

**Drug Policy Board Meeting
April 19, 2018**

MINUTES

Attendees

Voting members

Chaunda Allen Mitchell (Drug Policy), Barry Robinson (LDVA), Kody Thompson (for Buddy Schilling, Schilling Dist), Linda Gautier (LCLE), Janice Petersen (OBH), Michael Comeaux (LDOE), Rebecca Nugent (LSP), Alberto DePuy (AG's ofc), Marshall Snowden (NG), Alfreda Tillman Bester (DCFS), Jay Dixon (LPDB)

Guests

Leslie Freeman (OBH)

Quorum was not present.

Call to Order

Dr. Chaunda Mitchell called the meeting to order at 10:12 am.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone was asked to introduce themselves. Chaunda began by introducing Kristy Miller, the new Project Director for the Louisiana Partnerships for Success in the Office of Drug Policy. Kristy replaced Quanda Charles. All other attendees made their introductions.

Old Business

Review and Approval of Minutes

Despite the fact that quorum was not present, attendees were asked to review for edits. It was noted that the date in the heading needs to be changed from July to October.

New Business

Agency Updates

LSP Crime Lab – Rebecca Nugent reported that the Crime Lab is experiencing a huge increase in training requests for handling fentanyl. She has developed a handout with information about naloxone and how to dispense it in its various delivery methods. At this time, they are having to prioritize requests from law enforcement agencies and first responders due to the volume of requests and other job responsibilities.

AG's Office – Alberto DePuy reported that the AG's office along with the Ambulance Alliance have developed a website with opioid abuse resources. The URL is www.endtheepidemicla.org. In addition, they have developed a handout with facts and a list of resources that will direct readers the website for more information. These handouts are available for free to distribute to stakeholders and the public.

LDOE – Michael Comeaux announced that the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) updated a state policy to require the integration of evidence-based, age-appropriate instruction on opioid substance abuse into prevention education programs beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. A copy of the press release detailing this announcement was included in attendee packets.

LDH/OBH – Dr. Janice Petersen announced that the HOPE Council is currently fielding a survey about opioid prevention and education resources, services, and trainings. She encouraged anyone who hasn't completed the survey with relevant resources to do so as soon as possible. If you are not aware of the survey, but your agency provides opioid-related resources, please contact her directly to receive a link to the online survey. Additionally, she explained that the STR grant funding is primarily supporting prevention and treatment. In terms of treatment support, it is funding medication assisted treatment (MAT). Also, there has been a substantial purchase of naloxone for dissemination to first responders. LDH is coordinating with the Bureau of EMS and the AG's Office so there will be several types of naloxone dosing types available.

LDVA – Barry Robinson announced that the Military Families Assistance Fund has been expanded to provide family assistance services to incarcerated veterans.

LPDB – Jay Dixon talked announced that the Board is putting together an effort to address criminalizing addiction.

2018 Legislative Session Tracking and Updates

Chaunda explained that attendees have a document in their packets with a list of legislative bills being tracked by the Office of Drug Policy during the 2018 regular session. She asked the attendees to review the document and bring to her attention any pieces of drug-related legislation their agencies are tracking that are not on the list. Chaunda offered to email the document to everyone as it has links to the bills embedded in the file.

Louisiana Substance Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan

Chaunda reminded attendees about the Louisiana Substance Abuse Prevention Strategic Plan. She reminded them that they were presented with the complete Plan and an Executive Summary at the October 2017 meeting. Members voted to approve the Executive Summary at that time and offered edits to the complete plan. Chaunda had hoped to have professional printed copies of the Executive Summary available at this meeting and also to hold a vote to accept the complete Plan. Unforeseen challenges prevented the professionally printed copies of the Executive Summary from arriving in time; copies will be mailed to members. Also, due to a lack of quorum, a vote could not be held. Chaunda and Kristy Miller will work hard to ensure a quorum at the next meeting to allow for a vote.

Office of Drug Policy Updates

HOPE Council – Chaunda reminded attendees that the Advisory Council on Heroin and Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE Council for short) reports to the Drug Policy Board. Dr. James Hussey, Medical Director for the Office of Behavioral Health in the LA Department of Health is the Chair of the Council. On his behalf, Chaunda provided a copy of the Council's *2017 End-of-Year Update Report*. The next meeting of the HOPE Council is scheduled for May 15 and is open to the public. Several members asked if Dr. Hussey could provide an update at the next DPB meeting. Chaunda stated that she would extend an invitation to him to present.

Pew Charitable Trust – Chaunda announced that the Pew Charitable Trust is looking at Louisiana as a potential technical assistance recipient. They would like to assist Louisiana in taking a similar approach to substance abuse as the state did with the 2017 criminal justice reinvestment package. Pew is very impressed that we already have infrastructure such as the Drug Policy Board, Prevention Systems Committee, and State Epidemiology Workgroup to facilitate and support this effort. At this time, it is expected that the folks from Pew will make a visit in July to discuss further. No final decisions have been made at this time.

DWI Task Force – Chaunda announced that since the Governor was notified at the last DPB meeting that the DWI Task Force was never reinstated, he has issued an Executive Order to do so. A copy of the EO was provided in attendee's packets. The Governor made several substantial changes to the Board in this Executive Order, including to the membership composition and to the reporting authority of the Task Force. Now, the Task Force reports to the Drug Policy Board. Appointments have been extended and most have been accepted. The new Executive Director of the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission, Lisa Freeman, was designated as Chair.

DPB Vacancies – There are a number of vacancies on the Drug Policy Board, the latest of which is the loss of Helena Moreno as the House member designee now that she has been elected to the New Orleans City Council. Chaunda will work with the Governor's Office staff to get new designees identified.

National Rx Take Back Day – The DEA has designated Saturday, April 28 as National Rx Take Back Day. Many local substance abuse prevention coalitions, law enforcement agencies, pharmacies, etc are holding Take Back Day events in their communities. The Governor has issued a proclamation supporting the Take Back Day. Kristy will email to members.

Other Business

Dr. Petersen expressed that the third Thursday of the month in the morning is beginning to be a problem. This seems to be a popular time slot for monthly/quarterly meetings. She asked for input from others about this time slot and requested a consideration that the week of the month be reconsidered. As there was not quorum present for a vote, Chaunda committed to conducting a Doodle poll with all members to identify a suitable alternative.

Adjournment

All business was completed and the meeting was adjourned at 12:06 pm.