



Corrections and Law Enforcement Committee Meeting Behavioral Health Consortium

Date: 12/11/24	Location: Virtual Meeting
Time: 1:00pm – 2:00pm	ID: 894 8544 1639
	PC: 503283

Attendees: Co-Chair Dr. Debra Mason, Co-Chair Chuck Sawchenko, Julia Lawes, Angela Lloyd, Bria Greenlee, Capt. Diane Smith, Jessica Cline, Khalil Abdar-Rashid, Kim Kirk, Liam Schofield, Michael Records, Minda Thompson, Paul Shavack, Philisa Weidlein-Crist, Tim Hulings, Djelloritababatinca
Staff: Alexia Wolf, Laura Rapp, Riley Feinour

Topics 1: Welcome and Introductions

Presenter –Co-Chair Dr. Debra Mason and Co-Chair Chuck Sawchenko

- Co-Chair Dr. Debra Mason called the meeting to order.
- Co-Chair Dr. Debra Mason welcomed attendees.

Topic 2: Review and Approve Minutes

MOTION: Co-Chair Dr. Debra Mason called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

- Co-Chair Chuck Sawchenko made a motion to approve the minutes.
- Minutes Approved.

Topic 3: BHC Updates

Presenter – Alexia Wolf & Laura Rapp

- The Behavioral Health Consortium Mission
 - The Behavioral Health Consortium will foster collaboration amongst individuals, family members, providers, advocates, governmental agencies, first responders, and community members to develop measurable solutions that directly and positively impact behavioral health outcomes throughout Delaware.
- Corrections and Law Enforcement Charge
 - To produce recommendations and collaborate with stakeholders to promote a quality, sustainable and efficient corrections and law enforcement system that meets the needs of individuals experiencing behavioral health issues.
- The BHC and POSDC have a new website that is live.
- Relevant Notes from listening sessions
- Participants suggested the following.
 - Mental health should be considered a re-entry priority.

- In addition to education and job skills, individuals would benefit from certifications (which are not offered while incarcerated). Listening session participants propose that this would improve employment connections upon release.
- A “caseworker” that starts with an individual prior to release to supports improved re-entry outcomes (i.e., goal setting)
- The Education and Prevention committee has added a 4th goal which is to advocate for sustainable primary prevention funding for the state.
- The Access and Treatment Committee hosted a tabletop event in November that focused on the availability of behavioral health treatment in the state, gaps in treatment, and promising advances in treatment.
- The BHC quarterly meeting is January 15th, at 10:00 AM. This is a hybrid meeting, and the in-person location is the Delaware Technical Community College at the Dover campus.

Topic 4: DE Drug Overdose Fatality Review Commission Annual Report

Presenter – Julia Lawes, Executive Director of the Delaware Drug Overdose Fatality Review Commission

- Data set is from the 2021 annual report.
- 5 recommendations based on the data.
 - Fund and support reentry efforts.
 - To create peer support specialists for all community corrections
 - Community education for families
 - Create a coordinated comprehensive system wide effort to assist housing insecure, housing unstable, and unhoused individuals.
 - Broader efforts to distribute naloxone and fentanyl test strips.
- Recommendations were made to the Department of Corrections in 2019. These included.
 - To have MAT available immediately upon incarceration.
 - Narcan upon release
- There has been a decrease in overdose deaths upon release since these recommendations have been implemented.
- 95% of cases reviewed had Fentanyl in their systems.
- 38% of the cases were previously incarcerated.
- Of those incarcerated for less than a year, 26% of them died within the first 3 months of release.
- Of those incarcerated for more than a year, 33.3% died within the first 3 months; the average being 21 days.
- Recommends expanding the PATH program that is through DSAMH.
- Almost 50% of decedents were unhoused or in unstable housing.

Topic 5: Program Outcomes: Community Outreach and Engagement for Ethnic and Racial Minorities at Risk for Recidivism or Being Released from Incarceration

Presenter—Khalil Abdar-Rashid, Founder and Executive Director of Missed Opts Inc.

- From May 2024- August 2024, Missed Opts Inc had a project that provided educational sessions and resources to individuals and families that were re-entering into the community after incarceration with SUD or OUD.
- The primary focus was racial and ethnic minorities and in the Sussex County area.
 - There were 145 referrals.
 - There was a 71% access rate.

- The approach was to take individuals directly to their services.
- The primary needs were housing, employment, food, and behavioral and mental health treatment.
- The challenges were there were low community participation.
- Alexia Wolf asked how individuals can be encouraged to be engaged in treatment.
- Khalil Abdar-Rashid discussed that peers create a connection that help to start conversations about mental health and substance use.

Topic 6: Police Diversion Program: Status Update and Expansion Approach

Presenter—Co-Chair Chuck Sawchenko

- Over 7,300 individuals have been referred over the last 4 years.
- The PDP gets over 200 referrals by troopers monthly.
- The PDP was created to expand to other departments.
- DSAMH is welcoming of other agencies that want to join.
- Newark PD has hired a case manager and partnered with Christina Care.

Topic 7: State Agency Updates

DSAMH

No presenter available.

DOC

Michael Records discussed that the “Silence on the Streets” film shown to the substance use treatment program was well received.

Topic 8: Public Comment

No public comment.

Next Corrections and Law Enforcement Committee Meeting is **Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025.**

Adjourn: 1:48 PM