



Behavioral Health Consortium Quarterly Meeting

Date: 10/15/24	In Person Location: Buena Vista 661 South Dupont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720
Time: 10AM-12PM	Location: Virtual Meeting
	ID: 894 8544 1639
	PC: 503283

Attendees: Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, Joyce Hawkins, Carolyn Petrak, Dr. Meghan Walls, Julia Lawes, Senator Eric Buckson, Jennifer Smolowitz, Dr. Aileen Fink, Dr. Debra Mason, Wade Jones, Dr. Rebecca Walker, Dr. Gerard Gallucci, Judge Jerome Herlihy, Ken Grant, MaryBeth Cichocki, Sarah Simpkins, Joanna Champney, Erin Willis, Jody Roberts, Jarrett Avena, Herman Ellis, Nick Beard, Representative Mimi Minor-Brown, Kris Fraser, Manisha Wadhwa, Charles Sawchenko, Dr. Avani Virani, B. Waninger, Cheryl Dondero, Christina Bryan, Derrodd Dungee, Dionne Cornish, Dr. Susan Holloway, Emily Vera, Eric Rodriguez, Erin Booker, Erin Mitchell, Evelyn Hayes, Gwen Stahlnecker, Holly Rybinski, Hope Ellsworth, James Ellison, Janet Mueller, Jenn Ford, Jennifer Graber, Jordan Weisman, Khalil Abdar-Rashid, Kim Kirk, Krissy McMahon, Lacey Eriksen, Letty Santraelli, Liz Booth, Dr. Lynn Morrison, Marie Wenzel, Matt Swanson, Dr. Matthew Bukowski, Annie Slease, Patrick Ogden, Rebecca King, Richard, Rita Landgraf, Robert Ray, Sandi Syglowski, Sarah Petrowich, Senator Stephanie Hansen, Stephen Ferguson, Dr. Valerie Earnshaw, Representative Valerie Jones Giltner, Ashley Jean-Baptiste, Danielle Johnson, Dave Engels, Douglas Tynan, Kiera McGillivray, Kim Blanch, Paresh Perry Patel, Rebecca Flood, Dr. Teri Lawler

Staff: Alexia Wolf, Laura Rapp, Yvonne Bunch, Catherine Bedenbaugh, Riley Feinour

Topics 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: Approval of Minutes

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

- Wade Jones made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 16th, 2024, meeting.
- Carolyn Petrak seconded the motion.
- Minutes Approved.

Topic 3: BHC Announcements

Presenter – Alexia Wolf, Executive Director, BHC

- The BHC welcomed Renee Beaman as the Director of Community Engagement.
- The BHC welcomed Erin Mitchell as Co-Chair of the Family and Community Readiness Committee. Erin Mitchell is the executive director of Trauma Matters Delaware.

Topic 4: BHC & POSDC Website: Update

Presenter—Aloysius Butler & Clark

- Krissy McMahon provided a preview of how the new website for the BHC and the POSDC will look.
- The website provides an overview of the BHC for all committee members and members of the public to view.
- All upcoming meetings, past meeting minutes, resources, reports, open grants, and other materials will be accessible on the website.
- The POSDC will contain a settlement tracker as well as a brief overview of the POSDC.

Topic 5: Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services [DPBHS]: Substance Use Needs Assessment Overview

Presenter – Dr. Aileen Fink, Director, DPBHS

- The mission of DPBHS is to develop a family-driven, youth-guided, trauma-informed prevention and behavioral health system of care.
- DPBHS provides voluntary behavioral health prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for Delaware Children.
- DPBHS operates two residential programs: Silver Lake Treatment Consortium and Terry’s Children Center.
- Needs Assessment: Delaware’s Youth Substance Use Treatment System
 - Goal is to inform DPBHS’ efforts to develop a comprehensive substance use and co-occurring system of care by assessing current landscape and making recommendations that build on existing infrastructure.
- Needs Assessment Statistics
 - 43% of high school students have tried vaping at some point in their life and 28% vape regularly.
 - 39% of high school students have used marijuana at least once.
 - Alcohol remains the most used substance among youth.
 - More than 1 in 5 Delaware youth aged 12 or older report binge drinking in the past month.
- Needs Assessment Key Findings
 - The legalization of marijuana and popularity of e-cigarettes and vaping products seem to have contributed to a growing perception that these products are low risk with little potential harm.
 - Providers’ approaches to screening for youth substance use are varied, with some not screening at all.
- Needs Assessment Recommendations
 - Prevention and Early Intervention
 - Enhance coordination with school districts, DOE, or other child serving state agencies to deliver consistent prevention messaging that focuses on polysubstance use.
 - Universal standardized screening for youth substance use across the healthcare system.
 - Partner with DMMA to encourage MCOs to adopt evidence-based screening and treatment.
 - Expand access to early intervention programs like SBIRT and Seven Challenges.
- Treatment
 - Require substance use screening.
 - Expand continuum and align with ASAM.
 - Incentivize providers to work in Delaware and to offer evidence-based substance use/co-occurring treatment to adolescents.
 - Work with other state agencies to address workforce shortages.
 - Work with MCOs on public education regarding how to access services.
- Data
 - Monitor youth substance use trends, utilization, and overdoses, flag ED visits for youth with SUD codes.

- Need to capture primary, secondary, and tertiary diagnoses at intake and changes during treatment.
- Judge Jerome Herlihy discusses an article from the New York Times that mentions the increase in daily use of marijuana and asks Dr. Fink if data is collected on marijuana use and the frequency of use in youth.
- Dr. Fink discussed that local data is collected from youth in schools and the data shows high rates of cannabis use and a perception that it's not high risk.
- Dr. Fink mentioned there has been an increase in marijuana use since it has been legalized.
- Dr. Fink noted the importance of educating youth, caregivers, and other systems on the dangers of marijuana use.

Topic 6: Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission [POSDC]: Update

Presenter—Dr. Susan Holloway, Executive Director, POSDC

- The mission of the POSDC is to abate and remediate the opioid epidemic in the State of Delaware through financial support from the “Opioid Funds” in the form of grant awards for efforts to treat, prevent, and reduce opioid use disorder and the misuse of opioids.
- POSDC Subcommittees
 - Behavioral Health Resources Committee: Working to provide informed recommendations for funding decisions related to the needs of vulnerable populations.
 - Budget and Reporting Committee: Review and performance improvement of the annual report structure and enhance the format of budget reports for clearer communications.
 - Equity Committee: Conducting system reviews to identify and address disparities among Delaware’s vulnerable populations and to recommend culturally inclusive resources with low barriers to access.
 - Governing Committee: Conducting a thorough review and comparison of existing grant award systems with the POSDC framework to foster continuous quality improvement.
 - Local Governments Committee: Researching best practices for opioid spending in local jurisdictions and crafting a proposal for the full Commission’s consideration.
 - Public Outreach and Community Input Committee: Developing a strategy to create a bi-directional communication plan for addressing community opioid experiences that prioritize building trust, fostering open dialogue, and ensuring that resources are easily accessible.
- National Overdose Trends
 - Opioid related deaths
 - White people experienced the largest decline.
 - Increases were highest among American Indians and Black people.
- Reduction is attributed to.
 - Increases in Wraparound services.
 - Increases in community saturation of Opioid Reversal Agents
 - Calls for more funding for services in Black and Native American Communities were overdose deaths remain high.
- In July and August of 2024, there were 49 fatal overdoses in Delaware which is the lowest that has been seen in a very long time.
- POSDC Grant Fund Balances as of August 31, 2024
 - 1A POSDC Grants
 - Total amount awarded to 40 awardees: \$3,586,039.00.
 - Remaining amount to be awarded: \$603,141.43.
 - 1B POSDC Grants

- Total amount awarded to 34 awardees: \$8,880,096.00.
 - Remaining amount to be awarded: \$1,979,829.00.
- The commission voted to set aside \$15 million for future funding. Of that, \$1.9 million is Bridge funding.
- The next commission meeting is October 28th at 1:00 PM.

Topic 7: BHC Committee Updates

Access and Treatment

Presenter—Laura Rapp, BHC Consultant

- Committee Charge: To ensure adequate resources, capacity, and high-quality treatment remain a top priority for every behavioral health system across the state, while increasing access for individuals with the greatest need.
- Currently in the early stages of developing a tabletop event where we can focus conversations on aligning efforts to support meaningful advancement across sectors within the behavioral health system in Delaware.

Changing Perceptions and Stigma

Presenter—Co-Chair Dr. Valerie Earnshaw & Co-Chair Beth Jeker

- Committee Charge: To reduce the barrier that stigma create for individuals and alter perceptions on behavioral health. Provide information and insight to the communities that have not been touched.
- A meeting was held with stakeholders of higher education across the state focused on supporting students with behavioral health needs.
- There was conversation about all the solutions and successful things that groups are doing as well as highlighted some potential gaps and opportunities for collaboration.
- The Changing Perceptions and Stigma had a goal of ensuring individuals with lived experiences are represented in the BHC. The committee concluded their survey and results indicated that there are BHC members and voting members with lived experience.
- The survey discussed ways that people with lived experience contribute to the BHC. The results of the survey were.
 - Sharing personal experiences to support system improvement.
 - Active participation, leadership, and decision-making
 - Reducing stigma
- The survey also discussed ways that people with lived experience can benefit from engagement with the BHC. The survey results were.
 - Professional development and resources
 - Inform decisions.
 - Empowerment and hope

Corrections and Law Enforcement

Presenter—Co-Chair Dr. Debra Mason & Co-Chair Lt. Charles Sawchenko

- Committee 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 the individual experiencing behavioral health issues.
- Recently had CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) and they trained over 700 law enforcement and ancillary departments and agencies.

- Along with CIT training, Charles mentioned they also do VRT (Veteran Response Team) training.
- There is work being done with probation to train probation officers, first responders, and Department of Corrections on working with individuals with Autism.
- There is a driving course for young adults to experience what it is like to be pulled over by a police officer.
- The Police Diversion Program (PDP) has a team of the state police, the Attorney General's office, DSAMH, and Deljis. They started in February of 2021 and have had over 7,000 referrals by troopers to the program.

Data and Policy

Presenter—Co-Chair Dr. Meghan Walls & Co-Chair Carolyn Petrak

- Committee Charge: To oversee any legislative action, promote data sharing among entities, and ensure all other Committees are receiving any data requested to behavioral health.
- Scheduling a meeting for the first quarter of 2025.
- If the committees have ideas relating to policy or legislation, it best to bring it to the Data and Policy Committee sooner rather than later.
- The Co-Chairs note if any members of the General Assembly assigned to the Consortium would like to send themselves or their legislative aides to their meetings, it would be helpful.

Education and Prevention

Presenter—Co-Chair Becky King & Co-Chair Sandi Syglowski

- Committee Charge: To provide education, prevention, and early intervention materials on behavioral health that is simplified and accurate for all stakeholders.
- The committee promoted the One Pill Can Kill Campaign statewide.
- National Fentanyl Awareness Day was August 21 and the committee worked with lots of different groups and stakeholders around the state to encourage parents to speak to their children in an effort to decrease overdose.
- The committee wants to promote the nonpharmacological treatments that are available for pain management to prevent opioid, and substance use disorder.
- The committee has recently developed an alcohol focused goal.
- The EP10 goal is to develop and promote strategies for Delaware schools and pediatricians to coordinate and conduct the universal mental health pre-screening and referrals processes for youth ages 10 to 13.
- The EP10 Committee is meeting to look at the next step for implementation to try and focus on creating an organized infrastructure for communication between schools and pediatrician offices.
- The next EP10 Committee meeting is November 19th at 11:30 AM.

Family and Community Readiness

Presenter—Co-Chair Wade Jones & Co-Chair Erin Mitchell

- Committee Charge: To support, educate, and fight stigma for families and communities that are experiencing any behavioral health issues, to promote quality services.
- The committee has welcomed a new Co-Chair, Erin Mitchell.
- The committee has continued their work on the Psychiatric Advanced Directive (PAD). The directive has been signed and it is to take effect in July of 2025.

- The committee has fiscal year of 2025 to get the information out on the directive as well as how to utilize it, what the steps are to get one, and where you can find information on the directive.
- The committee is looking to work with areas such as DSCYF, ACT teams, law enforcement, and CIT training to come up with a way to get the information out, prior to the directive taking effect in July.

Topic 8: Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Military Veterans, Service Members, and their Families Update

Presenter—Dr. Gerard Gallucci, Director of Geriatric Psychiatry, Acting Medical Director, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Delaware Health and Social Services

- The Governor's Challenge is a partnership between SAMHSA and the Department of Veteran Affairs.
- Three priority areas
 - Priority area 1- identifying and screening for suicide risk.
 - Bridge clinics have established methods to identify veteran populations.
 - Priority area 2- promoting connectedness and improving care transitions.
 - Methods to improve engagement within post-military community.
 - Priority area 3- lethal means safety and safety planning
 - Not only about gun safety, attend to overdoses, suffocation, cutting.
- Suicide Mortality Review
 - Create statewide board to assess suicides.
 - Identify risk and protective factors.
- The focus on priority area 1 is Ask the Question, which is asking if an individual or a family member ever served in the military.
- The Bridge clinic asks the question and screens for depression using the Columbia Suicide Screen.
- Between July and September, 105 people were identified as having serviced in the military.
- About half of the individuals reported some current substance use and 20 of them were homeless.
- Priority area 1 is looking at expanding out of the clinical setting and looking at some places where veterans may go to receive services.

Topic 9: Overdose System of Care Update

Presenter—Joanna Champney, OSOC Co-Chair

- OSOC has 3 main subcommittees.
 - Acute OUD Stabilization Subcommittee
 - Worked to strengthen relationships between Eds, EMS, and community treatment providers, and developed pathways for patients who are treated in acute setting, initiated on buprenorphine, and referred to community treatment.
 - Focus for the coming year.
 - Share national best practices around topics such as screenings/triage, patient engagement, buprenorphine initiation, transitions of care, and funding/billing/
 - Develop a Delaware specific guidance for ED staff and hospital leadership to reference.
 - Involve hospital leadership and other stakeholders to socialize and strengthen guidance document and develop infrastructure need to implement recommendations.
 - Data and Quality Subcommittee

- Refining definition and inclusion and exclusion criteria for four North Star metrics.
- Currently calculating North Star metrics with Medicaid claims data only but working to include data from Delaware’s all-payer claims database and prescription monitoring program.
- OSOC Quality Evaluation sessions continue quarterly.
 - Confidential, problem-solving meetings for EDs, EMS, community treatment providers, and State representatives to discuss clinical cases, examine relevant data, and improve referral pathways.
- Naloxone Subcommittee
 - 38,803 Naloxone kits were distributed from July 2023-June 2024.
 - In Q2 2024, largest share of naloxone was distributed by DSAMH-contracted behavioral health providers.
- The next OSOC meeting is October 22nd at 1:00 PM.

Topic 10: Addiction Action Committee Update

Presenter—Dr. Rebecca Walker, AAC Co-Chair

- Mission: to foster collaboration amongst communities, providers, advocates, governmental agencies, and other stakeholders to develop and monitor a coordinated and comprehensive approach to Delaware’s addiction epidemic.
- AAC Subcommittees.
 - Addiction Treatment Services
 - Patient Centered Care (PCC)
 - Harm Reduction
 - Primary Prevention-includes working group on marijuana messaging.
 - Rural Health

Topic 11: Continuous Business & Possible Vote

No continuous business or vote.

Topic 12: Public Comment

Representative Valerie Jones Giltner discussed that in the district of Georgetown, there is a gap in where the patient is administered Narcan but when emergency services arrive, the patient doesn’t want to seek treatment.

Joanna Champney added that there is a program being piloted in Kent County that can allow DSAMH to follow up with patients who refuse to go to the emergency department if they consent to receive outreach from DSAMH.

Senator Eric Buckson discussed that he appreciates all of the work everyone is doing. Senator Buckson notes that he thinks there are things that can be done that he would like to offer as suggestions.

David Engels mentioned that he would like for the Consortium to include issues relating to Delaware’s challenges to provide services to special needs children and their families. Engels noted the educational, healthcare, and financial impacts.

Next BHC Quarterly meeting is **January 14th, 2025, 10:00 AM**

Adjourn: 11:58 AM