

# **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Law Enforcement Subcommittee March 12, 2024, Approved**

## **Attendees:**

Misty Atkins, Gary Krushansky, Lata Menton, Shawn Schwertfeger (chair), Yolanda Sowards, 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, March 12, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve February meeting minutes. Misty made the motion for approval and Gary 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 plans to assemble a team to develop a training program and is looking to collaborate on this initiative. Yolanda has pointed out that BBH has released a SAMHSA grant this year, highlighting a training program at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. This program, focused on law enforcement training to combat stigma, aligns with the objectives of the subcommittee. Yolanda emphasized that the training schedule is flexible, accommodating participants' availability. Shawn believes that providing law enforcement officers with 8-hour training sessions and analytical resources is essential for their engagement. Lata shared her positive experience with a training session on emotional intelligence and unconscious bias, led by Errol Randall, which effectively addresses stigma reduction and proposed that these numbers could reach this KPI.
- Additionally, Yolanda suggested implementing a training program on xylazine for law enforcement personnel. She is coordinating with a network spanning several states to develop these training sessions.

#### **Goal 3**

- Strategy 3: Carly plans to contact Justin for updates on Goal 3. Shawn has observed that while smaller communities might find it challenging to keep track of this data, the initiative has generally been successful across the state.

#### Goal 4

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Misty has planned a refresh training session in Marion County for August and in Clay County for July, which aims to achieve this objective. Shawn mentions that the subcommittee could support the implementation of this plan. Gary highlights a senate bill passed a few years back mandating drug education in middle and high schools, though it's unclear if a specific program is already operational. Shawn commits to identifying this program and further discussing its implementation with the team, as Gary is keen on developing a concept for broader application.
- Strategy 1, KPI 2: Misty confirms she has arranged the only previous training sessions. She will obtain registration figures from the Handle With Care conference to ensure this goal is met. Shawn suggests utilizing a 2-hour slot for the West Virginia Chiefs of Police, which could be advantageous. Lata, who responds to Help4WV inquiries, offers her assistance in coordinating the naloxone training and proposes providing trainers for the Handle With Care program.

#### **Additional Discussion**

- There is a CIT training scheduled for May 20th-24th, and Shawn will share the flyer once he has it. Attendance is free.
- Gary will provide an update regarding Kevin's involvement with the law enforcement subcommittee through the Angel Initiative.
- Lata mentions another CIT training in Charleston happening from June 3rd-7th, which will also be offered at no cost.

#### **Adjournment:**

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