

Meeting Minutes

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

June 25, 2024, Approved

Attendees:

Subcommittee Members: Sandra Cline, Caity Coyne, Dr. David Didden, Amna Haque, Sharon Hill, Corrine Lalama, Dr. Stefan Maxwell (chair), Cody Smith, Amy Tolliver, Randy Venable

Staff: Carly Glover, Bradley McCoy

Guest Attendees: Natalie Anderson, Dr. Andrew Holt

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 June 25, 2024, and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was not present to approve May meeting minutes. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business of the Subcommittee, including a presentation from guest speakers from Aegis Labs.

Agenda:

Presentation on Drug Testing by Aegis Labs

- Aegis Labs presented drug trends of polysubstance use that includes what is occurring during pregnancy and being tested for at obstetrics and gynecology appointments in West Virginia. CAMC is a confirmed user of Aegis Labs for testing. More sites will likely use them in the future to use enhanced testing to detect "designer drugs." Aegis Labs has built tests for drugs that do not show up in regular prescription drug screenings. Tests must be updated regularly to not give providers a false sense of security because the environment of drug use changes constantly, often faster than new tests can be made, approved, and distributed. Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) are designer drugs such as opioids and benzodiazepines which are popular now among users, but many are more familiar with older NPSs such as synthetic stimulants and synthetic cannabinoids. Their most concerning characteristic is that they are unpredictable. Counterfeit benzodiazepines are made to mimic alprazolam but can be mixed with fentanyl. The problem this creates is that opioid-naïve users who would only be seeking benzodiazepines have now gotten ahold of fentanyl and will potentially seek more deadly opioids in the future. Oxycodone 30 mg is also a very common counterfeit opioid. Aegis Labs began testing for Xylazine in April 2021 (very early in the national conversation about it) and was finding it immediately after they began testing. Medetomidine (a veterinary sedative that is also used for in-patient human procedures)

is also used with xylazine and opioids and has been found in West Virginia samples after they began testing for it in September 2023. Aegis Labs does all its testing on live patients with provider orders, so this does not include post-mortem tests. Nitazene is another popular synthetic opioid being used as opposed to fentanyl due to increases in fentanyl regulations. Designer benzodiazepines need more attention because they are less deadly; they are often overlooked but they do however cause other symptoms such as depression. Synthetic benzodiazepines are not detected in traditional drug screenings but are seen more often when submitted to more enhanced testing at Aegis Labs. Providers should also be aware of synthetic urine samples that can beat traditional prescription drug screens but are detected by enhanced testing.

2024 Quarter 2 Progress Report

- KPI Progress will be assessed Dr. Stefan Maxwell and provided to Carly and Bradley. This document will be circulated to the team this week for agreement and approval.
- Sharon Hill provided an update on Goal 1, Strategy 1, KPI 1. She has met with an advisory committee regarding the initial regression analysis regarding the PRSI. They are now going back to the initial regression analysis and differentiating the variable of pre-term delivery based on if it was medically induced or spontaneous. They are also looking at those they have data for who received no prenatal care at all.

2024 Plan: Mid-Year Check-In

- This agenda item was not discussed.

Facilitator Guide for Town Hall Meetings – Add Questions Pertaining to PPW

- Janine Breyel was not present for the meeting and Dr. Stefan Maxwell would like her input for what questions will be added to the Town Hall Meetings. These questions will be developed, discussed, and finalized at the next meeting on July 23, 2024.

Additional Discussion

- Amna Haque with the West Virginia Perinatal Partnership has edited and redistributed the Substance Use Disorder Screening Practices Survey to the group. They have been working to create an exhaustive list of obstetrics and gynecology providers in the state. After deciding who this survey will go to, it will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Adjournment:

Dr. Maxwell closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance. The subcommittee will meet again on July 23, 2024.