



John Bel Edwards
Governor

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DRUG POLICY

Kristy Miller
Director

Dr. Shayla Polk
Prevention Systems Manager

DRUG POLICY BOARD July 21, 2022; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Kristy Miller, Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Policy and Chair of the Drug Policy Board, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Kristy moved on to introductions. Voting and Of-Counsel members seated around the table were asked to introduce themselves. At this time, Kristy announced Dr. Shayla Polk would now be serving as the Prevention Systems Manager in the office of Drug Policy. Then, stakeholders and members of the public were introduced. After introductions, she announced that there were 14 members present so quorum was achieved. A list of all members and stakeholders who attended the meeting is included at the end of this document.

Old Business

- *Review and approve minutes from previous meeting*

Kristy asked everyone to refer to the minutes that were emailed prior to the meeting. While doing that, she reminded everyone that a copy of the minutes were in their packets. After a moment of silence to review, Kristy asked if there were any edits or amendments to be made. Hearing none, Chris Alderman, JD, with the Attorney General's Office, made a motion to approve. Linda Gautier, representing the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, seconded the motion. Vote by voice was made. All who were present agreed with the motion. None disagreed. None abstained.

New Business

- Brief Report: Outcome of the 2022 Legislative Session*

Kristy shared a list of the 2022 Legislation Bills that the Office of Drug Policy tracked. She reminded everyone that a copy of 2022 Legislation Bills tracked by the Office of Drug Policy were in their packets. Kristy shared the final status of the bills paying special attention to two bills that focused on Opioids: **HB 212**, which excludes rapid fentanyl test strips or any testing equipment designed to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl or its analogues from the definition of "drug paraphernalia" **Signed as Act 137** and **SB 315**, which provides for enhanced penalties if an individual knowingly misrepresented or marketed a substance containing fentanyl/analogue as another substance. Amended to allow for an exception for FTS to paraphernalia law and to add distribution of fentanyl/carfentanil to the list of offenses designated as a crime of violence. **Signed as Act 671**. Kristy went on to explain that these two bills were a "win for the field and the office of public health" who have been advocating for harm reduction strategies. Kristy then gave a brief over view of bills pertaining to the following:

Impaired driving, controlled substances/Illicit drugs, alcohol, marijuana and medical marijuana. Refer to the hand-out provided.

B. Presentation: Wait, There's Still an Opioid Epidemic in Louisiana??

Dr. Jim Hussey, Chair and Medical Director, OBH/LDH presented the executive summary of the 2021 Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Council End-Of-Year Report Briefing. Slides from the presentation are available upon request.

C. Presentation: Opioid Surveillance Update 2022

Nell Wilson, Project Director, with the LA Opioid Surveillance Initiative, shared the OPH/LDH 2021 Opioid/LODSS Data report. Nell brief overview covered drug poisoning deaths by category for Louisiana, as well as Opioid-involved and stimulant-involved overdose deaths by year for the state of Louisiana. The entire slide-deck is available upon request.

D. Introduction to Tunnel of Hope Foundation

Dan Schneider RPh of the Netflix docuseries *The Pharmacist* was introduced by Kristy. She explained that, in the years since the release of the docuseries which chronicled Dan's efforts to solve his son's drug-related murder, take down a pill-mill doctor, and hold Purdue Pharma accountable for its aggressive opioid marketing practices to convince more doctors to prescribe their drugs, Dan has created the Tunnel of Hope Foundation and has taken on a new project called, EMM-C (Enhanced Mainstreaming MAT-Coalition). Kristy then turned the floor over to Dan.

Dan thanked everyone for allowing him to attend the meeting and speak briefly about EMM-C (pronounced emcee). He went on to explain that the focus of the coalition is to introduce (or emcee) a solution to significantly reduce Opioid use disorder overdoses and deaths with legal safe drugs through medication assisted treatment (MAT). EMM-C's proposal to the healthcare industry and public officials is to figure out how to provide MAT at zero cost to all patients who have been diagnosed with an opioid use disorder for one full year. Dan believes this effort will dramatically reduce relapse episodes and will drive illicit drug dealers out of business because they can't compete against zero cost. Illicit demand decreases, supply decreases, deaths decrease! Dan has been working to identify stakeholders who are willing to assist with funding expanded MAT provision in several communities as part of a pilot program to study whether his concept will work. He asked for feedback and recommendations on how to get elected officials and other stakeholders involved in his effort.

E. Brief Discussion: Compassion Fatigue

To close out new business, Kristy sparked a brief but robust discussion on overdose-related compassion fatigue.

Other Business

F. Office of Drug Policy updates

Kristy stated that the Office of Drug Policy had no additional updates.

G. Member agency updates

Dr. Leslie Freeman, LDH, Office of Behavioral Health shared that Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) has launched the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline which is the new 3-digit number that replaces the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to make it easier for people to receive assistance during a mental health crisis. Dr. Freeman, explained that the 988 will a trusted resource for those who are dealing with suicidal thoughts, substance abuse or other mental health challenges.

Rebecca Chiasson, LSP Crime Lab, gave an update on how blood samples from 2020-2021 show an increase level of Fentanyl tolerance in some individuals over time due to continued use. She further

shared that this increase intolerance creates more at risk behaviors such as operating a vehicle under the influence of fentanyl.

Public Comments

There were no public comments provided prior to the meeting. Upon calling for any comments from members of the public in the meeting room, no comments were offered.

Upcoming Meetings

A list of upcoming meetings for all the board and commissions associated with the Office of Drug Policy was provided. Kristy informed everyone the next office of Drug Policy meeting will be held October 20th, 2022.

Adjournment

Kristy announced that there was no additional business to address. With that, LA State Representative Robert "Bob" Owen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. LA State Senator Gerald Boudreaux seconded the motion. By a live voice vote, all members approved the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

MEETING ATTENDEES

VOTING MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
Alcohol industry representative	Charles "Buddy" Schilling	No
Attorney General's Office	Chris Alderman	Yes
Board of Pharmacy	Joe Fontenot	Yes
District Court Judge	Scott Schlegel	No
Federal agency with AOD ed/ treat/prev responsibilities	Vacant	--
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Kristy Miller	Yes
House member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Representative Bob Owen	Yes
Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Vacant/Comm does not exist	--
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	Linda Gautier	Yes
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services	Daniel Doyle	Yes
Louisiana Department of Education	Michael Comeaux	Yes
Louisiana Department of Health	Leslie Freeman (Proxy-Karen Stubbs)	Yes
Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections	Blake LeBlanc	Yes
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	Warren Montgomery	No
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman	Yes
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Deatrice Henderson (Proxy-Ernest Legier)	Yes
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	Remy Starns	No
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Shannon Dirmann	No
Louisiana State Police	Rebecca Chiasson	Yes
National Guard	Major Marshall Snowden	No
Physician	Dr. Joseph Kanter	No
Private organization involved in SA prevention	Edward Carlson	Yes
Senate member, Committee on Health and Welfare	Senator Gerald Boudreaux	Yes

OF-COUNSEL MEMBERS

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	In Attendance
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Dr. Vincent Culotta	No
LA Department of Veteran's Affairs	Barry Robinson	No
Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education	Dr. Jim Hussey	Yes
Drug Enforcement Administration, NOLA Office	Brad Byerley	No
Gulf Coast High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area	Don Petty	No

STAFF

Shayla Polk, Governor's Office

GUESTS

Ashley Tillison, LDH, Office of Behavioral Health

Dan Schneider, Tunnel of Hope Foundation

Shelley Edgerton, DOC

Lonnie Granier, Odyssey House Louisiana

Austin Matthews, LSU

Brian Jones, NHTSA

Maggie Gunnels, NHTSA

Cathy Childers, LHSC

Lawrence Alexander, DEA

Nell Wilson, OPH BHI

Katie Chapman, OPH BHI