



Behavioral Health Consortium Quarterly Meeting

Date: 1/16/24	Location: Virtual Meeting
Time: 10am-12pm	ID: 894 8544 1639
	PC: 503283

Attendees: Rodney Little, Colleen Kearns, Khalil Abdar-Rashid, Beth Jeker, Frank Hawkins, Joanna Champney, Teri Lawler, Rebecca King, Lydia De Leon, Michelle Mangum, Jennifer Smolowitz, Dionne Cornish, Pam Price, Doug Ferguson, Brad Bauer, Andrew Thurn, Kathleen Seipel, Annie Slease, Asia Tillison, Emily Vera, Philisa Weidlein-Crist, LeAnn Hamilton, Sean Green, Christine Hanna-Ronald, Dr. Avani Virani, Derrodd Dungee, Hope Ellsworth, La Vaida Owens-White, Jill Fredel, Cheryl Doucette, Dr. Carol H. Bogger, Alta Porterfield, Carolyn Petrak, Dr. Debbie Harrington, Eric Rodriguez, Dr. LaKeetra Josey, Karen DiNardo, Adam Lush, Dawud Muhammad, Jordan Weisman, Danielle Johnson, Dr. Larence Kirby, Holly Rybinski, Senator Stephanie Hansen, Letty Santraelli, Harris Marx, Sherry Nykiel, Shawna Mayles, James Ellison, Nishi Rawat, Sandra Syglowski, Manisha Wadhwa, Sharon Bell, Cheryl Doucette, Valerie Earnshaw, Chuck Sawchenko, Senator Erik Buckson.

Staff: Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long, Catherine Bedenbaugh, Laura Rapp, Alexia Wolf.

Topic 1: Welcome and Introductions

Presenter – Lt Governor Hall-Long

- Lt Governor Hall-Long called the meeting to order,
- Lt Governor Hall-Long welcomed attendees.

Topic 2: Announcements and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Lt Governor Hall-Long called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

- Dr. Avani Virani made a motion to approve minutes.
- Stephanie Hansen seconded the motion.
- All voting members approved.
- Minutes Approved.

Topic 3: Setting the Focus: Supporting the Behavioral Health Needs of Justice Involved Individuals

Presenter – Dr. Debra Mason, Chuck Sawchenko, Correction and Law Enforcement Co-Chairs

- The CLE Committee is supporting programs that assist those with behavioral health needs in the criminal justice system.
- Gathering and reviewing data programs geared towards those criminal justice system to assess the quality and their outcomes.
- Recidivism rate has come up as an issue of discussion.

Topic 4: Facilitated Discussion: Our Lived Experience

Presenter – Dubard McGriff

- Took place in October in Wilmington, posed 5 questions to the participants.

- What program services or resources could the state of Delaware implement in the department of corrections to help with the work force development that is needed to increase the likelihood of recidivism?
- What obstacles did you experience before, during, and after incarceration with seeking healthcare?
- Are you aware of the educational programs in the OC and the community?
- What are the benefits of being invested in the community?
- If you can fix anything in your community, what would it be? How would you do it and what resources would you need?
- 86% of participants identified the need for union jobs and training.
- 30% identified mental health issues over stigma attached to status as a returning citizen.
- Sean Green mentioned having programs that allow returning citizens connections to employment.

Topic 5: Statistical Analysis Center and Annual Recidivism Report

Presenter – Philia Weidlein-Crist

- Track Delaware re-arrest, recommitment, and return to prison for three years post release.
- Downward trend with rearrest, recommitment, and return to prison rates.

Topic 6: Overview of Department of Correction’s Medical and Behavioral Health Services

Presenter – Mike Records, Bureau Chief, Healthcare Services

- Medical Services
 - Initial medical evaluation.
 - Sick call visits.
 - Chronic care clinic.
 - Preventative/ wellness visit.
- Recent Initiatives
 - Expanding Hepatitis C testing and treatment.
 - Women’s health initiative.
 - MAT (medication assisted treatment) expansion.
- Patient Care Companion Program
 - Started July 2021 by DOC Community Health Director
 - Aim is vocational training and companionship/ care for those at end of life.
- Correctional programs can be effective in reducing recidivism if they are based on the principles of effective intervention.
- Overview of Behavioral Health Services
 - Review of SUD drug and alcohol treatment programs initiated in 2019.
 - Road to Recovery is a ‘sentenced’ SUD program that incorporates evidence-based treatment practices.
 - The Delaware Department of Correction provides discharge planning to individuals who are receiving treatment for medical and behavioral health needs.

Topic 7: BHC Committee Updates

Presenter – Laura Rapp

- 6 committees

- Access and treatment: assess, advocate, and collaborate for adequate behavioral health system treatment resources. In addition, raise awareness on the growing threat of Xylazine and support medical care for those impacted by Xylazine.
- Corrections and Law Enforcement goals:
- Employ a data driven approach to improve outcomes on CLE aligned areas of focus, including.
 - Crisis intervention training
 - Access to behavioral health services while incarcerated as well as post incarceration.
- Data and policy: supports the legislative and data-related work of the BHC Committees.
- Education and Prevention goals:
 - Develop strategies for Delaware schools to conduct universal mental health screening for youth ages 10-13.
 - Promote and support behavioral health prevention and education campaigns.
 - Educate and advocate for the use of nonpharmacological pain management strategies.
- Family and Community Readiness goals:
 - Develop strategies that protects a person’s autonomy to direct their own care while experiencing a mental health crisis.
 - Enhance access to housing and promote house stability for the Behavioral Health Community

Topic 8: National Governors Association Policy Academy, Recovery Friendly Workplace

Presenter- Alexia Wolf of the BHC

- The initiative is to implement the Recovery Friendly Workplace in Delaware, to equip employers with the tools they need to hire people in recovery and address the employment needs of community members in recovery.

Topic 9: Update: Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission

Presenter- Susan Holloway, Executive Director POSDC

- Biggest spread went to prevention and education, Naloxone, or other FDA-approved drug to reverse opioid overdoses and peer services.

Topic 10: DTRN360 Justice Involved Alerts

Presenter- Nishi Rawat, Chief Clinical Officer Bamboo

- Objectives
 - Diversion
 - Intra-incarceration care coordination
 - Re-entry planning and connection to necessary services
- Timeline for implementation
 - Justice involved activity kicked off on 11/17 and passed the ‘technical go-live’ milestone on 12/5
 - The capability is anticipated to be available at the end of the year

Topic 11: Overdose of System Care Updates

Presenter- Joanna Champney and Dr. Rebecca Walker, Co-Chairs of the AAC

- Data and Quality Subcommittee
- Acute OUD Stabilization Subcommittee
- 2023 Rural Subcommittee Goals
 - Expand availability of naloxone and Deterra bags in Delaware’s rural areas as tools to reduce overdoses and overdose deaths. Goal was achieved.
 - Increase community resiliency through trainings for community members and other stigma reduction activities; goal in progress.

Topic 12: Delaware Addiction Action Committee Update

Presenter- Joanna Champney and Dr. Rebecca Walker, Co-Chairs of the AAC

- AAC Subcommittees
 - Addiction Treatment Services
 - Patient Centered Care
 - Harm Reduction
 - Primary Prevention
 - Rural Health
 - Special Populations
- 2024 Overarching Goals
 - Expand and Integrate Harm Reduction Tools and Resources
 - Policy Advocacy and Education in Schools
 - Wound Care
 - ASAM Levels of Care
 - Create a panel of pain management specialists to discuss treatment strategies.
 - Improve education about non-opiate and alternative pain management strategies.
- Primary Prevention Subcommittee Update
- Overarching 2024 Goals
 - Develop a State SUD Primary Prevention Plan
 - Assess the State’s SUD Prevention Profile
 - Enhance infrastructure across state SUD Prevention Partners

Topic 13: Governor’s Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Military Veterans, Service Members, and their Families.

Presenter- Dr. Larence Kirby, LPCMH

- Focused on 4 populations.
 - Military veterans
 - Delaware National Guard Members
 - Airmen in Dover Air Force Base
 - Family members
- Focus on screening for suicidal ideations amongst the 4 populations.

Topic 14: Public Comment

Eric Buckson discusses having a more in-depth explanation at the next meeting on how programs in New Castle effectively serve Sussex and Kent County

Eric Rodriguez discusses research he is doing regarding the elderly population so they can be better prepared for medications.

Harris Marx discusses needing to have programs to help people with behavioral health issues.

Next BHC Quarterly meeting is **April 16, 2024, at 10AM**

Adjourn