

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment July 14, 2021

Attendees:

- Virtually: Deborah Koester, Amy Saunders, Heather McDaniel, Justin Smith, Dr. Amjad, Steve Koehler, Tom Plymale, General Bill Crane, Secretary Sandy, Dr. Berry, Stephanie Thornton, Nicholas Stuchell, Matt Boggs, Linda Boyd, Joe Deegan, Kim Tieman, Garrett Moran, Clay Marsh and Jeremiah Samples.
- In person: Matt Christiansen, Rachel Thaxton, Dora Radford, Christina Mullins, Gary Krushansky, Jessica Smith, Dr. Becker, Phil Shimer, Brian Gallagher, and Secretary Crouch.

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 by Chairperson Gallagher. The meeting was conducted In-person and by Zoom conference. Roll was taken and quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Becker moved, seconded by Councilmember Berry, to approve the Minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

Statewide SUD updates

Bureau for Behavioral Health

Commissioner Mullins of Bureau for Behavioral Health gave the Council an update on its recent submission of proposed projects for SAMHSA block grant funds, including but limited to:

- Increasing Expanded School Mental Health (ESMH) projects to include six more counties.
- Hiring an Intervention Trainer position with the West Virginia State Police to address:
 - Mental health
 - De-escalation training
- Enhancing the Help&HopeWV website
- Boosting mobile response, including first time psychotic mobile response
- Launching mental health urgent care sites
- Improving prevention programs

- Developing a marijuana prevention campaign in schools
- Funding PRSS centers
- Working with QRTs to do MAT, provide naloxone, and address veterans
- Developing of PRSS workforce training hub
- Establishing Recovery Community Organizations (RCO)
- Covering gap in Medicaid funding with PRSS and
- Adding the COR-12 program to two Comprehensive Behavioral Health Centers

Bureau for Public Health

Next, Dr. Ayne Amjad updated the Council on the current activities at Bureau for Public Health including, but limited to:

- Working with the West Virginia Board of Medicine on the HALO project
- Working with Department of Corrections on naloxone distribution and continuation of care after release and
- Addressing school-based prevention for marijuana

Dr. Amjad also reported that there were 70-80 in-state providers for the medical marijuana program. This metric reflected both in-person and online providers.

Bureau for Medical Services

Dr. Becker discussed activities at Bureau for Medical Services.

Telehealth had been successful. As a result, Medicaid would continue to fund that service well into the future and would include audio telehealth.

The Council discussed the new extended-release buprenorphine products and the new product coming onto the market in November. The new medications may help mitigate of the costs associated with long-acting buprenorphine products.

The Council also discussed the logistics of switching from the injectable long-acting MAT medications to the once daily sublingual MAT medications.

Department of Homeland Security

Cabinet Secretary Sandy of Department of Homeland Security updated the Council on its Narcotics Intelligence Unit. Governor Justice created this unit on May 28, 2020. The Narcotics Intelligence Unit had hired forensic computer specialists and accountants. These specialists had been instrumental in investigations within the State.

Department of Education

Amy Saunders of Department of Education reported that the AWARE grant had kicked off. Those funds were to be used to support Expanded School-Based Mental Health sites along with other

projects. In addition, Department of Education had submitted for another grant to increase those same services but had not yet received a response.

Status of progress on the Strategic Plan

Deborah Koester of Marshall University gave the Council an update on the current progress of implementing the Council's Strategic Plan. Dr. Koester recommended that the Council follow the same process for reviewing the plan as they had followed the previous year.

Year Three Strategic Planning

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on year three of the strategic plan. He advised that the Council, with the help of the Subcommittees, review the plan to re-assess and reprioritize its contents. As before, the public would be asked to review the recommendations. The Chair also recommended costing the Plan. The Chair wanted to have a half-day, in-person meeting prior to the end of the year for these activities in support of the Plan.

Councilmember Marsh opened a discussion on leveraging existing assets. The Chair discussed utilizing the hub and spoke model where communication channels and coordination are emphasized. The Council also discussed regional coordinators. Delegation of work was discussed as well.

Recovery Subcommittee Plan

Council member Boggs presented the Council with an overview of the Recovery Community Subcommittee's Strategic Plan. Council members expressed support and suggested additional existing projects for inclusion in the Plan.

Recovery to Work Programs

The Chair gave the Council an overview and objective of recovery to work programs. Had encountered a lot of support for this idea and was developing a planning group to look at this model. Existing national models could be adapted to respond to this need. The planning group would be examining skill development opportunities including apprenticeships programs.

Deputy Secretary Samples advised the Chair to review the contents of Executive Order 1921 to avoid any duplication of efforts. General Counsel for ODCP provided a link to the Order in the Zoom chat.

Other business

Marshall had been working with DHHR to develop a Behavioral Health Workforce Training Center. The collaborative was building multiple trainings to be given virtually. CEUs would also be offered. The project was conducting focus groups in each region of the State. Councilmember Saunders asked that members of the Council help share this information.

Adjournment

Secretary Crouch moved, seconded by Councilmember Tieman, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.