

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

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program Executive Commission conducted its monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants:

Steven Ross	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program
Ryan Hogan	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program
Pamela Coveleski	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program
Marie Baratta	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program
Robert Tuttle	Executive Commission, Vice Chair
Bonnie Dodson	Executive Commission
Cara Devine-Homza	Executive Commission, Secretary
Thomas Henry	Executive Commission, Chair
John McCarthy	Executive Commission
Charles Blewitt	Executive Commission
Eugene Dziak	Executive Commission
Tee Simpkins	Executive Commission

Excused:

Jeff Kimmel	Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program
Amy Szydowski	Executive Commission X- Officio
Lynn Hill	Luzerne County Office
John Alunni	Luzerne County Office
Kendra Schultz	Tunkhannock H.S. Junior

Welcome

Commissioner Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting this afternoon. The Commission reviewed the August 29, 2018 meeting minutes. *A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Divine-Homza second motion by Ms. Dodson. MOTION CARRIED, minutes approved.*

Program Administrator's Report

Mr. Ross reviewed the Luzerne County STOP Coalition Kick-Off at the Courthouse Rotunda last week which was greatly attended and included media coverage. Mr. Ross commented on how each sub-committee chairperson presented on their committee's goals through the strategic plan. Ms. Simpkins stated that she is impressed with the Stakeholders as they are all very receptive to outreach, and have helped catapult the Coalition forward in a positive way. Mr. Ross reviewed that Senator Boback, Senator Baker and Representative Pashinski presented and expressed their gratitude for the leadership of the Coalition. Mr. Ross reviewed in addition to co-chairing the Luzerne County Coalition, he chairs the Warm Hand-off sub-committee of the STOP Coalition and the Treatment sub-committee of the HOPE Coalition and that great work is being done by both Coalitions in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties.

Mr. Ross discussed a Pre-Arrest Diversion initiative that he and District Attorney Salavantis are piloting in an attempt to increase access to treatment and reduce the punitive consequences of incarceration.

Mr. Ross confirmed that the Outpatient Providers have been expanded to include Children's Service Center in both Wilkes-Barre and Tunkhannock. Mr. Ross confirmed that Ms. Scheller is opening a male inpatient facility with a 25 bed capacity, and the SCA has completed a site visit, has approved the facility and submitted required documents to DDAP.

Dr. Tuttle asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Fiscal Report Ms. Coveleski reviewed both June and July that are on track. Invoices will be coming in for school based prevention shortly and the Student Assistant Program invoices will follow in the normal process by October. *Commissioner Henry asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Case Management Report

Mr. Kimmel asked to be excused in order to cover the Case Management Unit as they are short staffed today. *Commissioner Henry asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Dr. Blewitt, second motion by Ms. Dodson. All in favor. Motion approved.*

Program Representative

Mr. Hogan gave an overview of the new PA WITS Data System on the Conference Room screen. He reviewed that the home page has an area for alerts regarding abusive behavior or attitudes toward women or any other potential hazard. Mr. Hogan briefly reviewed county, type of substance abuse, relationships and disclosures that can be shared in many categories for provider networks than can be reviewed when permissions are given. The client search page is helpful finding the correct individual through first name, or social security, or date of birth, and more that will pop up information of all individual with that

name or number with data sort, and so much more. *Commissioner Henry asked for a motion to approve the report. A motion to accept the Report was made by Dr. Blewitt, second motion by Ms. Divine Homza. All in favor. Motion approved.*

Providers Report

Ms. Simpkins noted that no concerns were brought forward. Ms. Simpkins reviewed that she has in place a very helpful tool for the women at Graniteville that helps support the individuals by reviewing their schedule/time frames on a daily basis including activities, appointments, etc. and at the end of 90 days they are more prepared to successfully move on and have a home plan.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Ross confirmed that Attorney Peter Biscontini has resigned from the Executive Commission. Mr. Ross confirmed that Luzerne County have a vacant position and Wyoming County have two vacant positions. Luzerne County Council are reviewing a potential candidate at this time. Ms. Divits, Wyoming County resident has reached out to Commissioner Henry and will move forward with her appointment soon. *Commissioner Henry asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Ms. Divine Homza, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Prevention Committee

Mr. Hogan confirmed that the SCA welcomed Children's Service Center as a new outpatient Provider and have a contract in place. He reviewed data has shown in the Pays Survey and other data collections that use of vaping are significantly growing with youth over the past year. Each School District have policies banning tobacco. Mr. Hogan noted that he and Ms. Baratta participated in a Prevention Assessment Webinar and another in-person training will take place in a few weeks. Mr. Ross confirmed that Prevention Services in the Communities and Schools are being provided for Luzerne County by WVADS, and Pathway, and Wyoming County by Children's Service Center. *Commissioner Henry asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Ms. Divine-Homza, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Other Business

The Luzerne County Cares EXPO will take place next Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at the Woodlands and information was distributed to the Executive Commission.

Ms. Divine-Homza confirmed that the LIU18 will host a Teachers In-Service Day with many Break-Out Sessions to choose from.

Family Service Center will hold their Opioid Seminar October 26, 2018 at Genetti Best Western Wilkes-Barre for a nominal fee, with an event on October 25 at Kings College with DJ Choices that is free to the public.

By-Laws and County Joinder Agreement The By-Laws have been updated as of January 2018, and have been approved by the Executive Commission, the County Solicitor, and the County Council. The next review of the By-Laws will take place in the spring of 2020. Mr. Ross confirmed that the term of the County Joinder Agreement is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020. *Dr. Tuttle asked for a motion to accept the report. A motion was made by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Next Meeting The next Executive Commission Meeting has been changed and will take place on the (5th Wednesday in October), October 31, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at 111 N. Pa Ave. – 2nd Floor, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701-3505. *With no further discussion of business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by and Ms. Dodson, second motion by Dr. Tuttle. MOTION CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.*

Reviewed by:
Steven Ross – Administrator
Ryan Hogan – Program Representative
Pamela Coveleski – Fiscal Officer
Jeff Kimmel – Case Management Supervisor

Respectfully submitted by: Marie Baratta – Administrative Assistant