

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

Attendees:

Heather McDaniel, Dora Radford, Rachel Thaxton, Brian Gallagher, Chad Napier, Justin Smith, Steve Koehler, James Berry, Tom Plymale, Michael Kilkenny, Stephanie Thornton, Nick Stuchell, Matt Christiansen, Dr. Boisvert, Gary Krushansky, Jessica Smith, Logan Feingold, Betsy Jividen, Dr. Becker, Secretary Sandy, Secretary Crouch, Deb Koester and Kim Tieman.

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, March 17, 2021 by Chairperson Gallagher. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference. Roll was taken and quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Tieman moved, seconded by Councilmember Boisvert, to approve the Minutes of the February 3, 2021 meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Items

Statewide SUD updates

Justin Smith of the Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) presented the Council with an overview of SUD trends. The Council discussed communities that are not reflected in this data, e.g., Huntington, and using this data to correlate the effectiveness of naloxone distribution with declining overdose rates reflected in this data. Councilmember Kilkenny discussed the unreliability of the presented data in deriving correlations.

Next, Matthew Christiansen of ODCP gave an update on the status of current initiatives at ODCP. The Chair asked for clarification on the effectiveness of Naloxone distribution efforts. Dr. Christiansen explained how information is reported back. The data presented comes from the Board of Pharmacy. The data on kit usage is incomplete.

Subsequently, Rachel Thaxton of ODCP updated the Council on the Jobs & Hope program. The Chair asked for clarification on the data on employment versus graduation. The difference could be accounted for by employment as compared to career employment.

Update on Recovery Community Subcommittee

At this time, Rachel Thaxton of ODCP presented the Council with an update of the Recovery Community Subcommittee's activities. The Subcommittee had been convening meetings every

month. Further, the Subcommittee had been working on its section of the Strategic Plan, focusing on gaps in the current plan and prioritizing high-impact projects.

Legislative Update

The Chair gave the Council an update on legislative items that were actively progressing.

SB 1 et al. expanded the use of telemedicine and would potentially expand care.

SB 334 addressed Harm Reduction Programs and, more specifically, syringe services. This bill had passed out of the Senate. The consensus was that this bill if passed, will effectively end syringe services within the State. Councilmember Kilkenny further added that the belief that the bill as amended will enable these services to continue is erroneous. The Chair reinforced the Council's previous endorsement of syringe exchange as an evidence-based best practice and accepted within a community.

SB 387 extended the pilot drug screening program for Medicaid.

HB 2015 required boards of health rules to be approved by their respective county commissions. bill had passed out of the house

HB 2184 increased the penalties for exposing a public official to fentanyl.

HB 2262 exempted veterinarians from checking the PDMP.

HB 2634 is related to the treatment of chronic pain and clarifies the number of alternative therapy sessions approved by insurance companies.

HB 2918 made family drug courts permanent and expanded them to the entire State.

HB 3079 exempted recovery residencies from some requirements.

HB 3080 required BBH to certify recovery residences.

Four or five bills were expected to be introduced in committee the following week.

Agency Updates

DHHR

Bureau for Behavioral Health reported that it was recently awarded a grant for just over 11 million dollars. Seven million will be dedicated to SUD, with the remaining 4 million dedicated to mental health.

Bureau for Medical Services reported that to comply with federal reporting requirements, BMS now requires a diagnosis to be provided with every Vivitrol prescription. Next, BMS reported working on a more sophisticated database for MAT providers, including geographic analysis and cases by provider and outcomes in counties. BMS further reported a possible transition to use saliva testing in place of urine drug screens. BMS also reported having difficulties transferring patients with SUD-related infections to skilled nursing due to lack of MAT. It was also calculating the

impact of the potential removal of syringe exchange services on public health and care costs.

Councilmember Berry reported having success with saliva testing, which has helped support teleservices. Saliva testing had been carried at a point of care on camera.

The Chair discussed diagnoses being attached to prescriptions. Pharmacists did not see the diagnosis for a patient, which would need to be addressed to make the Vivitrol reporting project a success.

Department of Homeland Security, et al.

DCJS reported progress on post-COVID opening and unit management. DCJS had hired a MOUD coordinator, and they expected to become more efficient at tracking and progress.

Secretary Sandy of the Department of Homeland Security reported that all its facilities had gotten body scanners and used them with great success. DHS also reported seeing an increase in domestic violence during COVID.

Councilmember Jividen gave the Council an update on MAT being used in corrections. They expected to release an RFP soon to address MAT along with other items.

Councilmember Jividen was to update the Council with additional information as it becomes available.

Governor's Council Year 1 end of year report and Year 2 action plan

Deborah Koester of Marshall University provided the Council with an overview of the Year 1 report and Year 2 action plans. A final quarter One progress report for 2021 was to be presented at the next Council meeting.

Secretary Crouch provided the Council with general comments on progress at DHHR and emphasized the importance of the continued work of the Council.

Adjournment

Councilmember Tieman moved, seconded by Councilmember Jividen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.