

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program

Virtual Executive Commission

April 28, 2021

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants: Ryan Hogan, Jill Sprau, Pamela Coveleski, Marie Baratta – SCA
John Alunni – OHS
Dr. Charles Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair
Eric Bieski, Bruce Lefkowitz, – Executive Commission

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Dr. Blewitt welcomed everyone, and asked that we postpone the review/approval of the March and April meeting minutes until the May Meeting. *The 1st Motion to approve minutes was made by Reverend. Divis, the 2nd Motion was made by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

Administrator's Report: Mr. Hogan confirmed that our SCA has begun its SOR-Funded Housing Grant Program On April 1, 2021 in partnership with the Commission on Economic Opportunity. The SCA received its SAF from DDAP-The Department of Drug & Alcohol Program for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Housing Program on Monday, Feb. 22, 2021. The breakdown of SOR Housing funding is as follows: SOR Housing - \$996,740.00. SOR Housing Focused Case Management Services - \$427,110.00. Mr. Hogan confirmed that the SCA and the Commission on Economic Opportunity have already connected ten individuals recovering from Opioid Use Disorder or Stimulant Use Disorder with housing, rental assistance or other housing-related assistance, like utility payments.

Mr. Hogan submitted both the Monthly Division Report to County Council and the Monthly SOR Reports to DDAP.

Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Gagliardi submitted the SCA's 2021 Treatment Needs Assessment which coincides with the 5-year (DDAP) Grant Agreement for 2020 through 2025. DDAP gave the SCAs until April 2, 2021 (60 days) to complete the Treatment Needs Assessment. The SCA successfully submitted the Treatment Needs Assessment on time and only minor revisions to the assessment were requested by DDAP.

Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Gagliardi have completed the 2021 Annual Provider Monitoring Reviews. No major issues were found. The most common issues were related to statewide data entry into the PA WITS database and ongoing, mandated training requirements.

Mr. Hogan discussed the continued implementation, augmenting and monitoring of updates with the Warm-Hand Off Program Policies and Procedures. The Warm-Hand Off kicked-off at Tyler Memorial Hospital in Tunkhannock on March 1, 2021. Our SCA has met routinely with Lehigh Valley Hospital in Hazleton and Lehigh Valley Hospital leadership out of Lehigh County to expand Warm Hand-Off Services in Hazleton and data gathering for all parties involved. A meeting has been scheduled next month with LVH to discuss Ambulatory Withdrawal Management using Medication Assisted Treatment as an option for up to 15 days with medication with bridge funding from the SCA.

Mr. Hogan Received reviewed and accepted the new FY 2021/2022 XYZ Rate Setting proposals by all in-county residential providers, including residential rehabs, detox programs, and halfway house programs in both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. The new FY 2021/2022 rates were posted to the PACDAA website on time on April 15, 2021 and will go into effect on July 1, 2021.

Mr. Hogan reviewed updates on Susquehanna Software, Inc.'s CPR Web Program. The CPR Web Program kicked-off on April 2, 2021. The SCA CM Unit Team, Fiscal Team, and Admin. Team completed CPR Web Trainings on Monday, February 22, 2021. The contracted providers attended their own CPR Web Training on March 29, 2021. There are scheduled technical assistance trainings planned in April for the SCA and its Providers with Susquehanna Software.

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 March and attended the Drug Court Graduation. Ms. Sprau continues to complete updates on GPRA, and holds Virtual CM Unit Staff Team meetings on a bi-weekly basis that helps everyone work effectively. Several CPR-Web assistance meetings with CMU took place and the Case Management Unit have created written walk-throughs to help Case Managers. A Presentation from Guardian Angels Recovery House and Endless Mountain took place with the Case Management Unit. She confirmed that 78 Assessments were scheduled and of those 70 were completed in March. There were 31 Emergency/Helpline placements completed. Ms. Sprau confirmed that our Courts/Probation/Attorneys are sending many more referrals over the past 24 days since the Luzerne County Courts opened up again earlier this month. Ms. Sprau reviewed that Work Force Project Knowledge is being shared with the CM Unit. PA WITS Updated their System and have made very good changes for improved reporting for each Provider.

Fiscal Report: Ms. Coveleski reviewed the cash disbursements report for February that were within normal operative costs and procedures. Ms. Coveleski sent out all Provider Contracts and many Contracts have been signed, and returned to her.

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan reviewed the SCA will begin Prevention Planning for FY 2021/2022 in May for 2021. The Prevention Plans must be submitted to DDAP by June 1, 2021.

Narcan Kit Efforts: Mr. Hogan reviewed the Centralized Coordinating Entity in Luzerne County is through the District Attorney Office/Drug Task Force Staff. Narcan Trainings and disbursement of Narcan to non-profit service Providers is being done through the District Attorney Office/Drug Task Force Staff.

Mr. Hogan noted the SCA has offered to assist Narcan distribution efforts to community outreach organizations through its prevention providers. Mr. Hogan and Ms. Wydra-NEPA DOH discussed efforts in offering Narcan trainings twice a day, six days a week in our local communities

OHS Report: Mr. Alunni discussed an in-depth Data Analysis with the State Round Table regarding The Drug & Alcohol Program, and Child Welfare. A Drug & Alcohol Program Case Management Specialist will be integrated into the Child Welfare Program located in our Children & Youth Services Office starting in May 2021. They will be acclimated with terminology, and cases over time to learn, and help the families we serve. Intervention through the Implementation stage will take place with Judge Rogers, the District Attorney's Office, Probation Services, Juvenile Justice Court, and a Wellness Program. Juvenile charges may be expunged after one (1) year when protocol is met. The Treatment component will be changed if relapse is noted, to offer further treatment assistance to the individual.

Provider Report: Mr. Hogan confirmed that the role on the Executive Commission of Provider Representative, is now vacant. Mr. Hogan discussed the vacant position of Provider Representative during the recent Provider Meeting and gave an overview of what the individuals would be responsible for. He asked the Providers to please talk with their staff to see if an individual would like to be the new representative.

Executive Commission Nominating Committee: Mr. Hogan confirmed that Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Executive Commission Compliment is at full capacity. 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. We are hoping to have a candidate for the Wyoming County Student Representative position in the near future. The Wyoming County individual will send a resume' for approval to the Wyoming County Commissioners.

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, May 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

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