

## **Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment November 17, 2021**

### **Attendees:**

Thomas Plymale, Dora Radford, Chad Napier, Steven Koehler, Justin Smith, Rachel Thaxton, Christina Mullins, Nick Stuchell, Matt Christiansen, Deb Koester, Jack Luikart, Brigadier General Crane, Amy Saunders, Lyn O'Connell, Secretary Sandy, Betsy Jividen, Gary Krushansky, Brian Gallagher, Jessica Smith, Kim Tieman, Dr. Kilkenny, Dr. Berry

### **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at 3:05 p.m. on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 by Chairperson Gallagher. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference. Roll was taken and quorum was established.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Councilmember Gallagher entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting. Councilmember Saunders moved the acceptance, which was seconded by Councilmember Plymale. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Gallagher entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2021 meeting. Councilmember Tieman moved the acceptance, which was seconded by Councilmember Saunders. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Fusion Center - Jack Luikart, Director**

Jack Luikart of the Fusion center updated the Council on the activities of the Fusion center. The Fusion center had undertaken many activities related to narcotics and violent crime. They had created a data dashboard to help inform the Fusion Centers activities. Fusion Center was collaborating with DEA and FBI to supplement its data. The Council saw a map of the Fusion Center's narcotic intelligence. The ultimate goal was to be able to predict drug trends.

#### **ODCP updates - Matthew Christiansen, Director**

Director Christiansen discussed the recent media coverage of overdose trends.

Director Christiansen had reviewed President Biden's recommendations for naloxone. He did not find any significant gaps between his recommendations and the current state initiatives. He emphasized the goal of getting people who have been administered naloxone into treatment.

Director Christiansen went on to update the Council on recent activities at ODCP.

### **Agency SUD related updates - Various**

#### BBH

BBH had been working in partnership with BMS to roll out a robust loan repayment program. Please look at the website. These funds will be for the full spectrum of therapeutic services. BBH expects to have at least \$5 for the program. Funds will be available for all geographic areas of the state. BBH will be recruiting for this project.

Also in partnership with BMS, BBH was working on its Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers project. These centers would provide crisis mental health services, including mobile adult programs and mental health urgent care type programs. BBH will fund 13 centers initially to support quality and retention.

#### BPH

BPH had assembled its ACES workgroup.

#### BMS

BMS had begun its payment model for sublocade. They had not experienced significant barriers but it was too early for data. BMS had also been working with WVU on a treatment model for HEP-C.

#### DHS

DHS had facilitated several drug roundups recently in coordination with WVSP and other federal partners. They had also been working on drug take back programs.

#### Corrections

Corrections had also been implementing the new sublocade payment model in its facilities.

### **Recovery Corps status and next steps - Brian Gallagher, Chair**

The Chair discussed the evolution of the Recovery Corp model with several different tracks being considered. Next, the advisory group will begin budget planning and addressing staffing concerns.

### **Upcoming legislative session - Brian Gallagher, Chair**

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on issues for the upcoming legislative session. The Chair anticipated many budgeting discussions. The Council discussed an initiative using volunteer drivers for recovery transportation. Jobs & Hope was supporting legislation for reinstatement of driver's licenses. The Chair asked that Council members who think of issues for the upcoming session reach out to ODCP.

**Marijuana Study group updates and discussion - Brian Gallagher, Chair**

The Governor had endorsed this workgroup and members had been chosen.

The Chair asked any of those interested in volunteering for this group to contact ODCP. Council member Berry emphasized that education for youth, PPW, mental illness and suicide were paramount.

**Town Hall Meeting process and updates - Deborah Koester**

Dr. Koester updated the Council on the progress of the Town Hall Meeting. Thus far there has been good participation and turnout. Council members who want to participate are welcome to join.

**Next year's meeting schedule**

The Council resolved to keep the same bi-monthly meeting schedule for next year starting in January. The Council will endeavor to begin meeting in person after the legislative session.