



Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment March 16, 2022

Attendees:

West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrissey, Dr. Deborah Koester, Thomas Plymale, Drema Hill, Sheila Reynolds, Heather McDaniel, Secretary Jeff Sandy, Chad Napier, Rachel Thaxton, Jostin Holmes, Dr. James Berry, Stephanie Thornton, Dr. James Becker, Nicholas Stuchell, Dr. Stephen Petran, Judge Williams Thompson, Dr. Garrett Moran, Beverly Sharp, Amy Saunders, Dr. Michael Kilkenny, Kimberly Tieman, Frank Hartman, Jon Dower, Justin Smith, Steve Koehler, Dina Williams, Lyn O'Connell, Gary Krushansky, Linda Boyd, Dr. Eggleston, Dr. Stefan Maxwell,

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, March 16, 2022 by the acting Chair, Dr. Matthew Christiansen. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference. Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting. Council Member Becker moved the acceptance, which Council Member Dower seconded. The motion was adopted.

Agenda Items

Special presentation - Attorney General Patrick Morrissey

Attorney General Patrick Morrissey gave the Council an overview of the plan for abatement of funds from opioid litigation settlements.

Discussion was had surrounding assurance of an equitable distribution of funds and the structure for payout. The payout structure would be re-assessed periodically based on an assessment of needs. The Board established under the abatement plan will decide this. There is discretion granted to the Board on percentage but some funds were guaranteed by the region. The funding Board would coordinate with existing projects to avoid duplication of effort. Attorney General Morrissey expected to use MOUs to collaborate on a quarterly and annual basis. AG Morrissey would also publish Q&As to address some of these issues. He would

collaborate with the Council on Developing FAQs. Attorney General Morrisey encouraged anyone with specific questions to reach out to his offices.

Discussion was also had on how the Council would interact with the Board. The Governor's Council would publicly support the abatements plan and collaborate with the Board.

Further discussion was had on:

- Concerns of overlapping programs/coverage jeopardizing the federal match that BMS receives.

- The recovery community being included on the abatement board

- Exclusion of harm reduction

The Council resolved to hold its endorsement until a workgroup could review the plan in depth. The Chair entertained a motion to provide feedback and convene a focus group to better address these concerns. Councilmember Berry moved the acceptance of this motion. Dr. Kilkenny seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

Office of Drug Control Policy updates by Dr. Christiansen

Dr. Christiansen updated the Council on the various activities of the agencies since the last meeting.

Agency Substance Use Disorder (SUD) related updates

Bureau for Behavioral Health (BBH)

BBH was working on AFAs for recovery residence unsolicited proposals and the Ryan Brown account. They were also reviewing the OTP reporting in legislative rule and working with medicaid to place patients from treatment facilities in the northern panhandle.

Bureau for Public Health (BPH)

Was working on getting more access to services.

Bureau for Medical Services (BMS)

BMS was tracking the utilization of sublocade for compliance and retention.

They were reworking the criteria for approval of treatment for HEP-C.

Discussion was had around a new injectable to reverse opiate called Nalorphine that was four times stronger than naloxone.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

Discussed SB 476 regarding enhanced penalties for importation of fentanyl into West Virginia and the role of the Council in this initiative.

SUD 2022 Legislative Session updates - Dr. Matthew Christiansen

- SB 419 - pilot pay for performance measure
- SB 449 - non-violent offense parole program
- SB 536 - controlled substance criminal offenses
- SB 582 - workforce resilience act
- HB 4020 - Reorganizes DHHR
- HB 4126 - DHHR rules for OTPs and SSPs
- HB 4373 - excludes FTS from drug paraphernalia
- HB 4377 - involuntary commitment

Meeting secretary shared the full bill tracking with the Council via email.

Updates on Year Two, Quarters Three and Four progress reporting - Dr. Deborah

Dr. Koester updated the Council on the progress of implementing the Strategic plan by powerpoint.

Updates on Year Three Action Plan - Dr. Deborah Koester

Dr. Koester reviewed the Year Three Action Plan with the Council. Councilmember Tieman moved the adoption of the plan. Councilmember Kilkenny seconded the motion. The motion was adopted.

Adjournment - Dr. Matthew Christiansen

The Chair entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Berry moved and Council Member Plymale seconded the motion. The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.