

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment December 16, 2020

Attendees: Thomas Plymale, Dr. Berry, Steven Koehler, Jessica Smith, Brian Gallagher, Craig Boisvert, Dr. Christiansen, Nicholas Stuchell, Dr. Becker, Melanie Purkey, Justin Smith, Kim Tieman, Secretary Sandy, Christina Mullins, Amy Saunders,

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 by Chairperson Gallagher. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Boisvert moved, seconded by Councilmember Tieman, to approve the Minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

Review of proposed solutions for overdose trends

The discussion on virtual holidays was tabled due to timing.

Chairperson Gallagher was to discuss naloxone vending machines with the Governor's office.

Councilmember Becker had investigated the use of public service announcements (PSA). He was to assemble a small committee to garner input from the Council's Recovery Subcommittee and others experienced in creating PSAs.

Dr. Christiansen presented a brief on fentanyl test strips to the Council. The Council discussed the pros and cons of this initiative and ultimately concluded to take no further action.

Agency updates

Bureau for Behavioral Health reported the release of several Announcements of Funding Availability (AFA). An AFA was issued for renovations of recovery residences, and several proposals were submitted. AFAs for expansion of recovery residences and workforce training was still open. The Bureau will begin a treatment bed census survey next year.

The report from Bureau for Public Health was deferred.

Bureau for Medical Services reported on the status of the Maternal Opioid Misuse grant rollout. An agreement had been reached with the MCOs, who were reportedly enthusiastic about the project. The three insurers were collaborating to ensure a smooth rollout. Councilperson Becker brought up public concerns surrounding IV drug users with infections such as myocarditis and who require prolonged treatment. While hospitalized, these individuals are not receiving SUD treatment. Residential treatment facilities will not accept these patients since most require IV

antibiotics. Lastly, Councilperson Becker suggested that the Council hear a presentation from Bureau for Medical Services on the SUD 1115 Medicaid waiver.

Chairperson Gallagher was to make arrangements to present the SUD 1115 waiver heard by the Council.

Department of Homeland Security received complaints that recovery residences were bringing in individuals from outside the State.

DHHR had some knowledge of this issue but had little leverage to influence this practice.

Recovery homes and treatment centers are not regulated in the same way.

The Council went on to discuss certification of recovery residences. The Legislative Rule-Making Committee had reviewed the new recovery residence rules and removed references to Oxford homes. Councilperson Mullins expected more proposed legislation on recovery housing during the upcoming legislative session and advised the Council that it may need to respond to requests as those bills/rules emerge. Councilmember Tieman and Chairperson Gallagher were to review the recovery residence rules being considered and discuss the same with Councilmember Mullins.

Department of Education was still working on a selection of its subcommittee members and merging different strategic plans. They will meet after the holidays. The larger prevention steering team was still meeting regularly. Several prevention conferences were being planned for the spring.

Subcommittee Updates

The Implementation Subcommittee had been working to vet and incorporate the new KPIs that emerged from the Virtual Town Hall Meetings.

The Public Education Subcommittee had been working on a public service media campaign focusing on stimulant use disorder and the increased perception of overdose in the State. The Subcommittee was developing target groups and deliberating on the best messaging for each target group.

Two-Year Action Plan Timeline

The Council reviewed the Two-Year Action Plan Timeline and made no changes.

2021 Council Meetings schedule

The Council also reviewed the proposed schedule for 2021 Council meetings and made no changes.

Other Business

Councilperson Berry asked the Council to recommend that those with SUD be prioritized to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The Council discussed the recommendation and its potential benefit to those with SUD. Councilperson Sandy was to have Mr. Blackwood of his department contact Councilperson Berry on this recommendation.

Chairperson Gallagher asked that Council members give feedback and recommendations on the working of the Council to date. Comments and suggestions were to be given to Chairperson Gallagher and compiled by Dr. Christiansen.

Councilmember Berry moved, seconded by Councilmember Saunders, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.