

# Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Law Enforcement Subcommittee February 13, 2024, Approved

## Attendees:

Misty Atkins, Adam Crawford, Gary Krushansky, William Prue, Shawn Schwertfeger (chair), Justin Smith, Dina Williams

## Opening:

Shawn Schwertfeger (chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Law Enforcement Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve October and December meeting minutes. Adam made the motion for approval and Shawn seconded the minutes. The purpose of this meeting was to review 2024 implementation planning for the State Plan.

## Agenda Items:

### 2024 Implementation Planning

#### Goal 1

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Shawn discussed organizing introductory training sessions for law enforcement officers on how to respond to overdoses, covering all types of situations, with a focus on identifying key signs and incorporating harm and stigma reduction strategies, akin to the approach used in sexual assault and violent crime incidents. Justin mentioned that he and Rachel were slated to attend a basic training at the state police academy, but their session was canceled due to scheduling conflicts at the shooting range, though a rescheduling is anticipated. Gary pointed out that efforts to launch this program have faced challenges over the last two to three years, highlighting that Shawn has a chance to advance its development. Justin shared that BBH has secured a grant aimed at stigma reduction training similar to the police and peers initiative, and he offered to provide Shawn with the director's contact information to facilitate further collaboration.

#### Goal 3

- Strategy 3, KPI 1: Justin observed that overdose incidents have traditionally been communicated through broad messaging systems. However, he pointed out that law enforcement isn't always sent out to these incidents. He mentioned initiating collaboration with EMS to address overdoses, with responses based on run sheets within 24 hours. Nonetheless, a software update last year led to challenges in extracting data, causing some information gaps. Despite these issues, progress has been made, and there's an effort to update the data for the past four to five months.

- Strategy 3, KPI 2: Justin reported that the fusion center can access overdose mapping tools, which they actively utilize for monitoring purposes.

#### Goal 4

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Misty mentioned that a reboot training is planned for August in the Fairmont area, and she is also contacting Clay County and other leaders to identify those in need of this reboot training. She highlighted the launch of a new alert system to inform them about the program. Gary, Jostin, and Rachel plan to discuss the CORE data, which includes statistics for the LEAD program, within the next two weeks. They are exploring the possibility of setting up an automatic notification system to alert schools when children are involved in incidents, aiming to establish it as a safeguard in cases where officers might not be engaged. An update on this will be provided in the next meeting.
- Strategy 1, KPI 2: Misty announced that the Handle With Care Conference is scheduled for October 14, 2024, following its success last year. She believes the conference will offer a wide range of training sessions relevant to this KPI's targets. Shawn expressed concern over the insufficient number of law enforcement officers attending in recent years and is keen on increasing their participation this year.
- Strategy 1, KPI 3: Misty shared that they receive monthly reports from county coordinators to track the sources of referrals (law enforcement, school systems, etc.). Justin suggested that it would be beneficial to know the number of referrals per county at each subcommittee meeting. Misty noted that about half of the counties are reporting, with 12 counties consistently providing information. She raised a concern that while law enforcement officers might be completing notices, the coordinators might not be receiving the information properly.

#### **Additional Discussion**

- In efforts to expand the subcommittee, Shawn proposed adding two new members: Errol Randle, a retired officer from Charleston PD, whom he has attempted to contact without response so far, and Lata Menon from First Choice Services/Crisis Intervention Training, who has expressed interest in joining. Efforts will be made to officially invite both to the subcommittee.
- Dina provided an update on the Angel Initiative, noting significant developments since July of this year. Sgt. Kevin Williams has been integrated with QRT services and spike alert systems. Following a meeting with Lata, they are considering revisions to their policies. Kevin has also acquired a mobile unit and is exploring the purchase of a trailer to be branded and taken to festivals statewide. Over the last quarter, the initiative has led to 10 referrals and 3 individuals completing crisis training. Dina encouraged anyone seeking more information about the Angel Initiative to reach out to her.

#### **Adjournment:**

Shawn closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.