

Meeting Minutes

Pregnant and Parenting Women Subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

May 10, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Michelle Akers, Janine Breyel, Rebecca Crowder, Brian Gallgher, Deb Koester, Nikki Lyttle, Stefan Maxwell (chair), Cody Smith, Amy

Opening:

Dr. Stefan Maxwell (chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Pregnant and Parenting Women Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on May 10, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve previous meeting minutes and they were tabled for next session. The purpose of the meeting was to review progress of the Pregnant and Parenting Women section of the State Plan.

Agenda:

2023 KPI Review:

Goal 1

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: The PRSI implementation has resulted in less than 50-60% compliance with form filling since its institution in 2012. The subcommittee aims to establish a standard procedure, but some providers fill out forms manually while others use an EHR and send it to DHHR. A response from Sharon Hill at DHHR suggested that the form only addressed alcohol and drug use, not specifically SUD screening, though Janine suspects she might not have been familiar with the form. In 2021, only 1.9% of women reported alcohol use, which increased to 2.1% in 2022, but other studies and Project WATCH data suggest a prevalence of at least 8-10% across the state. To identify non-compliant practices, the subcommittee plans to invite Dr. Didden or Dr. Jim Jeffries to a meeting for more detailed insights, which Deb will arrange for on May 30th.
- Strategy 1, KPI 2: Currently, 70% of the forms are faxed, and 30% are electronic. The goal is to transition all forms to electronic format. The maternal risk advisory committee oversees this transition, but there is no connected interface. Deb suggested exploring a pilot program, possibly at CMC, to observe and learn from their process.
- Methodology for determining reasons behind non-compliance: Amy pointed out a lack of concerted education on form completion practices. Janine noted that most questions on PRSI

are asked but not compiled in one place. Improving compliance with the PRSI is crucial to enhance screening and referrals to DFMB sites. The subcommittee aims to identify the percentage of women identified within the first trimester or initial visits, but Dr. Maxwell mentioned that most private OB/GYNs do not ask those questions and it is up the hospital at delivery.

- Previous incentivization strategies and potential penalties: Dr. Maxwell mentioned previous strategies of linking PRSI form completion to Medicaid reimbursement, while Aetna offers additional funding to providers for submitting completed PRSI forms directly to their office. However, it appears that these incentives may not be sufficient, and there is currently no penalty for not filling out the form.
- Strategy 1, KPI 4: Project WATCH's accuracy in detecting opioids is 75%, but compliance and accurate data for other drugs are lacking. The subcommittee decided to conduct a webinar to familiarize participants with the forms and related information. Dr. Maxwell recorded a webinar with Dr. Smith and plans to involve a nurse to create a peer-to-peer connection, thereby improving documentation. This initiative is marked as 75% completed.
- Strategy 1, KPI 3: Progress has not been made on this aspect. The subcommittee contemplates turning Dr. Maxwell's lecture on alcohol awareness for pregnant women into a webinar. Dr. Maxwell also stated that there exists a test for cord tissue which reveals alcohol exposure in infants approximately 3 weeks before birth that was positively received to be included for all infants as a suggestion to the newborn screening committee; however, screening for alcohol at birth poses legal concerns for providers. Michelle emphasizes the need for training providers in alcohol exposure and all SUD screening, as some ER nurses and other providers lack the appropriate approach to these sensitive questions.
- Strategy 2: The subcommittee plans to invite Kim and Bev from the Community Engagement Subcommittee to the next meeting to discuss housing efforts.

Adjournment:

Dr. Stefan Maxwell closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. The subcommittee will meet again in June.