

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 12, 2018

7:00- 9:00 pm

401 Hungerford Drive Rockville, MD 20850

1st Floor Large Conference Room

Voting Members Present: Eric Sterling, Kabir Singh, Edwin "Bunny" Rich, Larry Simmons, Veronica Wright, Ghulam Abbas, Sherry Beach, Elyse Grossman and Celia Young

Ex_Officio Members Present: Raymond Crowel, Michael Subin, Tony Sturgis, Hardy Bennett

Guests/Others: SMART Recovery David Koss and Jaime Robles, Fred Silverman, Patty Winters, LaTonia Rich, Evelyn Saim-Lobos

Overview

The goal of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC) is to express the views of the community in the formulation and administration of alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and treatment services in Montgomery County. Members of the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council serve as community representatives, who provide guidance to the County Executive and the County Council in identifying prevention and treatment needs and reviewing the county's efforts in addressing those needs. The Advisory Council will make recommendations in support of, or to improve, current prevention and treatment efforts. The AODAAC also serves as the local drug and alcohol abuse council and submits a bi-annual strategic plan to the State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration.

A call to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Eric Sterling Chair. Less than 9 members were present which were insufficient to have a quorum. Introductions were made and the February and March meeting minutes were not approved due to not having a quorum.

Report regarding BCCS Meeting with Mr. Leggett

Elyse Grossman and Hardy Bennett attended the meeting on behalf of the AODAAC. The tone of the overall meeting was one of gratitude as many thanked Mr. Leggett for his many years of service.

A discussion went into the role of the Opioid Intervention Team (OIT). This is a taskforce created by the Governor of Maryland, Larry Hogan, to address the opioid crisis. According to Mike Subin, the OIT is divided into four major areas:

Data (observes the empirical)

Prevention (strives to understand how to prevent opioid overdoses and how to incorporate related best practices),

Treatment (strives to understand how to treat opioid addiction and how to incorporate related best practices),

Public Education (strives to understand how we get information for prevention and treatment out to the public)

Montgomery County is using some of its funds from the state to expand public awareness on the opioid crisis. On 17 April at the Montgomery College campus in Rockville there was a public awareness program on substance and opioid abuse from 2-4pm. AODAAC members wanted to know what were some other public awareness programs given by the OIT within the county. Dr. Crowel shared these programs to include: Many Voices Smart Choices, Be the One Campaign, and other public service announcements in theaters and schools.

A lot of emphasis is placed on data. Data gives a different story depending on who and how it is collected. Montgomery County is collecting data from fire and rescue, hospitals, and utilization organizations from the state (fee for service). From the fire and rescue teams, the OIT can analyze the number of Narcan administrations and overdoses at the time of response. Sentinel data from fire and rescue gives the greatest number of overdoses by zip code. It also provides if someone had a second overdose. Hospital data can demonstrate the number of discharges related to opioids and utilization data from the state can highlight the number of those individuals receiving treatment. Dr. Raymond Crowel wanted to emphasize that there is not a universal way to look at data as it related to overdoses and addressing uncharted territory of the opioid crisis. In summary, all of this data will help Montgomery County to ascertain where to allocate resources in our best effort to save lives.

BHCS Budget Report from Dr. Raymond Crowel

The reduction in the budget was only 110K. This reduction was fairly minimal as it resulted in eliminating only 1-2 residential beds to treatment patients suffering from mental illness. This year's budget will allow funding to stand up visitation centers for victims of domestic violence. Mental health council will receive full funding and four additional positions have been added as a result. STEER is fully funded. Avery Road treatment center design work is completed. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony around August/September 2018 timeframe. There are also plans to provide a residential place for transition aged youth recovering from drug addiction. The question was raised about how much money Montgomery County is spending on the opioid crisis. Dr. Crowel said he could share this information at one of our next meetings.

Substance Abuse Policy Letter Project of Prevention Committee

Eric Sterling graciously and adequately re-wrote the letter. However there were not enough voting members to approve the letter. The next meeting we will have the spring forum and this will be the last meeting for the year until the fall. The executive committee will decide on how to approve this letter and the other meeting minutes.

Committee Reports

Legislative Committee: no report

Prevention Committee: no report

Recovery/Providers Committee: They will have a public forum about drug abuse on May 3rd at Boher Park 6-8pm. *Theme: From Stigma to Strength.* This committee is looking for individuals to be on the panel.

County Report

Health and Human Services

See above report from Dr. Raymond Crowel. Also ,Montgomery County Department of Human Health and Services successfully passed its annual accreditation.

Police Department

Responded to 52 Overdoses. 12 of these encounters were fatal and 39 were nonfatal. Police locally indicted a drug dealer for carfentanil. The police do investigate where the drugs are coming from and Narcan is helping to reduce the number of fatal overdoses due to over 300 police officers having it on hand. 80% of overdoses are related to fentanyl.

Montgomery County Public Schools

MCPS is trying to receive a grant to expand its academic programs on recovery. The school system has begun implementing a suicide awareness program. There is also a program to teach students about substance abuse. The major goal of these public awareness programs is to get students to tell an adult if they have problems or questions about drugs. As of to date, all schools have Naracan (230 boxes). MCPS also started a parent academy, one can go to the MCPS website for more information

about what this entails. MCPS also has started a learning lab for parents that consist of a mock bedroom where parents can walk through and look for signs of drugs. This mock bedroom is designed to make parents aware of signs of kids who may be using drugs.

Correction and Rehabilitation

DOCR continues to provide Vivitrol (Naltrexone) to patients (inmates) who are opiate dependent and are referred by the JAS program.

This organization also continues to work closely with HHS to provide Narcan to inmates upon release who received the training.

Mr. Sturgess provided a brief overview of some of the challenges with verifying medications that inmates report upon intake. DOCR attempts to obtain verification, especially when inmates report taking medication that may be abused, such as, but not limited to opiates and benzodiazepines. The prescribers make efforts to prescribe medications according to FDA approval and appropriate clinical guidelines. For example, for chronic back pain the physicians will avoid the use of long term opiates, long term muscle relaxers and Gabapentin, since Gabapentin should generally not be prescribed as first line therapy for back pain.

Mr. Sturgess also reported that Gabapentin (Neurontin) is being monitored by some prescription monitoring programs.

Board of License Commissioners

Man Cho presented the DLC is in the process of revamping its ALERT PowerPoint presentation. Annual renewals are taking place. Currently there are 1,030 renewals of applications taking place as compared to 1,058 last year. Some applications are pending renewal due to various issues such as delinquent bills, not taking the ALERT training, tax holds and outstanding fines. The board has seen an uptick in compliance violations due to businesses not checking on IDs. The board has sent in underage drinkers to test if businesses are checking for IDs (178 violations up from 172 last year). Teenagers are getting fake ID online.

New Business/Public Comment

Patty Winters asked if she miscommunicated how the recovery school for teens was being restored. She wanted to know if her miscommunication of the desire for a special school for teens contributed to the AODAAC not supporting it. Some members of the AODAAC thought she was advocating for construction of an entirely new school while others thought it was a renovation of an existing building. Mixed

ideas about how the school would be constructed along with inadequate information regarding its cost to operate and maintain was shared among the AODAAC.

Larry Simmons raised concerns about how long it takes the AODAAC to make decisions and gets things done.

Veronica Wright suggested that the AODAAC would need to do more than just listen to presentations at the meetings. She would like for the AODAAC to take information from these presentations and decide on whether to advocate for some of the ideas and programs presented.

Grace Caufield suggested that the county check public AED to ensure Narcan is restocked.

ADJOURN

9:45 pm