the self-help meetings.

Community Education and Awareness Campaign.

- Seek funding to support a County wide community education campaign to educate the Bladen County communities about the dangers of alcohol, opioids and other substance use, how and where to seek help and to promote a Bladen County Culture of Recovery.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Funding.

- Bladen County is in an ideal position to seek outside funding to support prevention, identification and intervention via law enforcement due to the rural nature of the county.
- Two grants to immediately consider pursuing.
- SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework - Partnerships for Success. Due March 6, 2020. Up to \$300,000 per year for up to 5 years.
- BJA's STOP School Violence Grant Program. Due March 3, 2020. Up to \$500,000 each for Purpose Area 1, training, and up to \$750,000 each for Purpose Area 2, threat assessment and/or intervention teams to be used over 3 years.