

## **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee November 14, 2023, Approved**

### **Attendees:**

Brian Gallagher, Stephanie Bond, Gary Krushansky, Bradley McCoy, James Rowe, Justin Smith, Stephanie Thornton (co-chair)

### **Opening:**

Stephanie Thornton (co-chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Courts and Justice-Involved Populations Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order at on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum not was present to approve previous meeting minutes and it was tabled for the next meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to receive updates on the jail bill and finalize planning for the 2024 State Plan.

### **Agenda Items:**

#### **Update on Jail Bill (Bradley McCoy)**

- Bradley, associated with the COSAP grant under Dr. Deb Koester, introduced himself to subcommittee members.
- He discussed the implementation of LEAD teams in Mercer County and Raleigh County, where referrals are primarily post-arrest, and liaisons operate within the jail system at Southern Regional. The program works to identify of potential LEAD clients for treatment rather than incarceration. The information aligns with Strategy 2, KPI 3, advocating for the expansion of LEAD and other diversion opportunities promoting treatment.
- Jail bill meetings currently exclusive to Mercer County and Raleigh County, with other counties having PRSS liaisons visiting jails. However, only these two counties have LEAD teams providing specific case management at the jail level.
- Stephanie suggests exploring the effectiveness of implementing a jail navigator, similar to the Yellow Line Project, for LEAD. Bradley emphasizes the need for county-specific approaches, highlighting the individualized nature of LEAD teams across different backgrounds.

- Gary emphasizes that successful collaboration depends on county support for diversion efforts. Proposes facilitating collaboration in areas where LEAD programs overlap with jails.
- Bradley notes a lack of law enforcement collaboration and referrals at the first touchpoint in Raleigh County. They use the jail as a safety net to capture individuals in need of treatment.
- Gary highlights LEAD's evolution from a pre-arrest diversion program to a social and contact referral program, emphasizing its inclusivity. Prerequisites for entry are not being a current felon and not displaying hostility.
- Bradley stresses the need for better data collection on informal meetings among law enforcement officers that may be occurring in other counties discussing individuals who would benefit from treatment.
- Jail bill meetings have been ongoing for a year and a half, showing an overall decrease in jail bill costs over time. However, Bradley emphasizes the need for more detailed individual-level data. Discussion on potential data tracking, considering factors like the number of days spent in jail before diversion and the number of days saved from diversion. Acknowledgment of challenges, such as relying on others for accurate data entry and self-reporting.
- Stephanie mentions tracking preferred drug use in adult drug courts, prompting a discussion on whether the substance being used affects the effectiveness of treatment/diversion or if success is determined by addressing social determinants of health.
- Gary envisions LEAD serving as a bridge between pre-arrest/pre-incarceration/post-arrest/post-incarceration phases in 2024. Aiming for a warm handoff for individuals leaving jail, addressing housing, food, treatment, and case management.

## **2024 Planning**

- Goal 1, Strategy 1: Currently under discussion in a white paper, which is in the process of being sent to Dr. Amjad and will subsequently return to the subcommittee.
- Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 3: Stephanie highlights that a fatality review was conducted in 2016 by Dr. Gupta, and none has taken place since, marking it as a priority for 2024.
- Goal 1, Strategy 2: Gary points out that individuals using Sublocade/Subutex often face eligibility challenges for treatment programs due to already being engaged with a substance, creating a significant barrier that needs to be addressed.
- Goal 1, Strategy 3: Ensuring the judiciary has access to a comprehensive map of operational treatment providers within each region. A third KPI will be developed based on LEAD teams and jail bill meetings in counties supporting various options.
- Goal 1, Strategy 4: Reflecting feedback from THM to diminish stigma among law enforcement and courts. Emphasis on providing information for these individuals, incorporating anti-stigma presentations for judges, and planning training to support a more comprehensive approach and follow-up care for individuals with SUD. Collaboration with the public education subcommittee is suggested, and anti-stigma education will be integrated into the orientation for new judges in 2024.

- Goal 2, Strategy 1, KPI 1: The idea is to modify language in the expungement law, allowing for interpretation by judges regarding the permissibility of expungement in different circuits. Stephanie will oversee the modification process of KPI language.
- Goal 2: Justin proposes adding a strategy addressing transportation to mitigate gaps and barriers in this area.

**Additional Business:**

- Stephanie presented maps detailing counties with adult drug courts, day reporting centers, family treatment courts, and WVARR-certified recovery housing. This aligns with the gap analysis outlined in the 2023 plan, illustrating areas where alternative sentencing to treatment is lacking or inefficient. Stephanie suggests that the completion of these maps signifies the fulfillment of this KPI.

**Next Steps:**

- Stephanie will arrange a meeting with Gary, Bradley, and Deb Koester as a follow-up to LEAD program and tracking additional data needed.
- Stephanie will revise the 2024 plan and send it out to subcommittee members for review.

**Adjournment:**

Stephanne closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.