

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment November 18, 2020

Attendees: Brian Gallagher, Dora Radford, Thomas Plymale, Dr. Koester, Jessica Smith, Matt Boggs, Heather McDaniel, Justin Smith, Betsy Jividen, Nick Stuchell, Rachel Thaxton, Kim Tieman, Gary Krushansky, Dr. Moran, Dr. Becker, Dr. Christiansen, Melanie Purkey, Dr. Kilkenny, Secretary Crouch, Craig Boisvert, Secretary Sandy, Commissioner Jividen, Commissioner Mullins

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, November 18, 2020 by Chairperson Gallagher. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously without change as moved by Councilperson Plymale and seconded by Councilperson Tieman.

Agenda Items:

Chairperson Gallagher introduced the new Director of the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP), Dr. Matthew Christiansen.

The Council next heard a presentation by Justin Smith and Dr. Deborah Koester on WV Overdose Fatalities.

Secretary Sandy of the Department of Homeland Security requested a conference with Mr. Smith to compare data to ensure accuracy and continuity of reporting. Councilmember Kilkenny and Councilmember Tieman emphasized the need to avoid stigmatizing conclusions and language in data interpretation. A discussion was also had around mechanisms to track repeat encounters in the data.

The Council next heard a presentation by Dr. Koester of Marshall University with Subcommittee Chairs' presentations on their respective portions of the State's Strategic Plan. Chairperson Gallagher asked that steps be taken to include any Governmental stakeholders focusing on those not directly represented on the Council. The draft review was prepared for the town hall meetings and will be up for review by Friday. The draft will be available online for those who cannot attend during the meeting time.

Finally, the Council reviewed the draft timeline presented with the meeting attachments.

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the document. Subsequently, Dr. Becker made a motion that was seconded by Dr. Berry. The document was adopted without further discussion.

The Council went on to discuss items on pandemic response.
Presentation on Naloxone vending machines by Matt Boggs

Track B exchange in Southern Nevada sponsors these machines and runs a full-service harm reduction clinic. They began purchasing and placing naloxone vending machines due to lack of naloxone access after hours, in addition to other barriers such as lack of insurance coverage. Nevada Division of public and behavioral health found it easier to sponsor the machines through HIV prevention funds than SUD funds. Each machine costs around \$7,500-\$10,000 per machine. Machines are placed near Emergency Rooms and other places that operate 24-7. Dr. Christiansen suggested adding a linkage to treatment. Dr. Berry asked about push back or failures in placement. Machines were deliberately placed to try to avoid areas where there would be pushback. The naloxone is free and paid for through county revenue funds.

A discussion was had on approaching the Governor's office about this idea. This idea was wholly supported by the recovery task team and very much needed. The Chair will bring this up with the Governor's Office.

Presentation on Public Service Announcements (PSA) by Dr. Becker

The Council next discussed developing PSAs talking about the good Samaritan law, among other topics. Evidence shows that PSAs are more effective when focused on a specific message—getting information out to the public on all available options.

Also, sharing some of the successes on the State level could be useful.

Discussion of Fentanyl test strips

Harm Reduction programs are distributing fentanyl test strips through Quick Response Teams. No data on outcomes is available to share yet. This concept should be researched and brought back to Council. After discussing the pros and cons, the consensus was overwhelming in supporting test strips as a potential life-saving mechanism because the benefits outweigh the risk. There was a high interest in targeting methamphetamine users.

Councilperson Tieman moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Councilperson Berry seconded this. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.