

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program
Virtual Executive Commission
May 26, 2021

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants:

Ryan Hogan, Pamela Coveleski, Marie Baratta – SCA

John Alunni – OHS

Dr. Charles Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair

Rev. Lou Divis – Executive Commission Secretary

Nick Wilson, Eric Bieski, John McCarthy, Bruce Lefkowitz, Ian Urbanski – Executive Commission

Rachael Wydra – NEPA DOH

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Dr. Blewitt asked the Commission to review the minutes of April 28, 2021. *The 1st Motion to approve the minutes was made by Reverend Divis, the 2nd Motion was made by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

Administrator's Report: Mr. Hogan confirmed that our Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program (SCA) has begun its SOR-Funded Housing Grant Program on April 1, 2021 in partnership with the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO). The SCA also received its SAF from DDAP for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Housing Program on Monday, February 22, 2021. The breakdown of SOR Housing funding is as follows: \$996,740.00 for SOR Housing and \$427,110.00 for SOR Housing Focused Case Management Services. The program has already connected over 30 individuals recovering from Opioid Use Disorder or Stimulant Use Disorder with housing/rental assistance or other housing-related assistance, like utility payments.

The SCA Administrator and Assistant Administrator submitted our D&A Department's 2021 Treatment Needs Assessment, which coincides with the 5-year Department of Drug & Alcohol Program (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. The Treatment Needs Assessment has been approved by DDAP. The TNA is available for review upon request.

The SCA has purchased 240 Naloxone (Narcan) kits. This will help supply the community, outside organizations, businesses, and other county agencies with Narcan if the individuals and organizations complete the accompanying Narcan Training. The SCA and its contracted Prevention /Education Providers will sponsor and host the Narcan Training at no cost to the individual or organization. The SCA will be purchasing Detera Drug De-activation Kits to hand out to attendees and the community as well.

The SCA and the Office of Human Services (OHS) met with the new interim Luzerne County District Attorney, Sam Sanguedolce, to discuss continued partnerships on the Centralized Coordinating Entity-Narcan Distribution Efforts and the successful Pre-Arrest Diversion Program implemented by the previous District Attorney. Mr. Bieski relayed that he appreciates Mr. Hogan's efforts to help our communities combat overdose deaths. Mr. Bieski agreed that MAT effectiveness toward Cognitive behavior could be improved for individuals trying to stop their opioid use by using Suboxone or Buprenorphine.

The SCA continues to implement, monitor and augment the Warm Hand-Off Policies and Procedures in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. 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. We met with Lehigh Valley Hospital and Pathway to Recovery to discuss ambulatory withdrawal management options using medication-assisted treatment.

Fiscal Year 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 were received by the SCA, reviewed and accepted. The new FY 2021/2022 rates were posted on the PACDAA website on time on April 15, 2021, and will go into effect on July 1, 2021.

Susquehanna Software, Inc.'s CPR Web Program kicked-off on April 1, 2021. The CM Unit Team, Fiscal Team, and Administrative Team completed CPR Web Trainings on Monday, February 22, 2021. The contracted providers attended their 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.

Mr. Hogan noted that A Better Today did not submit pertinent information as required in order for our SCA to pay them. Mr. Hogan reviewed Provider concerns, Michaelene's Mission, and Safe Syringe Programs. The Monthly Division Report was submitted to County Council, and the Monthly SOR Reports were submitted to DDAP. *A motion was made to approve the Administrator's Report by Mr. McCarthy, second Motion was by Mr. Bieski. Motion carried.*

Case Management Report: Mr. Hogan 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 attended W.H.O-Front Door meeting, and Case Management Roundtable meeting. She completed the monthly DDAP Warm-Hand-Off Report for April. 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. She confirmed that 86 Assessments were completed in April. There were 31 Emergency placements in April, and 31 Helpline placements W.H.O. follow-ups. Ms. Sprau confirmed that they are still seeing an increase in referrals over the past 24 days from the Criminal Justice agencies including Probation, Jail, Attorneys, and State parole. *A motion was made to approve the Administrator's Report by Reverend Divis, second Motion was by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

Fiscal Report: No report.

OHS Report: No report.

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan reviewed the May 11, 2021 Virtual Quarterly Prevention Meeting, noting that Children's Service Center, Pathway-to-Recovery, and WVADS are completing their required Compliance Reports each month. Our SCA Prevention Services/Program Planning for FY 21/22 was completed in April/May for 2021, and submitted to DDAP.

REMARK Pre-Post Testing Software through Gravic, Inc. will 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.

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

Mr. Hogan discussed that the SCA purchased 240 Narcan Kits for outreach distribution efforts through our SCA and Prevention Providers. The Narcan trainings must be completed, and the individuals will receive a kit to take home. Mr. Hogan confirmed that Prevention dollars are available for reimbursement for Narcan Trainings, Curriculum Education events/learning tools, etc. *A motion was made to approve the Report by Mr. Wilson, second Motion was by Mr. McCarthy. Motion carried.*

Provider Report: Mr. Hogan confirmed that he sent out a Survey Monkey to all Providers requesting them to nominate a new Provider Representative. Mr. Jessy Miller-CSC was nominated, and he accepted with his thanks to all on May 26, 2021. *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 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. *A motion was made to approve the Report by Mr. McCarthy, 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, June 23, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

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