

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Prevention Subcommittee February 15, 2024, Approved

Attendees:

Tahnee Bryant, Tammy Collins, Lori Garrett-Bumba, Stephanie Hayes, Nancy Hoffman, Jenny Lancaster, Melanie Purkey (co-chair), Gig Robinson, Amy Saunders (co-chair)

Opening:

Amy Saunders 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, February 15, 2024 and was conducted by Zoom conference. A quorum was present to approve January meeting minutes. Tahnee made a motion to approve the minutes and Melanie seconded the motion. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss Prevention Day and legislative updates, and review 2024 implementation planning for the State Plan.

Agenda Items:

Prevention Day

- Jenny reported that the final touches are being put on the exhibitor arrangement, which will be organized by region, with representatives from statewide organizations distributed throughout. She shared this plan with the subcommittee, highlighting the placement of various organizations for Prevention Day.
- The subcommittee proposed placing apples on the desks of senate and house members for better accessibility. Nancy agreed to investigate how legislative aides might assist with this task. Additionally, Jenny mentioned she would reorder the "prevention first" buttons to be included in the bags for legislators.
- Amy mentioned she attempted to contact Dr. Christiansen to involve First Foundation members, but hasn't received a response.
- Amy encouraged subcommittee members to nominate individuals as prevention champions to be honored this year.
- Jenny brought up an upcoming event on February 29th, from 6-7 PM, a "crossover day" discussion in Charleston to reflect on achievements and future plans. This event is open to all, and Jenny plans to promote it in her communications with Prevention Day participants.

Legislative Updates

- Amy asked for an update on the T21 bill, noting that there has been no progress.
- Tahnee mentioned that the legislation banning smoking in vehicles when a minor under 16 is present is advancing, along with SB 614, which allows teachers to remove students from the classroom if they are deemed a threat.

2024 Implementation Planning

Goal 1

- The next meeting will include an update from the Catch My Breath team regarding Goal 1.
- Tahnee observed that currently, their efforts are concentrated on middle schools, indicating a need to address gaps in elementary and high schools, and to identify some PLOs to target these areas.
- Amy mentioned that collaborating with CADCA for a virtual session could be beneficial.

Goal 2

- Strategy 3: The subcommittee plans to concentrate on developing and implementing a communications strategy for distribution in the following months.

Goal 3

- The efforts surrounding Prevention Day and the Prevention First website are expected to significantly contribute towards achieving the goal.
- Amy mentioned that they are conducting a survey in Cabell to explore potential uses for opioid settlement funds. This initiative has involved examining approaches in other states and prioritizing areas identified by the First Foundation. The survey aims to gather data that coalitions can utilize. Tammy added that they could make the findings accessible and generate reports for specific counties upon request. Amy emphasized that the survey is designed to prioritize areas distinctly and that she plans to share it with the subcommittee for their input.
- Additionally, Amy highlighted the importance of disseminating information about how other states are allocating prevention funds.

Additional Business

- Amy discussed the opportunity for states to submit applications to expand school-based mental health services through Medicaid. Tahnee and Rebecca are coordinating to arrange a meeting, which will likely involve collaboration with the state's Medicaid agency. Amy mentioned the possibility of providing grant writing assistance if needed. Nicholas, Raleigh, and Jefferson counties were identified as potential locations for pilot projects.
- Tahnee updated on the progress of the prevention education campaign. The initial focus is on introducing prevention providers and explaining how to reach them, followed by the launch of the "prevention works" website. This initiative will be communicated to the Public Education subcommittee, which is also rolling out its own educational campaign. Jenny added that PLOs are engaged in statewide messaging efforts, including organizing a basketball tournament.

- Amy indicated that the Governor's Council is in the process of forming a Youth Subcommittee and is seeking a volunteer from their group to participate. Amy plans to contact Elizabeth Shahan to serve as their representative on the Youth Subcommittee.

Adjournment:

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