

Meeting Minutes of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment July 17, 2024

Attendees:

Chief Shawn , Dora Radford, Stephanie Hayes, Amy Saunders, Rachel Thaxton, Dr. Young, Christina Mullins, Deborah Koester, Stefan Maxwell, Jim Becker, Nick Stuchell, Garrett Moran, Dina Williams, Michael Kilkenny, James Berry, Stephanie Thornton, Jeremiah Samples, Amber Blankenship, Bradley McCoy, Dan McCawley, Lrroie Smith, Jostin Holmes, Chessie Short, Yolanda Soward, Keith King, Garret Moran, Amber Blankenship, Jessica Smith, Lyn O'Connell, Robert Cunningham, Jon Dower, Andrew Neely, Travis Nesbitt, Linda Boyd

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Governor's Council on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment was called to order at 3:02 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17, 2024 by the Acting Chair, Dr. Sherri Young. The meeting was conducted by Zoom conference. Quorum was established.

Agenda Items:

Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2024 Meeting

The Chair entertained a motion to approve the May 15, 2024 meeting minutes. Amy Saunders moved the approval and Dr. Becker seconded. The motion carried by unanimous consent without further discussion.

Update from the Prevention Subcommittee

Amy Saunders, Chair of the Prevention Subcommittee along with Stephanie Hayes gave the Council an update on the activities of that subcommittee including but not limited to:

- The continuum of behavioral health care
- Differentiation between prevention components
- Institute of Medicine prevention categories
- Goals of prevention and use of evidence-based practices
- Focus of prevention
- Social Ecological Model
- Social Determinants of Health
- Cost Effectiveness of Research-based prevention
- Intersection of prevention efforts
- SAMHSA's Prevention Strategies
- SAMHSA's Prevention Framework
- Data-driven decisions
- Activities and Accomplishments:
 - Creation and publication of "What Works & What Doesn't"

- Bureau for Behavioral Health's Clearinghouse
 - Contained searchable and shared evidence base for interventions
- Were working with CATCH my Breath and Project AWARE to address tobacco and vaping in schools
- Were providing advocacy for Tobacco 21 Laws and other legislation to help curb tobacco use
- Prevention workforce training and competencies
- Sustainability for workforce
- Prevention infrastructure
- Prevention needs
- Workforce Investment

Update from the Law Enforcement Subcommittee

Chief Shawn Schwertfeger of the Law Enforcement Subcommittee gave the Council an update on the activities of that subcommittee including but not limited to:

- Subcommittee makeup and meeting schedule
- Equipment and training of law enforcement agencies to respond to overdoses
 - ODCP was working on stigma training for law enforcement
- Providing law enforcement with analytical tools, techniques, resources, and policies to improve the enforcement of drug laws
 - Were working on legislation to remove law enforcement from mandatory reporting
 - Were working on data gaps
- Strengthening use and implementation of strategies among law enforcement/first responders to address children's exposure to violence/training
 - Training on Handle With Care
- Future efforts:
 - Crisis intervention training

Review and Approval of the 2024 Quarter 1 Report

Dr. Deborah Koester gave the Council an overview of the findings in the 2024 Quarter 1 Status Report:

- 7 of the KPIs were completed
- 44 were in progress
- 38 had not yet started which was not uncommon at this point the year
- 16 were under revision
- 40% of the KPIS were underway within the 1st twelve weeks of the year

After the review, the Chair, Dr. Young entertained a motion to accept the Status Report. Dr. Maxwell moved the approval and Dr. Berry seconded. The motion carried by unanimous consent without further discussion.

Review of Draft Quarter 2 Report

Dr. Koester gave the Council an overview of the work on the 2nd Quarter Status Report.

Updates on Town Hall Meetings

Dr. Koester gave the Council an update on the status of scheduling and preparing for this year's Town Hall Meetings. Registration had been posted and meetings would be held on each Wednesday in August from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m..

2025 Planning

By September 15, 2024 there would be a report from the Town Hall Meetings which will then be given to subcommittee leaders to begin planning on the 2025 Implementation Plan.

Agency Updates

Office of Drug Control Policy

Rachel Thaxton, Interim Director of the West Virginia's Office of Drug Control Policy provided the Council with an update of activities of the ODCP including but not limited to:

- Interim Director Thaxton had been presenting in other states about the work of the ODCP on its novel predictive model and the targeted outreach interventions it provides along with its CORA project.
- CORA focused on unreported overdoses and was using West Virginia's cryptids to promote a survey for anonymous overdose reporting by lay people.
- The ODCP was scheduled to speak at the WVAAPP conference the following week at the Canaan Valley Resort.
- The ODCP's recent travels had given them opportunities to discuss employment and transportation initiatives in other states. As a result, the Community Engagements and Supports Subcommittee had hosted an in-person meeting in Dunbar to discuss innovative solutions to barriers to treatment.
- In addition, the ODCP's travels had revealed that West Virginia is ahead of many states in SUD initiatives in particular Jobs & Hope, the predictive modeling and the CORA project.
- The ODCP was working on its legislatively mandated semi-annual report.
- It was also collaborating on the Save-a-Life day event on September 26.
- It would be the 5th year of the event which has grown to not only include all of West Virginia but will also include all states east of the Mississippi. The goal is to have all states to participate.
- The ODCP had released an Announcement of Funding availability for a treatment transition hub project. The treatment hub will be a space for individuals to be while waiting to be connected to services.

Bureau for Behavioral Health

- Christina Mullins announced that Nick Stuchell as Interim Commissioner of BBH would provide the update.
- BBH was working on its block grant application that was due September 3
- They would be hosting SAMHSA for a site visit surround BBH's SUD block grant
- BBH was also continuing its work on the CCBHC implementation which had been submitted to CMS

- They were working to meet with stakeholders under Senate Bill 475 to discuss the draft rules for the Recovery Residence Registration legislation.
- BBH was in the process of hiring a Director to its Children's Office and expected that individual to start by month's end.
- BBH would forward the draft rules to Chief Schwertfeger

Bureau for Medical Services

Keith King of the Bureau for Medical services gave the Council an update on the activities in that department.

- BMS was still negotiating with CMS to determine which new services would be contained in the SUD 1115 waiver
- These items included supportive employment, supportive housing, QRTs, and services for previously incarcerated individuals
- They had started multi-state project surrounding maternal mental health
- CMS was still working on implementing CCBHCs

West Virginia Department of Education

Stephanie Hayes of the West Virginia Department of Education provided the Council with an update on activities within their department

- They were promoting Project Aware and Expanded School Mental Health that put prevention and intervention services in the schools.
- In addition they had been able to implemental programs like CATCH my breath to target vaping and tobacco use in schools
- DOE had been participating in conference highlighting prevention best practices to school counselor and social workers and other school personnel
- They were also partnering with The Cook Center to promote protective factors through education and free parent coaching at parentguidance.org

West Virginia Department of Homeland Security

Deputy Secretary Mullins provided the group with some collaboration between DoHS and Homeland Security.

They had been working on the legislation in Senate Bill 475 by relocating individuals to certified recovery residences before the implementation date. Only about 5 individuals chose to return to uncertified recovery housing which demonstrates the success of this initiative.

Other

- Dr. Becker opened a discussion about increases in Xylazine exposure in his practice. He requested that reporting on Xylazine be included in the next Council meeting.
- Dr. Maxwell confirmed that CAMC had also seen increases in Xylazine. CAMC tested for Xylazine although other providers did not. Dr. Maxwell reported that Xylazine exposure in utero may not respond to traditional therapies. They had found that Clonidine had benefits for treatment.

- Dr. Berry and Dr. Becker discussed indicators of Xylazine exposure. Dr. Becker reported ulcerations and positive toxicology screens. Dr. Becker had seen five patients with a mixture of substances such as cocaine, morphine, xylazine and fentanyl.
- Dr. Berry was seeing dramatic behavior changes in individuals being treated for methamphetamine. He added that his practice was also seeing a dramatic increase in methamphetamine psychosis and resulting brain damage.
- Dr. Becker reported that 50% of his patients were using either methamphetamine by itself or in combination with other substances.
- Dr. Maxwell added that babies do not show symptoms of methamphetamine withdrawal so babies go home with parents with a SUD.

Adjournment

Dr. Young entertained a motion to adjourn. Dr. Berry moved the adjournment and Dr. Maxwell seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:02 p.m.