

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program

Executive Commission

February 24, 2021

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Teleconference Participants Ryan Hogan, Michael Gagliardi, Jill Sprau, Pamela Coveleski, Marie Baratta – SCA
Dr. Charles Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair
Rev. Lou Divis – Executive Commission Secretary
Nick Wilson, Eric Bieski, John McCarthy – Executive Commission
Rachael Wydra – NEPA DOH

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Dr. Blewitt welcomed everyone, and asked the Commission to review the minutes of December 16, 2020, and January 27, 2021. *The December 16, 2020 meeting minutes were approved in our February 2021 Meeting along with the January 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes. The 1st Motion to approve was made by Reverend Divis, the 2nd Motion was made by Dr. Blewitt. Motion carried.*

Administrator's Report: Mr. Hogan confirmed that our SCA received its SAF from DDAP for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Housing Program on Monday, February 22, 2021. We are awaiting the allocation of SOR funds from DDAP before we are able to move forward with contracting with CEO for housing services. DDAP's discussion about full contracting versus a letter of agreement has delayed implementation of the SOR funded Housing Grant. Mr. Hogan will meet with CEO to discuss allocation and program implementation for both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties.

Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Gagliardi have begun working on the 2021 Treatment Needs Assessment for the duration of the 5-year Grant Agreement for 2020 through 2025. DDAP gave the SCAs until April 2, 2021 (60 days) to complete the Treatment Needs Assessment.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that we are following all COVID-19 safety regulations and continue to share updates with all contracted service providers of changes to services. Our Drug & Alcohol Program Staff have received or were given the opportunity to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Gagliardi have begun scheduling 2021 Annual SCA Provider Monitoring Reviews. They will begin the first week of March starting with A Better Today's and Children's Service Center's Outpatient Programs. The Provider Monitoring Reviews should last through April, possibly into May 2021.

Mr. Hogan discussed HSDF Block Grant Dollars and the return of \$240, 000.00 to Luzerne County OHS for possible re-allocation and re-distribution of funds. The Luzerne/Wyoming SCA has struggled to draw down inpatient residential funds due to the pandemic and the push for outpatient and MAT Services. As a result, the SCA and Office of Human Services are discussing new proposals to draw down those dollars, including the purchase of Narcan, Outpatient Cost-Sharing Programs, Rate increases, etc.

Mr. Hogan discussed the Warm-Hand Off Program updates for Tyler Memorial Hospital confirming that they now have a Contract with the SCA/Trehab/Wyoming County O.H.S. to provide CRS staff in the ER. Mr. Hogan reviewed that Wilkes-Barre General Hospital, Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton and Geisinger Hospitals' Warm-Hand Off are established.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that the SCA Administrative/Fiscal/Case Management Staff completed a CPR Web Training on February 22, 2021, and continue to work closely with Susquehanna Software on this Program. Trainings will take place in March 2021 for all Staff, and our contracted Providers will attend their own CPR Web Training in March as well, with an aim for the SCA to go live with the program on April 1, 2021.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that he submitted Monthly Division Report to County Council and Monthly SOR Report to DDAP. *A motion was made to approve the Administrator's Report by Mr. Wilson, second Motion was by Mr. Bieski. Motion carried.*

Case Management Report: Mr. Sprau reviewed that the CM Unit staff are working on a rotating schedule with two to three individuals in-person and the others working remotely. She confirmed that all Telehealth level of care assessments are being completed timely and efficiently. Ms. Sprau completed the monthly DDAP Warm-Hand-Off Report for January with the assistance of data collection efforts from Northeast Counseling Services. Ms. Sprau

attended Drug Court Graduation at the Jewish Community Center recently and stated that it was very uplifting to see so many positive outcomes with drug court. Ms. Sprau continues to complete updates on GIPRA, and holds Virtual CM Unit Staff Team meetings on a bi-weekly basis that helps everyone work effectively. *A motion was made to approve the Administrator's Report by Mr. McCarthy, second Motion was by Mr. Bieski. Motion carried.*

Fiscal Report: Ms. Coveleski reviewed the cash disbursements report for January that were within normal operative costs and procedures. Ms. Coveleski sent out all Provider Contracts and many Contracts have been signed and returned her. *A motion was made to approve the Report by Mr. Wilson, second Motion was by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan reviewed the Virtual 3rd Quarterly Prevention Meeting held recently, and stated that Children's Service Center, Pathway-to-Recovery, and WVADS are all completing the required Compliance Reports each month.

REMARK Pre-Post Testing Software through Gravic, Inc. may be purchased using the additional SOR Funding that has been approved. Pre-Post Testing is a new mandate through the 2020-2025 DDAP Grant Agreement.

Mr. Hogan confirmed the Centralized Coordinating Entity in Luzerne County and the disbursement of Narcan to non-profit service Providers should be done through the District Attorney Office/Drug task Force. The SCA has offered to assist narcan distribution efforts to community outreach organizations through its prevention providers. *A motion was made to approve the Report by Mr. Wilson, second Motion was by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

Gambling Prevention: Mr. Hogan reviewed that March is Gambling Awareness Month. DDAP Gambling Funds Allocations will be limited across the state due to low gambling revenue from casinos and other state gambling entities from the Covid-19 impact that caused shutdowns of casinos. The Commission discussed the current trend of large amounts of commercials for On-Line Gambling. The Committee discussed tax dollars that produce revenue, and hope that those tax dollars will be available to offer Gambling Prevention Services. *A motion was made to approve the Report by Reverend Divis, second Motion was by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

OHS Report: No Report.

Provider Report: The Commission discussed that there has been no Provider Report for the last few months. The Provider Report is vital to help our SCA and Commission understand trends, treatment updates, need for more services, etc. Mr. Hogan will reach out to contact the Provider Representative to determine if we should reach out to someone new. *A motion was made to approve the Report by Reverend Divis, second Motion was by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

Executive Commission Nominating Committee: Mr. Hogan confirmed that Luzerne Counties Executive Commission Compliment is filled with newly appointed/2nd term appointed Commission Members. They are Ian Urbanski, Bruce Lefkowicz, and John McCarthy and we greatly appreciate them. The application process for a Luzerne County resident volunteer application, and interview process with the ABC Committee is found on the Luzerne County Website under Advisory Boards and Commissions. Reverend Divis reviewed that she may have a candidate for the Wyoming County Student Representative position. The individual will send a resume', and will be approved by the Wyoming County Commissioners if chosen. Wyoming County resident volunteers must apply through the Wyoming County Commissioners. *A motion was made to approve the Report by Reverend Divis, second Motion was by Mr. Bieski. Motion carried.*

Administrative Program Committee: No Updates. The Administrative Program Committee is at full complement with Dr. Blewitt-Chair, Mr. Dziak-Vice-Chair, and Reverend Divis-Secretary. The Administrative Program Committee meet quarterly on Feb. 24, May 26, August 25, and November 17, 2021 at 2:15 p.m.

By-Laws: No updates. The 2018 and 2020 By-Laws will be reviewed and approved by the ABC Committee in the near future. The By-Laws will be reviewed on a bi-yearly basis in the 1st quarter of Calendar Year 2022.

Next Meeting: The next Executive Commission Meeting is scheduled to take place with Microsoft Office Teams on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant
Reviewed and approved by: Ryan Hogan, Administrator