



**WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF
DRUG CONTROL POLICY**
WV Department of Health & Human Resources

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment July 20, 2022

Attendees:

Yolanda Sowards, Dora Radford, Gary Krushansky, Deb Koester, Commissioner Jividen, MG Crane, Jon Dower, Jeremiah Samples, Justin Smith, Dr. Christiansen, Dr. Amjad, Dr. Becker, Dr. O'Connell, Rachel Thaxton, Christina Mullins, Carly Glover, Stephanie Thornton, Thomas Plymale, Greg Hoffman, Jostin Holmes, Dina Williams, Dr. Moran, Dr. Maxwell, Brian Gallagher

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 by the Chair. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting. Council Member Secretary Sandy moved the acceptance of the Minutes and Councilmember Plymale seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted.

Agenda Items

Office of Drug Control Policy updates – Dr. Matthew Christiansen, Director

Dr. Christiansen updated the group on the status of SUD data, initiatives and upcoming events.

Further discussion was had on the process for Recovery Residences that are denied certification. Those residences may not receive state funding or referrals. Depending on the reasons for denial, different residences will have different time periods to remediate issues.

Agency SUD related updates

BBH

WV 988 was launched over the weekend. Answer rates in the state were over 80%. The former suicide awareness line still works but 988 is been added. The priority is to grow crisis services. Working on walk-in or mental health crisis centers. BBH was negotiating with medicaid to submit state plan amendments. BBH was also focusing on the workforce. They were in the process of working on loan repayment program and professional developments.

BPH

BPH was continuing to work on EMS policies for naloxone. Forty-eight health departments did not take advantage of having naloxone. BPH has been talking with providers and conducting q & a sessions. They continued to collaborate with ODCP and BBH.

BMS

BMS was exploring options for other payment models for treatment of SUD. They were working on a state plan amendment for the same. They had been reviewing other states' models. The MCOs seem to be generally supportive of these initiatives. They were continuing to support requests for sublocade for selected individuals.

The center of excellence model is part of the discussion surrounding alternative payment models.

Dr. Becker is no longer the medical director at medicaid. However, he will remain for six months as an advisor and will remain on the Council.

DHS

Lobbyist Cam Huffman asked for a meeting and wants to discuss a new naloxone injector. Secretary Sandy was to have Dr. Amjad call him. Commissioner Mullins and DHHR were helping with a school safety program.

Corrections

The Council had additional discussions on sublocade candidacy issues. Council would like to connect with the medical contractor for corrections, Wexford Health for situational awareness.

Education

No new updates

Other

Chair updates - The opioid lawsuit decision was to be appealed. A summary article could be found in the Beckley Register Herald. The other suits were still pending,

Almost half a billion dollars were now in the settlement fund. Attorney General Morrisy has endorsed The Council's plan. The Chair advised talking and thinking about the sustainability of how to move forward with this.

Dr. Christiansen and the Chair had asked Dr. Becker to chair a special subcommittee to look at how to sustain funding for the tax initiatives that will hopefully come out of the settlement money. Dr. Becker will recommend and take volunteers for this special subcommittee. Jon Dower volunteered.

The Chair had formed a group in conjunction with SAMHSA related to stigma for pharmacists, physicians and other providers re: suboxone. The group was looking into treating suboxone as different from other scheduled medications. They were planning a 3-4 hour seminar at the end of September. The Chair asked the Council to share any ideas on materials for the seminar.

Updates on Strategic Plan process – Dr. Deborah Koester

The month of July subcommittees had been very active in working on reporting and analyzing the input from the Town Hall meetings. They were going to have a different focus prior to subcommittees doing their strategic planning to provide ahead of the next Council meeting. The feedback from the Town Hall Meetings would be used to focus on what strategies are the priorities.

Adjournment - Chair

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn.

Dr. Berry, moved to adjourn and Dr. O'Connell seconded the motion.

The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.