

Meeting Minutes

Pregnant and Parenting Women

Subcommittee of the Governor's Council on

Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

March 21, 2024, *Approved*

Attendees:

Rebecca Crowder, David Didden, Amna Haque, Nikki Lyttle, Stefan Maxwell (chair), Cody Smith, Randy Venable

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, March 21, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve February meeting minutes. Dr. Smith made the motion for approval and Randy seconded the motion. The purpose of the meeting was to receive updates on the polysubstance use meeting and review 2024 implementation planning for the State Plan.

Agenda:

3/15 Home Visitation/Birth to Three Polysubstance Use Call Discussion

- Jackie Newson and Regina Woodcock recently convened with Dr. Maxwell and colleagues to deliberate on the follow-up care of newborns who may have been exposed to polysubstance use, including observing for any symptoms post-discharge in the home. They are considering the establishment of step-down facilities, like Lily's Place, where families can transition after leaving the hospital to ensure they receive the necessary observation, counseling, and support to adequately care for their infant. The group also discussed addressing preventable issues such as infant mortality associated with co-sleeping dangers in this population.
- The group is exploring potential funding from the West Virginia First Foundation for these programs, given the challenges of securing standard reimbursement for such a specialized respite service. However, it aligns well with the mission of the OMCFH to develop programs into long-term, sustainable solutions that could eventually be supported by block grants or Medicaid.
- The success of this initiative hinges on obtaining parental consent and offering incentives to encourage participation in the step-down facility for monitoring purposes. Rebecca emphasized the importance of educating parents early on about the benefits of these programs and the resources, like car seats and cribs, that they would receive to support them at home.
- David is in the process of arranging a meeting with members of the WV First Foundation (Jonathan Board, Matt Harvey, Matthew Christiansen) to discuss funding for focus groups. These groups would engage parents with firsthand experience to gather insights on attracting more participants to these programs.

2024 Implementation Planning

Goal 1

- Strategy 1: The WV Perinatal Partnership has scheduled an executive meeting to create a survey for

OB providers focusing on the usage of the PRSI form. This effort is in coordination with Sharon Hill from OMFCH. Dr. Maxwell has contacted the WV ACOG chair, Dr. Dara Alif, to compile a thorough list of providers. Although they plan to acquire this list from the national ACOG, it has yet to be received. Additionally, Project WATCH is conducting an audit of the birth score forms.

- Strategy 3: Dr. Maxwell has initiated contact with Gabriel Chasnoff, known for his work in California, particularly for using social media campaigns to educate on various substances. However, assessing the effectiveness of these campaigns poses a challenge. Additionally, Dr. Maxwell has a meeting scheduled for 2 PM tomorrow with ADAPT West Virginia to explore positive community norms. After this meeting, they can discuss the best course of action to take in creating an educational campaign.

Adjournment:

Dr. Stefan Maxwell closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. The subcommittee will meet again on Friday, April 26th at 10 am.