

Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Advisory Council (AODAAC)

Meeting Minutes: Thursday February 9th, 2023, 7:00- 9:00 pm Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Voting Members Present:

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Guests Present:

Call to order.

Subcommittee Updates

Legislative

- Elyse stated that there are two main projects that we've been focusing on. One has been testimony as avenue from the annual legislative retreat and the other has been a newsletter that she has mentioned before in terms of testimony.
- There have been several bills that have gone in on the testimony that has been written and gone in for HP 271 which was money allocated for the 998-phone number and has been referred to committee in the hearing. The hearing was this past Tuesday. SB 119 was a comprehensive educational framework bill that was referred to the committee and the hearing is fed first and haven't heard anything yet for either of those. SB 190 was the bill that looked at the screening of pregnant and incarcerated women and that was referred to the committee and the hearing was yesterday. Lastly, SP 201 was the one that reimburse behavioral health and school settings, using CMS funding and the hearing for that was also on Tuesday.
- Several bills have dropped recently. One is the big cannabis bill, and the thoughts are that it will probably pass. The second one was one of the sentinel bills and it was XP4, and it changed the punishment for someone distributing manufacturing, dispensing fentanyl from 10-20 years. Isabel looked it up and its already 20 years. Isabel wrote a testimony on this looking at sort of the argument that more time doesn't necessarily change anything, especially when the definition of the suspense includes people who share with a friend.
- Voting to submit the testimony against that bill was accepted
- The third bill to get dropped was to make it a crime to overdose in public places. Voting to oppose that bill was accepted.
- The last one was a good Samaritan bill, it just dropped on Monday. Voting to write the testimony was accepted.
- Solomons bill for loan forgiveness testimony was accepted.
- The newsletter has been getting worked on and reaching out to those who needs to be involved.

Prevention

- Laura stated doing a pocket or palm card to inform students/parents on what an opiate is and how it works. Particularly for anyone under 25.
- Looking to write a letter to the physicians in the area to encourage them to do screening for mental health and substance use at younger ages. Minimum age recommended at 8 for anxiety and 9 for substance use.
- University of Maryland helping to get us started with the youth needs and gap analysis, Sara and Ben are in the midst of starting something.
- There is a forum on the 25th of February at Northwood High School on Saturday morning.

Presentation: Mat Medication

- **Dr. Malov** mentioned it's a program offer from health and human services in Montgomery County
- The program treats to people who use disorder, alcohol use disorder, they have a fair number of patients who are addicted to cocaine and other stimulants.
- They also help with patients with dual diagnosis and patients who use substances during pregnancy.
- They initiate psychiatrist medications for patients who needs it
- One patient successfully abstains from OP and continued with her pregnancy and delivered her baby.
- MAT management is by far the state of the art and the most effective management to help with opioid use disorders

Questions

- **Nicholas** asked about any data prepared for the effectiveness of the MAT medication for opioid use disorder.
- **Laura** asked if the elimination of the x waiver and caps on number of patients that a can psychician can treat will have an impact on what we are trying to do here.
- **Sara** asked do you prescribe the injection medication? How do you treat people with opioid disorder with chronic pain?
- **Margaret** asked do you have the opportunity to establish a registry to do a longer follow up after the patients complete their program.
- **Dr. Santiago** asked do you have any thoughts about what the research literature says about enhancing?

Presentation: Vivitrol

- One in 15 American adults meet the criteria for alcohol use disorders
- One person an hour in the country loses their life due to an alcohol-related driving incident
- 300 people a day lose their life because of an opioid overdose
- Vivitrol is FDA approved to treat alcohol dependence and to prevent relapse to opioid dependence following a detoxification.
- An opioid dependence is non-negotiable. They must be detoxed off illicit opioids, fentanyl, Heroin, or prescribed opioids like suboxone or methadone for at least 7 days and even up to 2 weeks or longer acting.
- Vivitrol is only given by a health care provider.
- They have a deep program with many correctional facilities across the country.
- One injection of vivitrol gives two peak plasmas. One within the first two or three hours and the second one a few days later. It stays at a therapeutic dose for a full 28 days, so it is technically given every four weeks or once a month.
- It's a non-opioid medication.
- Vivitrol added to counseling reduced heavy drinking by 25%.

Questions

- Laura asked what is the minimum age and is it allowed for youth? If so, what age?
- Margaret asked Is the trial treatment covered by both private and public insurance like Medicare and Medicaid?
- Laura asked about the implants. Are they still around? Are they not really used? Was that vivitrol or something else?

Ex-Officio Reports (see full reports in supplementary documents)

Dr. Rolando Santiago (DHHS, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services)

- They had the opportunity of two committees of the council. The public safety, as well as the HHS committee on the crisis response council member Ludkey who is new.
- They have finalized responses to questions that were brought up last October at the community forum with respect to the restoration center.
- Building on the public forums with the issues of overdoses, especially among youth.

Gabriela Monzon-Reynolds (Alcohol Beverage Services, ABS)

- Finished the holiday awareness campaign with the holiday posters and it was successful. They partnered up with 30 businesses, and distributed 30,000 coasters. Got coverage from NBC in telamundo.
- Launched the kiss contest again for high school and middle school students and the deadline is in march.

Sara Rose (Local Behavioral Health Authority, LBHA)

- The family forum on fentanyl on the 28th of January with Laura was a huge success and was very honored to be apart.
- Parent craft is a free resource provided by the state. It's typically \$200, but the state is covering it for free for any parent or caregiver of an adolescent in Maryland and it really helps increase people getting connected to substance use treatment.

Celia Serkin (Mental Health Advisory Committee)

- Mental health advisory committee is appreciative of the partnership with AODAAC and the legislative team. She gets back members who have been tremendous partners and were able to get so much more done this year in terms of legislative advocacy.

Larry Stewart (Outpatient Substance Use Treatment)

- Welcomed Steven Murphy during his first AOODAC meeting. He is the new chief of medical and behavioral health services from Montgomery County Correctional Facility.
- They reported 18 clients and 5 more that are coming into the program over the next couple of days. By next week they will be up to 23 for the first time at the jail and they will be over 60 in the MAT Clinic in the community for the first time during his tenure.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm

*****Additional Subcommittee Reports are at the end of this document.**