

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Prevention Subcommittee August, 17 2023, Approved

Attendees:

Tahnee Bryant, Christina Chill, Tammy Collins, Lori Garrett-Bumba, Carly Glover, Stephanie Hayes, Nancy Hoffman, Jostin Holmes, Melanie Purkey (co-chair), Amy Saunders (co-chair), Elizabeth Shahan, Nikki Tennis

Opening:

Melanie Purkey (co-chair) provided welcome and opening remarks of this meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Prevention Subcommittee. The meeting was called to order on Thursday, August 17, 2023 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve July meeting minutes. Tahnee made the motion to accept the minutes and Nancy seconded this motion. The meeting's objective was to review 2023 KPI progress of the Prevention section of the State Plan.

Agenda Items:

Town Hall Meeting:

- On August 15 and 16, Two Town Hall Meetings took place, with the subsequent sessions scheduled for August 23 and 31, spanning from 10 am to 12 pm.
- Feedback gleaned from the initial meetings, as shared by Tahnee, raised notable concerns. A prominent issue was the absence of robust local-level and school data, compounded by the reliance solely on federal funding rather than state-level support. There's a recognized need for more comprehensive and inclusive messaging strategies, with a particular emphasis on targeting youth and adolescents. The conversation also touched upon the requirement for youth-focused treatment strategies in cases of active addiction or SUDs. There's contemplation about engaging with boards of education to explore how data collection can be sensitively utilized to support initiatives.
- Amy highlighted the concept of connecting regional profiles with county-level data to a dedicated website that showcases evidence-based practices.

Prevention Clearinghouse:

- A link was shared by Nikki: <https://clearinghouse.helpandhopewv.org/>. Efforts are underway to craft a press release focusing on alcohol prevention, and this will also be referenced in upcoming BPH press releases.

2023 KPI Progress Updates:

Goal 1

- Recent discussions, as highlighted by Lori, centered on the organization of a meeting where 6 hours of training with a focus on addiction-related topics were reviewed. It was emphasized that the training title need not explicitly feature "addiction," but it must pertain to addiction, substances, chemical dependency, or NADAC-related themes. Lori intends to prepare a communication outlining these details for dissemination.
- Incorporating ethics into the realm of addiction, a policy update has been established for the acceptance of 6 hours of addiction ethics, encompassing substance use ethics or ethics courses accredited by NADAC.
- Policy adjustments have been introduced in the realm of education requirements: PS 2 still mandates a bachelor's degree in human services, while PS 1 has been moved to an associate's degree. The manual for PS 1 is undergoing revision and will attain final approval in the upcoming meeting. Once all details are finalized, a press release will be drafted to publicize these changes.
- Exploration is underway to introduce a prevention endorsement, not certification, which can be pursued without a degree. Additionally, consideration is being given to elevate the PRSS Supervision certification. This matter will be addressed at the ICRC fall meeting, aiming to develop a comprehensive framework.
- Regarding the prospect of a joint certification covering SUD and sexual violence, a correlation has been acknowledged, but the decision not to alter the existing certification stands. Instead, cross-training efforts will be initiated to address the interrelation between these areas, with no immediate plans to create a separate certification.

Goal 4

- Christina Chill, the Youth Tobacco Coordinator, shared plans for the introduction of the Catch My Breath curriculum into middle schools. Collaborations with the American Lung Association and Palatine Foundation have been established. The overarching aim is to implement this curriculum in one middle school per county across West Virginia, marking the first year of a three-year initiative. Meticulous preparations, including document creation and toolkit development, are ongoing to ensure comprehensive teacher support. Initial contacts with school principals have been initiated, with a decision to await responses post Labor Day. Allocation of implementation responsibilities across the state has been coordinated between the American Lung Association and Partners in Health.
- The curriculum entails a two-day program, spanning three hours each day, requiring classroom integration for up to 45 minutes over a course of four weeks. Pre- and post-evaluations are mandatory for teachers, along with data tracking to facilitate statewide assessments. Incentive

programs, tailored to school population, are being offered as part of the support provided to schools.

- In counties with larger educational districts where the need surpasses one middle school, waitlists will be established. A re-evaluation in January will determine the feasibility of extending the program beyond the initial school. Prior to the intensive training, schools on the waitlist will have access to the free version of the curriculum.
- Training sessions are scheduled for evenings, and some sessions are being considered for weekends, although the response from teachers is uncertain. The possibility of conducting these sessions on in-service days at schools as an alternative to other Continuing Education courses for teachers was suggested.
- Amy proposed that Foundation First funding could aid in supporting expansion needs and offered subcommittee assistance. Christina mentioned the potential of a \$200,000 grant, though its availability is projected for January. Elizabeth suggested that PLOs could allocate budget resources to support Catch My Breath in schools on the waitlist.
- A previous pilot project witnessed significant community engagement, prompting a desire to expand the program into communities and high schools.
- Christina committed to sending additional information to the subcommittee for further clarity.

Additional Discussion:

- Stephanie highlighted the ongoing efforts directed at enhancing county snapshot pages. Acknowledging that individuals might not be fully aware of all organizations operating within a county, she requested assistance from PLOs to gather updates for each county. These updates will be gathered through contacts established in each county.
- A briefing and technical assistance session for the West Virginia Certified Prevention Specialist application will take place on September 14th from 9 to 11 AM. To register, interested individuals are advised to email Dr. Tammy Collins at collins@marshall.edu.

Adjournment:

Amy closed the meeting by thanking all subcommittee members for their attendance and participation. The subcommittee will meet again in September.