

Meeting Minutes

Pregnant and Parenting Women

Subcommittee of the Governor's Council on

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

February 28, 2024, Approved

Attendees:

Janine Breyel, Sandra Cline, Rebecca Crowder, David Didden, Amna Haque, Sharon Hill, Deb Koester, Stefan Maxwell (chair), Cody Smith, Amy Tolliver, Randy Venable, Sarah Young

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 Wednesday, February 28, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve October, November, December, and January meeting minutes. Randy made the motion for approval and Rebecca seconded the motion. The purpose of the meeting was to review 2024 implementation planning for the PPW section of the State Plan.

Agenda:

2024 Implementation Planning

Timeline of PRSI Survey (Strategy 1)

- Sharon Hill is awaiting the vital registration dataset and has a scheduled meeting this week for further discussions. She plans to combine this data with the Board of Pharmacy records to cross-reference mothers' drug histories with de-identified vital statistics to conduct regression analysis. The data matching process is expected to take a few days.
- The purpose of the regression analysis is to identify predictors for low and extremely low birth weights, with an eventual goal to integrate this with current PRSI data for a comprehensive longitudinal study. It's noted that PRSI currently covers only about half of all pregnancies in the state.
- Dr. Maxwell has initiated the process of distributing surveys to obstetricians to gather insights on PRSI usage, aiming to create a succinct one-page survey. The challenge lies in obtaining a complete list of providers but contact with ACOG West Virginia is underway to acquire this information. The effort is in collaboration with the maternal risk screening advisory council and the WV Perinatal Partnership.
- Sharon expresses concerns about the effectiveness of the survey if there are upcoming changes to the PRSI. It's suggested that the survey could help identify obstacles in completing and utilizing the PRSI, which could then guide potential modifications. There's also a discussion on tailoring survey questions differently for those who do versus do not complete PRSI reports.
- It's mentioned that the maternal risk screening advisory council and the perinatal partnership need to begin collaboration on developing the survey questions. Amy has committed to contacting Sharon to organize this initiative.

Residential Housing Facilities for Key Informant Interviews and Questions (Strategy 2)

- Rebecca elaborated that the treatment facilities are designed for mothers requiring in-patient care with structured programs, while recovery housing offers varying levels of care and additional support services to help maintain treatment success.
- The plan is to initially engage with a selection of 3-5 residential housing facilities through key informant interviews to steer the discussions. The interviews will explore various aspects such as referral sources, facility capacity, waitlist duration, patient residency duration, cost and payment responsibilities, and follow-up procedures post-discharge.
- There was a conversation about the potential development of a comprehensive guide or toolkit tailored for treatment and recovery residential housing, considering the necessary level of care, pregnancy status, and family size among other factors. Sandra mentioned that HELP4WV might already provide much of this information.
- Deb suggested identifying three facilities each for treatment and recovery to prepare specific questions for each category. Rebecca, Sandra, and Randy plan to collaborate with Deb to refine these questions, which will then be reviewed and progressed in the upcoming month.

Key Stakeholders – Listening Session on Methamphetamine/Polysubstance Use (Strategy 2)

- Dr. Dr. Maxwell highlighted the objective of conducting a listening session for individuals who use methamphetamines and other substances to better understand the challenges faced by newborns who are discharged without any visible symptoms, and the unknown outcomes for these infants post-discharge.
- The idea of implementing an intermediary step for monitoring these infants at a facility like Lily's Place was discussed, to ensure a safer transition before they go home. Rebecca emphasized the importance of disseminating information to align everyone with this concept, particularly making parents aware of potential symptoms to watch for, such as excessive sleepiness.
- The suggestion was made to organize a roundtable with a select group of people to brainstorm and discuss how to leverage the gathered information moving forward. Deb proposed structuring the conversation around three targeted questions, involving pediatricians, a Birth to Three representative, and individuals who visit the homes shortly after the babies are discharged.
- Dr. Didden plans to reach out to the Birth to Three program and home visitation services to involve relevant participants from these areas in addressing this issue, and the subcommittee will take next steps after receiving this feedback.

Funders for Educational Campaign (Strategy 3)

- Dr. Maxwell emphasized the objective of informing key stakeholders about the dangers associated with alcohol and other substance use.
- He mentioned a colleague who had previously launched an educational campaign, though the outcomes in terms of impact metrics were unclear. Dr. Maxwell is contemplating potential methods for measuring the success of similar initiatives, such as tracking video views, and received a quotation for a year-long campaign. He suggested that adopting a social media strategy could benefit the subcommittee in a similar vein.
- Deb proposed the idea of presenting this concept to Rachel and discussing it further at the upcoming main meeting of the Governor's Council in March.
- Dr. Didden highlighted the importance of adopting a social norming approach to ensure the messaging accurately communicates the risk without inadvertently suggesting that substance use is widespread. Dr. Didden mentioned he would provide the subcommittee with a contact from the Montana Institute, which specializes in this area of research and offers relevant training (<https://www.montanainstitute.com/trainings>).

Adjournment:

Dr. Stefan Maxwell closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. The subcommittee will meet again on Thursday March 21st at 10 am.