



Meeting Minutes

Pregnant and Parenting Women Subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment December 12, 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Janine Breyel, Rebecca Crowder, David Didden, Bob Hansen, Nikki Lyttle, Stefan Maxwell (chair), Cody Smith

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 Tuesday, December 12, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve September and October meeting minutes. Rebecca made the motion for approval and Cody seconded the motion. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce Bob Hansen from the Housing Workgroup to discuss recovery housing for PPW and finalize the PPW section of the 2024 State Plan.

Agenda:

Guest Speaker, Bob Hansen (Housing Workgroup)

- Goal 1, Strategy 2 pertains to increase recovery housing for PPW. KPI 1 conducted mapping An evaluation is underway to monitor the status of recovery housing for women and women with children. Bob highlights that the housing workgroup's strategy for 2024 involves sustaining existing housing, expanding new housing, and specifically focusing on PPW in this effort. The aim is to identify gaps and establish recovery residences catering to this demographic.
- Bob emphasized in his recommendation to the governor that additional financial resources are crucial. Many WVARR-certified housing programs have opened without significant state support, making it imperative to secure funding to both maintain existing residences and facilitate expansion.
- Dr. Maxwell and Bob committed to ongoing communication and collaboration for the next year's plan.
- Nikki reported that for the state to allocate funds to any residences, they must be WVARR-certified. Unfortunately, startup funding cannot be provided for these groups. Certification requires meeting various standards and maintaining a specified occupancy rate for several months at 80% capacity. The legislation, though aimed at ensuring quality recovery homes, presents a barrier to initiating such homes. Nikki points out the need for legislative changes, but notes that the current legislation is recent. Providers receiving state funds are prohibited from referring patients to non-WVARR certified housing.
- Nikki adds that each county has a cap on the number of allowed recovery beds.

Review of 2024 Goals, Strategies, and KPIs

Goal 1

- Strategy 1, KPI 1: Initiate the creation and distribution of a survey targeting providers to comprehend the utilization of PRSI forms, as well as identify the barriers hindering completion for

those providers who are not utilizing the forms. Dr. Didden anticipates collaborating with OCMH to develop and validate the survey, validating perceptions with data, and pinpointing obstacles to PRSI implementation.

- Strategy 3: Proposes a campaign to educate providers and the PPW population on the risks of alcohol, particularly in the third trimester of pregnancy, to address fetal alcohol exposure. Rebecca acknowledges the challenges parents face in recognizing fetal alcohol exposure and providers' hesitancy to diagnose it. As a KPI, the plan includes disseminating an issue brief to providers on the incidence of infants exposed to alcohol in the last 4-6 weeks of pregnancy. Another KPI involves identifying potential funding sources to support an educational campaign. The discussion also involved the possibility of creating short video clips for display in doctor's office lobbies.

Next Steps:

- Dr. Maxwell, Dr. Koester, and Carly will collaborate to finalize the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for 2024 and distribute them for review by the subcommittee.

Adjournment:

Dr. Stefan Maxwell closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. Janine made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Rebecca seconded the motion. The subcommittee will meet again in the new year.