



**WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF
DRUG CONTROL POLICY**
WV Department of Health & Human Resources

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment September 20, 2022

Attendees:

Brian A. Gallagher, Yolanda Sowards, Melanie Purkey, Tom Joyce, Dr. James Berry, Greg Duckworth, CPT Watson, Brittany, WVNG, Beverly Sharp, Justin Smith, Matt Harvey, Amy Saunders, Sheila Reynolds, Carly Glover, Kim Tieman, Dr. Hyla Harvey, Rachel Thaxton, Tim Czaja, Nick Stuchell, Jeff Sandy, Jeremiah Samples, Delegate Amy Summers, Gary Krushansky, Jon Dower, Dr. Matthew Christiansen, Dr. Emma Eggleston, Dr. Stephen Petransy, Stephanie Thornton, Dina Williams, Jostin Holmes, Williams Marshall, III, Jessica Smith, Dora Stutler, Dr. Garret Moran, Dr. Stefan Maxwell, Dr. Cynthia Persoly, Dr. James Berry, Chad Napier, Jonathan Board, Dr. Michael Kilkenny,

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at p.m. on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 by the Chair. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference.

Agenda Items

Intro and welcome - Chairman Brian Gallagher

The Chair welcomed the attendees and new members of the Council.

Approval of Minutes of February 1, 2023, Meeting - Chairman Brian Gallagher

The Chair noted one clerical change to the February 1, 2023 minutes: Kim Tieman moved and Dr. Becker seconded the approval of the minutes. With that change, the Chair entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 1, 2023 meeting. Dr. Maxwell moved the approval and Kim Tieman seconded the motion. The motion carried without further discussion.

Introduction of new Cabinet Secretaries: Sherri Young, D.O., MBA, FFAFP, Interim DHHR Cabinet Secretary and Incoming Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health; Cynthia Persily, Ph.D., Incoming Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Human Services; and Michael Caruso, Incoming Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health Facilities

The new Cabinet Secretaries introduced themselves to the group and gave a brief review of their histories. Secretary Young spoke for Mr. Caruso in his absence.

Introduction of WV First Foundation Members

The Chair gave a brief overview of the WV First Foundation's make-up including the appointed members. The Chair also expressed the need for an in-person meeting in the future. The Chair opened the floor to the WV First Foundation members for self introductions.

Overview of Subcommittee charges by Subcommittee Chairs

Next the Chair invited the Subcommittee chairs to give an introduction of the activities of their respective Subcommittees.

ODCP Updates - Rachel Thaxton

ODCP gave an update on overdose deaths in West Virginia along with suspected causal substances. The Council also heard an update on preliminary findings of the Real-Time Drug Surveillance Study being performed by West Virginia University. In addition, the ODCP reported on results from Save-a-life Day, the Recovery Residence Task Force, Transportation Campaigns, QRT Summit and Recovery High School initiatives.

Agency SUD related updates - Various

Bureau for Behavioral Health – Commissioner Dawn Cottingham-Frohna

BBH was continuing to track the number of SUD beds by county and are maxed out in Wood and Cabell for the bed threshold. They had created a workgroup with OHFLAC, HCA and BBH to track beds according to legislative mandate. BBH had created a pilot stepdown SUD treatment unit for individuals committed through the mental hygiene located in Summersville. SOR was working to put mobile MAT clinics in rural communities.

Bureau for Public Health – Commissioner Matt Christiansen

BPH had been approved for another 5 years of the Overdose Data to Action Grant. Those funds will support QRTS and data sharing surrounding the same. The funding would also support morbidity and mortality surveillance through SUDORS to share quarterly. BOP for CSMP would also support ODMAP platform. BPH's HIV and HEPC elimination plan was published at the beginning of the year in collaboration with the Treatment and Recovery Subcommittees. The planning group would be transitioned to an action group for implementation. BPH had launched a state health assessment survey to identify priority areas in public health issues.

Bureau for Medical Services – Medical Director Hyla Harvey

BMS was continuing to cover MAT for members. They were covering 9,000 individuals a month for MAT (predominantly oral suboxone or injectable subcode). They were spending 2.4 million dollars a month. They were also in negotiations with CMS for the 1115 waiver for additional SUD services. They expected a response by March of 2024.

2024 Planning & Town Hall Meeting Summary – Carly Glover, Marshall University

Carly Gover of Marshall University reviewed the statistics from the recent Governor's Council Town Hall Meetings.

Review and approval of Q1 and Q2 reports – Carly Glover, Marshall University

Carly Glover also shared the draft Q1 and Q2 progress reports with the Council.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the Q1 report. Lyn O'Connell moved the approval seconded by Dr. Maxwell. The motion carried without further discussion.

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the Q2 report. Kim Tieman moved the approval seconded by Amy Saunders. The motion carried without further discussion.

Ideas for upcoming legislative session - Chairman Brian Gallagher

The Chair asked for any ideas for the legislative session. Dr. O'Connell advanced rolling back the OTP moratorium. Tobacco 21 should be reviewed. Looking at improving language and focus of recommendations. Including Xylazine and all other test strips from drug paraphernalia was advanced by Director Thaxton. Deputy Secretary Mullins pointed out that when Xylazine was scheduled, the test strips inadvertently became paraphernalia. Clean up legislation on WVARR was suggested by Beverly Sharp. Discussion was had on this topic.

Adjournment

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Tieman DowerBerry moved and Council Member Becker seconded the motion. The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.