

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment August 12, 2020

Attendees: Luke Yingling, Marcus Hopkins, Gary Krushansky, Robert Hansen, Dora Radford, Rachel Thaxton, Brian Gallagher, Dr. Kilkenny, Justin Smith, Dr. Boisvert, Commissioner Mullins, Amanda Morgan, Commissioner Jividen, Heather McDaniel, Amy Saunders, Dr. Becker, Toni Young, Kim Tieman, Nick Stuchell, Dr. Berry, Secretary Crouch, Jessica Smith, Dr. Petrany, Melanie Purkey, Deborah Koester and KC Bohrer.

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at 3:01 p.m. on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 by Chairperson Gallagher. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference.

Approval of Minutes

The Council approved the minutes of the previous meeting without amendment as moved by Council member Boisvert and seconded by Secretary Crouch.

Agenda Items

Discussion of unofficial increase in overdose deaths during pandemic

West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) Director, Robert Hansen sponsored a discussion about unofficial reports of increased overdose around the State. Both Council members Berry and Kilkenny confirmed the reports of increase.

Council member Becker discussed options to gather more specific data.

Council member Kilkenny felt less available face-to-face intervention at harm reduction sites and few referrals to treatment due to its face-to-face nature are contributing factors to the increase in overdoses.

Council member Kilkenny went on to discuss the legitimacy of COVID restrictions but expressed that it has been difficult to find a balance in the wake of the pandemic.

ODCP has been working on naloxone distribution to help address the increase in overdose deaths. Several projects and initiatives are underway including but not limited to:

- Save-A-Life Day planned for September 2 - This is an event planned for Kanawha and Putnam Counties to give out 1,000 naloxone kits.
- ODCP has been sponsoring focus group meetings in counties with reported high rates of overdose. Participation in these meetings has been very good.
- The Council felt it would also be beneficial to make efforts to get naloxone to recovery housing facilities.

Strategic Plan Update - 2nd Quarter Progress Report

Next the Council heard an overview and comparative progress report on the

West Virginia 2020-2022 Substance Use Response Plan (Strategic Plan) by Deborah Koester. In addition to the items in the report, there are efforts underway for strategic plans on prevention and tobacco.

Chairperson Gallagher clarified for the Council the color-coding system used for the report.

Costing the Strategic Plan

The Council next heard an overview of the report on funding (Costing) the Strategic Plan by Luke Yingling. This report was created by converting Key Performance Indicators (KPI) to line-items in a budget-like format. Chairperson Gallagher added that funding is mostly complete but is only enough to fund the projects with no extra.

Updates

- Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP)
 - Shatterproof - The initial Shatterproof platform was unveiled in the media and has been well received. The Shatterproof advisory council meets Friday.
 - Connections app - DHHR meets with them on a bi-weekly basis. The number of consumers and providers utilizing the app is increasing. There are now 40 providers with a goal of 45.
 - Supreme court expansion of Family Treatment Courts - There are five Family Treatment Court now; ODCP will help start 6 more over the next year.
 - Dr. Rawson trainings on stimulants and contingency management - The next step on this project is for Dr. Rawson to train 6 providers who will then become trainers. Over 350 signed up for Dr. Rawson's last training.
 - Housing Conference - This event is set for September 28 and 29. The goal is to engage people throughout the state interested in opening recovery residences. This conference is planning for a day and half and will include discussion of funding sources.
 - ODCP released its semi-annual report to the Legislature.
- Bureau for Public Health (BPH)
 - Secretary Crouch is to talk about SUD issues during the pandemic at the Governor's Press Conference next week.
- Bureau of Behavioral Health (BBH)
 - Commissioner Mullins thanked Robert Hansen for his assistance during the pandemic.
 - BBH is moving forward with tobacco program inspections despite the FDA suspending inspections at the federal level.
 - BBH released several Announcements of Funding Availability (AFA); all but one has closed. The final AFA for Quick Response Teams (QRT) closes in two days. The AFAs were for Peer Recovery, State Opioid Response (SOR) community integration, SOR intensive outpatient services for youth, QRT and Collegiate Recovery. More AFAs are planning for Ryan brown funds in next 30 -45 days. BBH has submitted its request for a no-cost extension. The 1-877 Help line has been added to the daily Governor's Press conference.
- Bureau for Medical Services (BMS)
 - Most Medicaid SUD service programs are moving along including MOMS and SUD 115 waiver.
 - Several states wanted West Virginia to do a panel presentation on how to get agencies to work together.

- At the end of the month Cynthia Parsons will give a presentation to Oregon Med.

Council updates

Dr. Coben has resigned from council and Melanie Purkey will be Clay Burch's permanent designee to the Council. Mike Stuart has also left. Amy Saunders and Melanie Pukey will now be co-chairs of the Prevention Subcommittee. Dr. Garrett Moran will take Dr. Cobin's place as a full council member.

Department of Education

- DOE has been working with DHHR to develop metrics to enable strategic school closures as opposed to a statewide closure
- The newly appointed superintendent wants kids in school as much as possible.
- DOE has applied for a competitive grant for CARES
- September is a blackout period for new programs to allow stabilization in the wake of COVID.

Subcommittees

All three subcommittees have been meeting regularly. The public education team is planning a 4-hour session to home in on strategies to address stigma. They will work with a survey developed by Dr. Lyn O'Connell that has been distributed to collection baseline info.

Establishment of Recovery Subcommittee

The Implementation subcommittee decided to assemble a subcommittee comprised of individuals in recovery. Council member Matt Boggs will chair the new subcommittee with the assistance and Rachel Thaxton, Assistant Director of ODCP. The subcommittee will be comprised of up to 14 members and include 1 person from each of the seven Ryan brown regions with the other 7 members being from the community at large. The intent is to assemble diverse cross section of individuals in recovery. Commissioner Jividen suggested inclusion of individual in recovery who have exited incarceration and the Chairperson Gallagher agreed. The Chair went on to suggest that the subcommittee be comprised of 15 individuals to avoid any conflicts in the voting process.

The formation of the Recovery Subcommittee was unanimously adopted by the Council.

Potential legislative agenda for 2021

The Council discussed potentially addressing the current moratorium on Methadone clinics with the Legislature. Chairperson Gallagher felt a grass roots effort to turn around stigma to help advance this proposal. Another way to get the intended would be expanding licensing to get mobile units in lieu of lifting the moratorium.

Subpoena Update

Council in this action are in the process of conducting depositions

Hearing no other business, the Chair entertained a Motion to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 4:11 p.m.