



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR DRUG POLICY

Dr. Shayla Polk, LCSW
Director

Cortalya Muse, M.S.,
B.S.
Prevention Systems
Manager

DRUG POLICY BOARD July 18, 2024; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Dr. Shayla Polk, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Policy and Chair of the Drug Policy Board, called the meeting to order at 10:17 AM

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Polk welcomed everyone to the third quarterly meeting of the Drug Policy Board., Dr. Polk asked everyone to introduce themselves, and she then proceeded to do a roll call for Voting and Of-Counsel members seated around the table. She then requested Voting and Of-Counsel members to introduce themselves, as well as stakeholders and members of the public. After completing introductions, Dr. Polk announced that the quorum was met. A list of all members and stakeholders who attended the meeting is provided and included at the document's end.

Old Business

- *Review and approve minutes from previous meeting*

Dr. Polk 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 was in their packets. After a moment of silence to review, Dr. Polk asked if there were any edits or amendments to be made. A motion to approve was raised. A vote by voice was made. All who were present agreed with the motion. None disagreed. None abstained.

New Business

A. Update on Drug Policy Board Membership

Dr. Polk gave a brief overview of the members of the Drug Policy board.

B. Presentations with Open Discussions: Open Health Care Clinic - Dr. Jamie Barney, LCSW-BACS, Vice President of Behavioral Health Services and Dr. Jemiela Castleberry, LCSW-BACS, Behavioral Health Manager.

The Open Health Care Clinic aims to create a system that guarantees access to high-quality, culturally competent preventive and primary medical care, along with support services that address the community's evolving needs while minimizing social stigmas. It is the HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region Two (HAART), Inc dba Open Health Care Clinic (OHCC). Established in 1995, the clinic focuses on providing healthcare access to underserved populations in Region 2 of Louisiana. Dr. Jamie Barney and Dr. Jamiela Castleberry with Open Health Care Clinic presented on the critical

public health concerns surrounding disparities in substance misuse and mental health, emphasizing their significant impact on individuals and communities, particularly marginalized populations.

The presentation addressed the significant public health concerns related to disparities in substance misuse and mental health, emphasizing their profound impact on marginalized communities. Key statistics from SAMHSA highlighted that approximately 9.2 million adults in the U.S. suffer from co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, with about 50% of individuals with severe mental health disorders also affected by substance use disorders. Furthermore, around 37% of alcoholics and 53% of drug addicts experience at least one serious mental illness, underscoring the need for integrated treatment approaches. Open Health plans to expand behavioral health resources to address these treatment gaps through grant expansions and medication-assisted treatment options.

The discussion focused on the role of Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) in shaping health outcomes, emphasizing factors such as economic stability, education, and healthcare access. It was noted that different resources are not one-size-fits-all, highlighting the importance of tailored approaches to care. Open Health has implemented a universal screening process for depression and anxiety, alongside the DAST (Drug Abuse Screening Test) and assessments for alcohol use disorder, to ensure comprehensive evaluations of individuals' needs. Strategies for addressing disparities included improving data collection to identify at-risk populations, enhancing community engagement in program development, and promoting culturally competent care.

The presentation concluded by emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts to create equitable healthcare solutions, particularly in addressing co-occurring disorders to reduce existing gaps in treatment.

C. *Presentation with Open Discussion: Effective Strategies for Addressing Mental Health and Drug Misuse among Youth and Young Adults - Dr. Shayla Polk, LCSW Director, Office of Drug Policy and Cortalya Muse, M.S., B.S. - Prevention Systems Manager*

Dr. Shayla Polk, the Executive Director, and Cortalya Muse, the Prevention Systems Manager with the Office of Drug Policy gave a presentation on Effective Strategies for Addressing Mental Health and Drug Misuse among Youth and Young Adults. The presentation focused on the critical need for effective strategies to address mental health issues and drug misuse among youth and young adults, highlighting the rising prevalence of these concerns in this demographic. Key statistics illustrated the urgency of the issue, revealing that many young individuals face mental health challenges, often exacerbated by substance use. Trends in adolescent substance use showed an increase in the use of marijuana, opioids, and prescription drugs nationally, with Louisiana exhibiting higher rates of substance use compared to national averages. For instance, Louisiana reported that nearly 12% of high school students engaged in binge drinking, significantly higher than the national average of 8%. This disparity underscores the unique challenges faced by youth in Louisiana and the need for targeted interventions.

Several factors contributing to drug misuse were identified, including social influences, mental health issues, and environmental factors such as peer pressure, family dynamics, and exposure to trauma. The presentation highlighted how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can increase vulnerability to both mental health issues and substance misuse. Additionally, socioeconomic factors such as poverty, lack of access to education, and limited availability of mental health resources were discussed as significant contributors to these issues. The overlapping challenges of mental health and substance use were emphasized, noting that they often coexist and complicate treatment approaches.

Effective prevention and intervention strategies were outlined, including the implementation of school-based mental health programs that provide accessible resources and support for students, as well as community-wide initiatives aimed at increasing awareness and reducing stigma. Evidence-based practices such as cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and motivational interviewing were recommended as effective approaches for addressing both mental health and substance misuse. The role of peer support and mentorship programs was highlighted as a means to foster resilience, promote healthy coping mechanisms, and create supportive networks for youth. Furthermore, the presentation stressed the importance of family engagement and education in creating supportive home environments, as parental involvement has been shown to significantly reduce the likelihood of substance misuse among youth.

Collaborative efforts among schools, parents, healthcare providers, and community organizations were encouraged to develop comprehensive prevention and intervention programs tailored to the unique needs of youth and young adults. The presentation concluded by calling for a multifaceted approach that combines education, awareness, and accessible resources to effectively combat mental health issues and drug misuse in this vulnerable population, particularly in light of the specific trends and statistics in Louisiana. This holistic approach aims not only to address the immediate concerns but also to create lasting systemic changes that improve the overall health and well-being of young people.

Other Business

A. Office of Drug Policy updates

Currently looking at prevention as it relates to schools (Mental Health and Substance Use)

B. Member agency updates

Dr. Ashley Tillison –SREC announced that Project PSIICIC offers free training and technical assistance available for Medicaid providers, provided by the LSU Social Research Team. It's essential to note that this training is free, and trainees will be compensated.

Missy Graves, Program Manager- Louisiana Department of Health shared that the Louisiana Department of Health intends to submit an application to CMS for an 1115 demonstration waiver to improve care transitions for Medicaid-eligible incarcerated individuals and to provide certain covered services during the 90-day pre-release period. We are working with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Medicaid actuaries at Milliman to finalize the list of covered services and benefits.

CMS has provided guidance on a set of minimum benefits, so we know that the waiver will include case management, medication-assisted treatment and counseling for substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply of all prescription medications. The eligible carceral settings will consist of all state prison facilities and up to 10 parish jails. LDH is planning to provide a public comment period in August, including posting the draft waiver application on our website and hosting a couple of public forums to encourage public comments and feedback. We will circulate this information as soon as it is available.

Lisa Freeman, Executive Director- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission asked that everyone please Save the Date for the Annual Traffic Records Data Presentation

The Louisiana Highway Safety Commission announced the d to all traffic safety stakeholders that the 2023 Traffic Records Presentation by Dr. Helmut Schneider, Executive Director of the Center for Analytics & Research in Transportation Safety at Louisiana State University, was made on

Wednesday, September 4, 2024, at 9 a.m. The presentation was given live via Zoom.

During the presentation, Dr. Schneider will provide a comprehensive data analysis of Louisiana crash statistics for 2023. He will present fatal and injury motor vehicle crash data, a situational and geographical analysis, as well as impaired driving, seat belt use, aggressive driving, and distracted driving data.

CARTS is the statewide hub for gathering crash data that is used to make Louisiana's roads safer. State and federal data analysts review each statistic thoroughly. The crash data collection process is highly collaborative, and LHSC commends the effort of all who participate.

"It takes many individuals to record Louisiana's crash data, and I'm grateful for everyone who contributes," LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman said. "The information we gather is essential to saving lives on Louisiana roads."

More information on CARTS may be found at <https://carts.lsu.edu/home>. Note that 2024 data collection is ongoing, and this year's statistics will not be finalized until mid-to-late 2025. For more information on LHSC, please visit <https://www.lahighwaysafety.org/>.

August is Opioid Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about substance use disorders. This initiative aims to combat stigmatization, promote treatment, celebrate recovery, and strengthen efforts to prevent overdose deaths.

August 31 is also International Overdose Awareness Day, the world's largest annual campaign to end overdose. This year's theme, "Recognizing those people who go unseen," focuses on acknowledging the individuals in our communities affected by overdose who often remain unnoticed.

The substance use crisis in Louisiana has deeply impacted our communities, families, and individuals. It is crucial to equip our communities with the necessary resources and support to prevent the fatal consequences of substance misuse. Access to evidence-based prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services is essential. By doing so, we can offer those affected by addiction the best chance at long-term recovery and a hopeful future.

Public Comments

No Public Comments

Upcoming Meetings

- State Epidemiology Workgroup- December 5, 2024, @10 AM- 12 PM Virtual
- DWI Task Force- November 6, 2024 (10 AM- 12 PM) LA Capitol 4th Floor Press Room
- Prevention Systems Committee- October 9, 2024 Virtual/Zoom
- Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Council- October 11, 2024
- Drug Policy Board- October 24, 2024 (10 AM- 12 PM) LA Capitol 4th Floor Press Room

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:39 AM

MEETING ATTENDEES

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	Present		
		Yes	No	Proxy
Alcohol industry representative	Vacant			
Attorney General's Office	Michael Dupree Director, Public Protection Division (John Kelley Proxy - Complex Litigation Officer)	X		
Board of Pharmacy	Joe Fontenot, Executive Director (Marty McKay as proxy)			X
District Court Judge	Hon. Shayna Beevers Morvant 24JDC		X	
Federal agency with AOD ed/treatment/prev responsibilities	Vacant			
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Dr. Shayla Polk, Director and Chair of the Drug Policy Board	X		
House member, Health & Welfare Committee	Stephanie Berault, LA State Representative, Dist. 76	X		
Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Vacant/Commission no longer exists			
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	Linda Gautier, Federal Grants Section Manager	X		
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services	Dr. Rebecca Hook-Director of Medical Services	X		
Louisiana Department of Education	Michael Comeaux, Healthy Communities Section Lead		X	
Louisiana Department of Health	Quinetta Womack, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Behavioral Health	X		
Louisiana Department of Corrections	Blake LeBlanc, Mental/Behavioral Health Director	X		
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	J. Collin Sims			
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman, JD, Executive Director	X		
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Ernest Legier, JD, Commissioner (Deatrice Henderson as proxy)			X
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	Remy Starns, JD, State Public Defender		X	
Louisiana Sheriffs' Association	Shannon Dirmann, JD, Counsel and Legislative Liaison	X		
Louisiana State Police	Rebecca Chiasson, Chemistry Manager, Crime Lab	X		
National Guard	Lt. Col. Beverly Couto, Coordinator, Counterdrug Program (MSgt Amy Thomas as proxy)		X	
Physician	Peter W. Croughan, M.D, LA Department of Health		X	
Private org involved in substance abuse prevention	Dan Schneider, RPH Tunnel of Hope	X		
Senate member, Health & Welfare Committee	Sen Robert Owens - District 1	X		
TOTAL PRESENT		14		

(Quorum was achieved)

Of – Council Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	YES	NO	Proxy
O'Brien House	Emily George Tilley, LCSW-BACS, Director	X		
Louisiana Board of Regents	Dr. Allison Smith	X		
North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory	Joseph O. Jones System Director	X		
LA State Board of Medical Examiners	Dr. Vincent Culotta, Executive Director		X	
Baton Rouge Field	Steven Hofer, Asst. Special Agent in Charge	X		
ADAPT, Inc.	Thomas R. "Rusty" Fornea, Executive Director (Mrs. Jana Pound –Proxy)			X
Seymore D'Fair Foundation -Ofc	Dara Lemoine-Johnson (Craig Wiles - proxy)	X		
15th JDC -Ofc	Judge Valerie Garret - District Court		X	

STAFF

Cortalya Muse, Governor's Office

GUESTS

Catherine Childers- Louisiana Highway Safety Commission

Paola Ochoa- ATC

Jules Edwards III- JOC

David Johnson- Seymore's Foundation

Kody Thompson – Alcohol Industry/ Billings Schillings

Lonnie Granier, Odyssey House Louisiana

DEA Jacqueline Sanchez -LDAA

Leslie Brougham Freeman –LDH/OBH

Jamie Barney- Open Health Care Clinic

Jemiela Castleberry- Open Health Care Clinic

Missy Graves- Office of Behavioral Health

Tranettea Williams- OPH/BHI

Taylor Addison- TRACC/Tangipahoa Parish Gov't

Craig Wiles- Seymore D'Fair

Elizabeth Authement- St. Tammany District Attorney

Tunde Animashaun- DPS

Ashley Tillison- LSU/SREC

Rick P. Devall- US DEA