

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Law Enforcement Subcommittee January 11, 2021 Approved

Attendees:

Adam Crawford, Andrea Darr, Brian Gallagher (Council Chair), Jake Hunt, Deb Koester (Facilitator), Chad Napier (Chair), Shawn Schwertfeger, Justin Smith.

Opening:

Chad Napier provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Law Enforcement Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 and was conducted by Zoom videoconference. The purpose of the meeting was to review Town Hall Meeting feedback and finalize the 2022 Implementation Plan for the Law Enforcement section to present to the Governor's Council.

Approval of Minutes

Chad Napier asked if subcommittee members had reviewed the minutes from the September 16, 2021 meeting which were sent out prior to this meeting via email and if there were any questions or corrections. Chief Hunt noted that Samantha Walls was not at the previous meeting and should be removed from attendees. With no other questions or comments he asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. Chief Shawn Schwertfeger made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. This was seconded by Chad Napier with all in favor and none opposed and the minutes were approved.

Agenda Items

Review and Finalize 2022 Law Enforcement Plan: Chad Napier provided a brief overview of findings from the Town Hall Meetings (THM), noting that approximately 150 individuals attended. He offered the following observations or conclusions:

- A need was identified by THM attendees to prioritize cross-training to law enforcement on self-care, stigma, and prevention. The subcommittee discussed this and determined no additional changes were needed in the plan and this will be accomplished in 2022. Examples of where training will occur are the Narcotic's Officer Association and Chiefs of Police Association which are expected to be virtual this year.
- A need was identified by THM attendees for law enforcement buy-in for programs being implemented. Chad noted that ODCP is working to hire a retired law enforcement officer to work with law enforcement as well. They will also support this. No changes to the plan were made.
- Feedback was received from the THM that law enforcement is 'stretched too thin' which the subcommittee was in agreement with. No changes made to the plan.

- Regarding ODMAPs the THM provided evidence that there are many misperceptions about ODMAPs and its function. If recommendations are developed they can be provided to AHIDTA only.

Additional Discussion:

- Chad then asked if anyone in attendance had any additional observations or take aways from the THM. Deb Koester offered that there was a lot of positive support for Handle With Care. Justin offered that more education is needed around the Angel Initiative. It was also noted that updates from work on the COSSAP grant activities can also be shared at future meetings if helpful.
- Discussion then turned to legislative issues, including stiffer penalties needed for individuals who are convicted felons with possession of a firearm (i.e., violent offenders) as a priority. Deb Koester offered that there are possible legislative/policy pieces being reviewed by the Courts & Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee and suggested Chad Napier connect with Stephanie Thornton. .
- Chad then asked Andrea Darr to provide an update on Handle With Care. She discussed a pilot with 6 schools in Berkeley Co with SRI doing the evaluation, monthly Zoom meetings for WV and outside of WV, and an upcoming presentation at the Annual Governor's Conference the end of this month.

Next Steps: There was consensus among the Subcommittee members that no changes to the plan were needed following the Town Hall Meeting. Chad noted the next meeting to be February 8th when the Subcommittee would review Quarters 3 and 4 progress for the 2021 Plan.

Adjournment

As there was no additional discussion, Chad Napier, Chair, closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. The subcommittee will meet again in February.