

**LUZERNE/WYOMING COUNTIES DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAM  
MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMISSION MEETING**

Wednesday, April 15, 2020

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program Executive Commission conducted its monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

<b><u>Participants</u></b>	Ryan Hogan, Jill Sprau, Pamela Coveleski, Marie Baratta	SCA
<b><u>Participants via Teleconference</u></b>	John Alunni	OHS
	Charles Blewitt-Chair, Cara Divine-Homza-Co-Chair	Exec. Comm.
	Rev. Lou Divis, Bonnie Dodson, Eric Bieski	“ ”
	Tee Simpkins	X-Officio
	Rachael Wydra	NEPA DOH

**Welcome** Dr. Blewitt welcomed everyone, and the March 25, 2020 minutes were reviewed. Mr. Bieski introduced himself as the newest Executive Commission Volunteer, and gave an overview of his D&A/Prevention work with youth. The Commission welcomed him and thanked him for volunteering. *A motion was made to accept the minutes by Ms. Divine-Homza, seconded by Rev. Lou. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Administrator’s Report** Mr. Hogan reviewed that DDAP has been doing a good job responding to the needs of our communities regarding COVID-19. Mr. Hogan reviewed that Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program staff are deemed essential by the PA Governor’s Office and are able to work from the office. The SCA staff have the capabilities to work from home too. Mr. Hogan participates in weekly conference calls with DDAP/PACDAA regarding COVID-19 responses.

Mr. Hogan reviewed the Annual SCA Monitoring Visits with Pathway to Recovery, The Robinson Counseling Center-Children’s Service Center, and A Better Today that went very well. Mr. Hogan noted that he is working remotely to complete SCA Monitoring Reviews, and will finish the last ten (10) monitoring reviews over the next month. Mr. Hogan reviewed monthly reports including the SOR-Funding Report, Warm Hand-Off Report, Fraud Waste and Abuse Report, and PA WITS Compliance Reports for Providers.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Program has put in place a positive measure with an Alcohol Mitigation Strategy to assist individuals who are in critical health due to detoxification/withdrawal from alcohol. The SCA completes the Telehealth Assessment to determine what level of care is needed. If an individual cannot be placed due to a lack in bed availability OR the client refuses to enter detox treatment services, the SCA will connect them to the PA Liquor Control Board who will work with DDAP to offer alcohol to offset harm to critical individuals in need. This initiative through DDAP is a lifesaving measure. *A motion was made by Rev. Divis, seconded by Ms. Dodson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Case Management Report** Ms. Sprau reviewed that Telehealth Assessments are being completed. Three Case Management Specialist positions have been offered to individuals, and the positions will be filled when the hiring process with HR resumes, and Covid-19 is no longer a worry. Ms. Sprau participates weekly in Drug Court calls, Zoom Meetings, Face Book Page-Luzerne County TC, and is updating all drug & alcohol forms. Dr. Blewitt stated Ms. Sprau and the CM Unit Staff are doing very good work. Ms. Sprau confirmed that there were four emergency placements this month that were completed, as well as one helpline. Mr. Hogan continues to monitor inpatient treatment provider capacity and operations. *A motion was made by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Rev. Divis. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Fiscal Report** Ms. Coveleski confirmed the cash disbursements report for March will be reviewed at the May 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting. *A motion was made by Rev. Divis, seconded by Ms. Divine-Homza. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Provider Representative Report** Ms. Simpkins reviewed that Ms. Feno-Pathway is very busy and doing well. Mr. Horn confirmed that Pyramid-Dallas is providing Telehealth with CDC Screening. Mr. Miller-CSC-Robinson Center is completing all measures of safety, no activities are taking place on-site, in-person, and clinical and non-clinical staff are being hired. Prevention services have been impacted by the School Districts closing but other avenues of information dissemination are helpful that include printed prevention information placed in lunch bags for the school districts, and online classes. WVADS had nothing to report. Mr. Hogan reviewed that CDC, ASAM, SAMHSA, OHMSAS and others will continue to offer group sessions. Ms. Simpkins reviewed that she took clients to CleanSlate and all measures of safety were lacking including no masks or gloves for staff or clients coming in and out of the building. Ms. Simpkins noted that she and the clients she brought were the only ones with measures of safety in place.

Mr. Hogan expressed his thanks to Ms. Simpkins for continuing quality care in the Half-Way House and Graniteville as well as the wonderful information she shares monthly regarding Provider Reports with the Executive Commission. Mr. Hogan also stated that Mr. Miller at CSC-Robinson Counseling Center is doing a wonderful job in our Communities. Mr. Hogan stated that the accommodations made by our local community partner the Commission on Economic Opportunity is outstanding. *A motion was made by Mr. Bieski, seconded by Ms. Dodson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Prevention Committee Report** Prevention billing has declined as schools are closed due to Covid-19. Pathway to Recovery and The Robinson Counseling Center have implemented creative, unique Prevention programming including more information development and dissemination to those in need during the crisis. Mr. Hogan reported that Children's Service Center and CEO are distributing food, coloring books, crayons' in our Counties as well. SAP Providers are continuing to hold teleconference, skype, and zoom with Teachers and Students. DDAP weekly calls are taking place to review Prevention plans and an in-person meeting will be scheduled with the Committee in May for further determination of essential suggestions and changes. *A motion was made by Ms. Dodson, seconded by Ms. Divine Homza. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**Executive Commission Nominating Committee** Dr. Blewitt discussed that Ms. Divine-Homza, Ms. Bonnie Dodson, and he have terms that will end on April 27, 2020. Both Ms. Divine-Homza and Ms. Dodson have already served two (2) three-year terms, which is the maximum time frame that individuals are allowed to serve. He confirmed that he has served one (1) three-year term and has re-applied for another three-year term to the Luzerne County Council Clerk Ms. Lawrence, and is awaiting her response to his Volunteer application. Our Executive Commission volunteer compliment represents both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, and we are in need of several volunteers for each County.

Ms. Divine-Homza sent out volunteer applications to candidates to represent Education or other available volunteer positions for interest. Applicants may apply online through the Luzerne County Website.

Ms. Divine Homza confirmed that Lakeside Global is offering the Opioid Use Training that is a free online course. This course may be completed at your own pace. Individuals may sign up online with name/email/county/organization affiliation and Lakeside Global will send a code via email to enter in order to begin to take the course. *A motion was made by Mr. Bieski, seconded by Rev. Divis. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

**By-Laws and County Joinder Agreement** The By-Laws have been reviewed and approved in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020. The By-Laws will be reviewed on a bi-yearly basis in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of calendar year 2022. Mr. Hogan confirmed that the term of the County Joinder Agreement is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2022. *A motion was made by Ms. Divine-Homza, seconded by Ms. Dodson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Mr. Bieski*

**Next Meeting** The next Executive Commission Meeting will take place on May 27, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Teleconference. *With no further business the Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.*

Submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed by: Ryan Hogan, Assistant Administrator