

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment January 19, 2022

Attendees:

Dr. Stefan Maxwell, Joseph Boczek, Andrea Darr, Dr. Christiansen, Linda Boyd, Rachel Thaxton, Dr. Berry, Betsy Jividen, Will Thompson, Nick Stuchell, Brain Gallagher, Sheila Reynolds, Dr. Kilkenny, Kim Tieman, Stephanie Thornton, Jon Dower, Dr. Koester, Dr. Becker, Amy Saunders, Secretary Sandy, Secretary Crouch, Thomas Plymale, Christina Mullins, Stephanie Thornton, Betsy Jividen,

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at 3:03 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19, 2022 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 November November 17, 2021 meeting. One change was noted that added Stephanie Thornton to the list of attendees. Council Member Kilkenny moved the acceptance with that change, which Council Member Tieman seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

Introduction of new members

The Chair introduced new Council Member Jon Dower who replaced Matt Boggs. In addition, Judge William Thompson had joined the Council.

Gamechangers - Joe Boczek

Joe Boczek of Game Changers presented the Council with an overview of this prevention program. Game Changers developed this p in conjunction with Hazelden Betty Ford. Mr. Boczek reviewed past and upcoming events of the program.

Handle with Care - Andrea Darr

Andrea Darr, Director of the West Virginia Center for Children's Justice, gave the Council an overview of the Handle with Care program. The program was developed from evidence-based work by The Trauma Learning Institute.

Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) updates - Dr. Matthew Christiansen, Director

Dr. Christiansen gave the Council an update on the activities at ODCP via powerpoint presentation.

Agency Substance Use Disorder (SUD) related updates - Various**Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH)**

BBH had been drafting its application for SAMSHA's harm reduction program grant. In addition, it had been developing its application for money to fund the 988 crisis line. Application periods for veterans recovery support, psychiatric urgent cares, and adult mobile crisis grants were now closed and in the process of review.

Bureau for Public Health (BPH)

BPH had been actively collaborating with ODCP and BBH on HIV and injection drug use plans.

Bureau for Medical Services (BMS)

BMS was continuing to emphasize Telehealth. Joy Burns was now in charge of telehealth policy throughout the state. BMS was also continuing to work on making Subclode more readily available. There had been 170 approvals for Subclode as of its last reporting cycle.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

DHS' drug tip line had been working to gather helpful information. The West Virginia State Police were continuing to lead drug task forces. The Fusion Center's recent project had resulted in several drug arrests. Based on this, DHS had entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with El Paso law enforcement to share information on drug offenders entering West Virginia. DHS was to brief both the Northern and Southern districts of West Virginia on this project. DHS was expecting legislation to be introduced to address fentanyl.

Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR)

DCR was working on implementing sublocade prescribing by providers within its facilities. DCR had included Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in its medical contract, currently in the bidding process. The GOALS units were going well. DCR would target Central Regional to be the next to receive a GOALS unit. DCR was continuing to enhance its treatment services for inmate populations with SUD.

Legislative session updates - Brian Gallagher, Chair

Despite a large volume of legislative activity, there had not been a high volume of bills addressing SUD (non-including marijuana). Bills had been introduced to: make it a crime to expose first responders to fentanyl, manage the Medicaid cliff effect, and develop a reentry task force. The Courts and Justice-Involved populations subcommittee had also been working to address reentry issues. BBH maintained a bill tracking list that could be shared with the Council.

Presentation of Cannabis workgroup updates and recommendations

Council Member Berry reviewed the Cannabis workgroup's draft document. Discussion was had on amending the document to amend item 11, second to last sentence, to add the specification of "cannabis-related problems." Council Member Tieman moved to accept the document as amended. Linda Boyd seconded and the motion was adopted.

Subcommittee report updates - Dr. Deborah Koester

Dr. Koester presented the group with an overview of the results of the Council's Town Hall meetings on its 2022 implementation plan.

Adjournment - Brian Gallagher, Chair

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Berry moved and Council Member Tieman seconded the motion. The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.