

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ACT 88:
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEROIN AND OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION
(HOPE)

Date: June 9, 2022
Time: 9:00 am– 11:00 am

MINUTES

1. Call to Order at 9:00 am
2. Roll Call

Present:

- Dr. James Hussey- In person
- Shelley Edgerton- In person
- Lori Miller- via zoom

Not Present:

- Michael Comeaux
- Captain Heath Guillotte
- Allison Smith, Ph. D.
- Linda Theriot
- Sheral Kellar
- Senator Regina Barrow
- Elsie Joan Brown
- Monica Taylor
- John Ford
- Judge Timothy Marcel

A quorum was not met. Therefore a vote of approval on the agenda and vote of approval on December 2021, January 2022 and March 2022 minutes was unattainable.

3. Presentations:
 - a. Dispensing Narcan in the LCMC-UMC Emergency Department– Dr. DeBlieux was unable to present due to competing duty. Contact info: peter.deblieux@lcmchealth.org
 - b. Bridge Center for Hope presentation by Joy Brunson-Nsubuga
Joy.BrunsonNsubuga@riinternational.com
Ms. Brunson-Nsubuga gave a presentation on the Bridge Center for HOPE. Some highlights of her presentation include:
 - The Bridge Center offers the following:
 - Community Brief Crisis Support
 - Mobile Response Team
 - 23 Hour Crisis Stabilization Unit/Behavioral Health Crisis Care Unit
 - Short Term Psychiatric Unit/Crisis Stabilization Unit
 - Substance use detoxification unit
 - Evidenced based treatment
 - What is working:
 - MAT services were implemented on 4.1.2022
 - Meetings with local hospitals and providers to bring awareness of new services

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- Treatment facilities and outpatient agencies are responsive to requests for discharge appointments for guests
 - Barriers:
 - Direct Referrals from sources in the area (hospitals, MAT clinics)
 - Timely Access to needed medication detail and treatment records
 - Next Day Follow Up Appointments for newly inducted guests
 - Inability to set up immediate appointments upon discharge for established guests
 - Vivitrol is not being offered at the Bridge Center for Hope
 - Residential treatment facilities that exclude individuals who are on MAT (parity issue)
 - Many providers do not accept Medicaid
 - Proposed solutions:
 - Community adopts Hub and spoke model
 - Establish points of contacts
 - Establish Office based opioid treatment clinic
 - Considering SUD as primary to be included in BH Crisis care model
 - Considering funding options for medication upon discharge
 - Consider a focus group to establish referral pathways for care
 - Chair Dr. Hussey asked a question regarding transition to a community provider and a 72 hr follow up call on everyone. He said it's the only window into knowing if they made it to the appointment. Chair Dr. Hussey asked if there is a Care manager that helps to set this up. She replied that they want patients to be a part of the process in setting up their plan. The Care manager can't follow everyone, but they do follow a subset of individuals.
 - There was a question of what are their referral sources? Ms. Brunson-Nsubuga said primarily walk-ins, hospitals, first responders (41% drop off)
 - Another question by Chair Dr. Hussey- What's the capacity right now? She responded that any given day- 16 recliners for short term (23 hr care), and 16 beds for each unit.
 - Marci Brewer asked if they take pregnant and postpartum- Ms. Brunson-Nsubuga responded that they won't say "no" to them, but they will work to get them quickly to where they need to be.
- c. OPH 2021 Opioid/LODSS Complete Data Update by Tranettea Williams
Ms. Williams presented 2021 Opioid/LODSS data. Some highlights include:
- Opioid poisoning deaths have increased by 13% from January 2018 to December 2021.
 - Synthetic Opioid (Fentanyl) poisoning deaths have increased 20% January 2018 to December 2021.
 - Opioid involved deaths increased 67% from 2019 to 2020 and then 38% from 2020 to 2021.

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- The top 5 prescribed drugs in LA reported by the PMP are Hydrocodone, Dextroamphetamine, Oxycodone HCl, Lisdexamfetamine dimesylate, and Methylphenidate HCl.
 - State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) was discussed
4. General Updates
- a. Fentanyl Test Strip Update- Nell Wilson reviewed where we are with test strips.
- HB 212 signed by the Gov. Submitted by Rep. Dustin Miller
 - Provides relative to the definition of drug paraphernalia
 - Proposed law excludes rapid fentanyl test strips (FTS) or any testing equipment or devices solely used, intended for use, or designed to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl or its analogues as "drug paraphernalia".
 - "Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the term "drug paraphernalia" shall not include rapid fentanyl test strips (FTS) or any testing equipment or devices solely used, intended for use, or designed to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl or its analogues."
- b. OTP/Methadone RFA Update was provided by Traci Perry. She mentioned that on November 30, 2021, LDH released a Request for Applications for Methadone Opioid Treatment Programs in Louisiana. RFA awardees were scheduled to open the 2 new locations in Region 3 and 9 respectively in May 2022.
- Goal 1: Increase access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) by increasing the use of evidence-based behavioral health treatment services.
 - The 2 new OTP locations are in Bogalusa; Region 9 and Houma; Region 3. Both locations are currently under construction/renovations to accommodate an OTP. Both locations are projected to open in July.
 - Goal 2: Increase access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) by expanding hours of operations at 2 existing clinics to 24 hours, 7 days per week.
 - Contracts have been finalized and services have been rendered in Shreveport since April.
 - Services for the 2nd shift in Hammond (1p-1a) were operationalized Tues. May 17. There have been 2 admits week 1 and 3 admits during week 2 during extended hours that have been implemented thus far. The staff for the 3rd shift (1a-5a) are hired and the on-boarding process has been initiated. Services should be fully operationalized by June 30th.
- c. Dr. Janice Williams was recognized for her great work with Office of Behavioral Health and with the HOPE Council. Best wishes were offered for her retirement.
- d. Community Impact Groups
- Healthcare Impact Group- Chair Dr. Hussey gave update- only 3 or 4 people have attended may show for lack of interest with epidemic fading, but really it's not fading at all.

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He ran through recommendations and mentioned that he investigated the California Bridge Program and found a great amount of resources. They played major role in getting OUD navigators in every ER/ED in California funded by the state. 80% are making their follow up appointments. He hopes to have a presentation to the HOPE Council for the next meeting.

- Public Safety Impact Group- Shelley Edgerton gave an update on her groups having met in January and March.

5. Public Comments

Donna Mathew- Region 5 is currently modeling a program on the CA Bridge program in Lake Charles Memorial Hospital. It is working and is a great model for all of the regions on SU Navigators in the ER. She is trying to get this program in all regions. Melissa Stainback is the lead on this.

6. Discussion and Next Steps

- a. Future presentations? CA Bridge Presentation
- b. To join and Impact Workgroup, you may send an email to HOPE@LA.GOV
- c. Next Meeting: September 8th, 2022- The time may be pushed back, especially for CA to make that presentation.
- d. Remaining 2022 Meetings:
 - Thursday, September 8th, 9-11am; December 8th, 9-11am or Thursday November 17th, 9-11am
- e. Meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.