



John Bel Edwards
Governor

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DRUG POLICY

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell
Director, Drug Policy &
Executive Director,
Diversity and Inclusion

Kristy Miller
Project Director

DRUG POLICY BOARD
July 12, 2018; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Louisiana State Capitol Building, 900 N. Third Street, 4th Floor Press Room

MINUTES

Call to Order

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell, Director of Drug Policy and Chair of the Drug Policy Board, called the meeting to order at 10:10am. She reminded everyone that the meeting is being audio recorded to assist with documentation of minutes.

Welcome and Introductions

Attendees were asked to introduce themselves. A complete list of attendees is included at the end of this document. Eleven (11) voting members were present and quorum was established.

A. Update Contact Information

Kristy Miller, Office of Drug Policy, explained that the contact information for most Drug Policy Board members on file with the Office of Boards and Commissions is outdated. She developed a contact information update form that was disseminated before the meeting started. Members were asked to complete the form and return to Kristy.

Old Business

A. Review and Approve Minutes**

Chaunda directed everyone to their packets and noted that there are two sets of minutes that need to be reviewed and approved. The first set of minutes is from October 19, 2017 and the second set of minutes is from April 19, 2018. Chaunda asked everyone to take a moment to review the minutes. Linda Gautier, LA Commission on Law Enforcement, made a motion to accept the minutes in globo. Michael Comeaux, Department of Education, seconded the motion. Chaunda called for a verbal vote and received a unanimous response. *Vote: 11 Yeas; 0 Nays*

B. Louisiana Substance Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan**

Chaunda reminded everyone that the Drug Policy Board and its subcommittees, the PSC and SEW, worked on the Strategic Plan for almost a year and have been trying to get it approved for nine months. Alberto DePuy, Attorney General's Office, inquired whether new members felt they had sufficient time to review the Plan. Chaunda stated that voting members should have received a copy of the Executive Summary in the mail with a letter directing them to the Office of Drug Policy website where the complete Strategic Plan could be downloaded and reviewed.

Alfreda Tillman Bester, Department of Children & Family Services, asked if the objective addressing opioids includes any effort to ban the prescribing of all opioids by physicians. Dr. John Morrison, Department of Corrections, responded that, as a long-time practicing physician and professor at LSU's Medical School, he doesn't see how that is possible. Not only are opioids legal drugs that work when taken as prescribed, they can be a vital component of the recovery process for surgeries and other serious injuries. He expressed that when The Joint Commission made "pain" the fifth vital sign, it effectively caused doctors to prescribe more opioids. This has put doctors in a precarious position. Chaunda shared a story about her own experience when giving birth to her daughter as an illustration of someone who was in serious pain and needed a strong opioid to address it, but expressed her desire to be transitioned to a non-opioid pain medication as soon as possible. Alberto provided a personal perspective as well. Dr. Petersen expressed the LDH perspective in which prescription drugs, even opioids, are considered legal and helpful when used as prescribed, but when abuse or misuse occurs, that is when LDH has major concerns.

Alfreda asked Dr. Morrison if, during his days as a practicing physician, he felt as though his autonomy to address pain had been taken away. He responded that he did, to some extent. Lisa Freeman, Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, asked if anyone knew if there is a required mechanism for doctors to provide patient education and referral resources to patients when they are declined an extension of their opioid prescriptions and are thought to be either abusing them and/or doctor shopping. Several people expressed that they did not think the Prescription Monitoring Program had such a feature.

Chaunda interjected that this has been a robust conversation, but that in the interest of time, we need to move on to other topics. She offered several solutions if the Board wanted to continue pursuing this line of investigation: (1) the DPB could form a study group of its members; (2) the DPB could direct its two subcommittees – the PSC and SEW – to research further; and (3) the DPB could task the HOPE Council to research further.

Alfreda expressed that, as the initiator of the conversation, she wasn't ready to move that any formal action be taken at this time. No one else offered a motion to adopt one of the solutions offered. However, Ernest Legier, Alcohol and Tobacco Control, moved to include this topic on the October meeting agenda for further consideration. Alfreda seconded the motion. Chaunda called for a verbal vote and received a unanimous response. Record: 11 Yeas; 0 Nays

At that point, Michael reminded everyone that we still needed to approve the Plan so he made a motion to approve the Louisiana Substance Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan. Alfreda seconded the motion. Chaunda called for a verbal vote and received a unanimous response. *Vote: 11 Yeas; 0 Nays*

C. 2018 Legislative Update

The Office of Drug Policy tracked quite a few bills during the 2018 Regular Session. Chaunda mentioned that several notables that were passed and are being enacted are Acts 496 and 708 which expand the conditions to be covered by medical marijuana; Act 635 which amends penalties for the crime of hazing; Act 372 which prohibits a health insurance issuer from denying a non-opioid prescription in favor of an opioid prescription; SCR 98 which requests the law enforcement agencies of Louisiana to take advantage of the Attorney General's Drug Take Back Box program to receive free receptacles for the safe disposal of opioids; and SR 216 which requests the study of possible uses for the money recovered from the opioid lawsuit.

Ernest mentioned Act 683 which expanded the ability for ATC to regulate vape products that do not have nicotine, but contain THC or some other illegal substance and are sold in vape shops.

New Business

A. Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE Council) Update

Matt Adams, Louisiana Board of Regents and Co-Chair of the HOPE Council, conducted a brief presentation. He provided an update on the HOPE Council's efforts to date. Slides from his presentation are available.

Alfreda asked Matt if the issue of banning opioids for prescriptions has come up in HOPE Council conversations. Matt responded that it absolutely has come up. Many points and counterpoints have been offered and reflect the complex issues that were discussed previously during this meeting.

B. Pew Charitable Trust

The Pew Charitable Trust has extended an offer of support to the State of Louisiana. After considering several options, they have decided to support the HOPE Council around the opioid crisis. Pew really wants to focus on the treatment piece, particularly capacity issues and MAT issues. They will develop a statewide strategic plan that will outline best practices, examples from other states, and recommendations for Louisiana. The strategic plan will be informed by stakeholders meetings that are being planned around the state. Likely, DPB members will be asked to participate in these meetings. Additionally, the Pew team will attend the HOPE Council meeting in August.

C. Proposal from PSC Regarding Membership and Action Plan**

Kristy directed everyone to the document in their packet that includes a letter from the PSC co-chairs, the membership changes proposal, and the PSC's Behavioral Goals action plan. She recommended that Board members address the two proposals separately, beginning with Proposal 1: Changes to the PSC Membership. Kristy summarized the proposal which essentially recommends a reduction of PSC required members from 32 to 22 members. Members were asked to take a few minutes to review the attached proposal with a list of all currently required PSC members and notations of whether they should remain on the PSC or not and why.

Alberto asked if those member agencies that are being recommended as removing have been contacted. Kristy responded that she made contact with representatives from all agencies and performed phone or in-person interviews explaining the PSC bylaws, required attendance, and the current scope of the member agencies work as it relates to substance abuse prevention.

Alfreda expressed some reservations that the Department of Children and Family Services in on the "remove" list and that is her agency. Kristy explained that she spoke with the individuals who have most recently been listed as DCFS representatives and they identified they could no longer commit to attending meetings. At this point, Alberto moved that the proposal should be amended to keep DCFS as a required member agency and approved with that amendment. Ernest seconded the motion. Alfreda responded that wasn't necessary.

To clarify, Chaunda and Leslie Freeman, Office of Behavioral Health, followed up by reminding everyone that while important work happens at the PSC level, all formal recommendations must come to the DPB from the PSC so there will be opportunities for involvement by DCFS as well as all the other agencies on the Board. Alfreda responded that this provision addressed her concern. At that point, Alberto moved to withdraw his motion. Neal Fudge, Louisiana National Guard, seconded the motion. Chaunda called for a verbal vote and received a unanimous response. *Vote: 11 Yeas; 0 Nays*. Then, Ernest made a motion to approve the proposal as presented. Michael seconded the motion. Chaunda called for a verbal vote and received approval for the proposal. *Vote: 10 Yeas; 0 Nays; 1 Abstention*

Then, Kristy asked everyone to turn their attention to Proposal 2: Study of the Impact of Medical, Decriminalized, and Legalized Marijuana. She explained that at the last PSC meeting, it was discussed and voted on to prioritize marijuana under the objective that deals with illicit drugs. As a first step to this, the PSC would like the DPB to direct Office of Drug Policy staff and the PSC co-chairs with developing a fair, balanced, and research-based white paper on the impact of medical, decriminalized, and legalized marijuana. Ernest responded that he liked the idea, and wanted to know if the white paper would offer recommendations for controls if marijuana was legalized. Kristy responded that, in an effort to be balanced, her intent is to include those kinds of recommendations in addition to rationale against legalization. Buddy Schilling, Beer Industry representative, requested that the report address alternative deliveries of marijuana such as edibles, oils, and vape products. Leslie requested that we address the impact of increased marijuana use and its correlation to the increased use of other substances such as tobacco. At this point, we no longer had quorum so the vote was deferred to the new meeting. Several members requested that an outline be developed between now and then.

D. Roundtable Discussion on DPB Priorities

Chaunda noted that the remaining time before the conclusion of the meeting is short and that several priorities emerged during the meeting so further discussion on this topic will be tabled until next meeting.

Other Business

A. Agency updates

LHSC: Lisa Freeman is the new Executive Director for the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission. She replaced Katara Williams. This is her first Drug Policy Board Meeting.

DOC: Dr. John Morrison is the new Medical Director for the Department of Corrections. He replaced Dr. Raman Singh. This is his first Drug Policy Board Meeting.

ATC: The Department of Revenue and ATC will be part of the joint task force created by the legislature to study alcohol deliveries

AG: Alberto encouraged everyone to continue visiting and referring the public to their opioid epidemic website, www.endtheepidemicla.org.

B. Resources Document: UN Office on Drugs and Crime 2018 World Drug Report, Executive Summary

Chaunda notified everyone that the Executive Summary portion of the UN Office of Drug and Crime's 2018 World Drug Report is included in their packets. She stated that there are 4 topic-specific chapters and we can forward the link to access them if anyone is interested.

Upcoming Meetings

Chaunda reminded everyone of the remaining meeting dates for 2018 for Drug Policy Board, Prevention Systems Committee, and State Epidemiology Workgroup. All meetings will be held at the State Capitol Building, 4th Floor Press Room. Lisa asked if meeting reminders will be sent to members. Kristy responded that she will send calendar notices for the October DPB meeting.

Adjournment

Chaunda called the meeting to close at 12:00pm.

DRUG POLICY BOARD MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
Alcohol industry representative	Buddy Schilling	Yes
Attorney General's Office	Alberto DePuy	Yes
Board of Pharmacy	Carl Aron	
District Court Judge	Vacant	
Federal agency with AOD ed/treatment/prev responsibilities	Vacant	
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Chaunda Mitchell	Yes
House member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Vacant	
Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Vacant	
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	Linda Gautier	Yes
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services	Alfreda Tillman Bester	Yes
Louisiana Department of Education	Michael Comeaux	Yes
Louisiana Department of Health	Janice Petersen	Yes
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Dr. John Morrison	Yes
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	Vacant	
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman	Yes
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Ernest Legier	Yes
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	Jay Dixon	
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Vacant	
Louisiana State Police	Rebecca Nugent	
National Guard	Major Marshall Snowden	Yes (Proxy: Major Neal Fudge)
Physician	Dr. Joseph Kanter	
Private organization involved in substance abuse prevention	Vacant	
Senate member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Senator Yvonne Colomb	

GUESTS

Matt Adams; Louisiana Board of Regents
 Dr. Allison Smith; Louisiana Board of Regents
 Mike Barron; Louisiana Highway Safety Commission
 Dortha Cummins; Louisiana Highway Safety Commission
 Asyl Nachabe; Attorney General's Office
 Kody Thompson; Beer League