

**Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program
Virtual Executive Commission
June 23, 2021**

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 2:15 p.m.

Participants via Teleconference: Ryan Hogan, Michael Gagliardi, Jill Sprau, Marie Baratta – SCA
Dr. Charles Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair
Jessy Miller – Provider Representative
Nicholas Wilson – Executive Commission

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Dr. Blewitt and the Executive Commission Board welcomed Mr. Miller as the new Provider Representative. Dr. Blewitt asked the Commission to review and approve the minutes of May 26, 2021. *With no corrections a motion was made to accept the minutes by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Wilson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Minutes were approved.*

Administrators Report: Mr. Hogan thanked Mr. Miller for volunteering to be the Provider Representative. He noted that Mr. Miller is very knowledgeable and would be an asset to the Executive Commission.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that our SCA has begun its SOR-Funded Housing Grant Program on April 1, 2021 in partnership with the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO). The SCA received its SAF from DDP for the State Opioid Response (SOR) Housing Program on Monday, February 22, 2021. The program has already connected approximately 50-60 individuals recovering from Opioid Use Disorder or Stimulant Use Disorder with housing/rental assistance or other housing-related assistance, like utility payments.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that our SCA purchased 250 Narcan Overdose Reversal Kits along with Detera Drug-Deactivation Packets. The SCA is requiring that individuals must be properly trained on how to administer the Narcan medication by completing the one (1) hour training through our Prevention/Education Providers for residents of Luzerne and Wyoming Counties, including business, industry, fellow county colleagues, family members or other social services, and community entities. Mr. Hogan also confirmed that the website NextDistro.org allows individuals to request Narcan that will be mailed directly to their home address.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that Mr. Dziak had discussed in the Administrative Program Meeting that Wyoming County have utilized Narcan very effectively for overdose individuals. The Wyoming County EMA received an emergency call for 2 overdose individuals that were unresponsive upon arrival. Each individual was given Narcan that revived them. Mr. Hogan confirmed that Mr. Dziak relayed that it is very good to see the life changing benefits of Narcan. Rural Hospitals may take 30-40 minutes to transport the individual to the closest ER. If Narcan was not available immediately, the individual may not make it to the ER in time. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Dziak reviewed the documentary called Heroin(e) that is very informative.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that the SCA is adding new language to the provider contracts for FY 2021/2022 to include: requirements for trauma-informed trainings for all clinical and prevention staff and requirements to utilize the CPR Web Program for clinical data entry and billing/invoicing.

The SCA participated in Luzerne County and Wyoming County Human Services Block Grant Hearings in June 2021. The SCA was also represented at Judge Jennifer Roger's Roundtable meeting in which a Judge's Roundtable Sub-Committee was created that will focus on streamlining communications between providers, attorneys, families and the Court systems. The SCA also actively engages in a Luzerne County Systems of Care's Trauma-Informed Care Committee, and newly formed Juvenile Wellness Court. *A motion was made to accept the report by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Wilson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Luzerne County Office of Human Services: No Report. Update will take place in August Meeting.

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Case Management Unit: Ms. Sprau confirmed that the Case Management Unit have a bi-weekly virtual meeting to review placements, etc. There is a decrease of inpatient clients due to changes of Protocol that are difficult to find. The CM Report for the May Warm Hand-Off has been completed. Ms. Sprau reviewed that Ms. Evans, Case Management Clerk Typist 2 has completed CPR Web training as of June 2, 2021. Dr. Blewitt thanked the Case Management for their hard work, and compassion noting that they are very much appreciated.

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan reviewed that the SCA conducted Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Prevention Planning sessions with our contracted Prevention/Evidenced Based (P/E) Providers-WVADS, Pathway to Recovery, and CSC –Robinson. The SCA emphasis on meeting the goals and objectives was captured in our most recent Prevention Needs Assessment. The FY 2021/2022 Prevention Plan includes School-Based and Community-Based Prevention efforts and Evidence-Based Curriculums. Mr. Miller noted that the Trauma Informed Treatment training is very important for staff working in Outpatient. Mr. Hogan reviewed that Gambling allocations were received and Block Grant dollars are also available.

Providers Report: Mr. Miller introduced himself, and reviewed his work history of 18 years in the Drug & Alcohol field noting that he worked at WVADS as a Counselor and Supervisor. He also worked at Bethesda Treatment Program. Mr. Miller noted that the Provider Network is strong, and he appreciates Mr. Hogan’s drive to offer services/programs to individuals in need.

Mr. Miller noted that the Wright Center treats all populations from babies through senior citizens. All new Staff are required to complete Trauma Training as soon as they are hired. Mr. Miller thanked the Executive Commission for their work, and support as well. *A motion was made to accept the report by, Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Centralized Coordinating Entity: Mr. Hogan reviewed that our Luzerne County District Attorney’s Office, and the Luzerne County Drug Task Force have Narcan to disburse to Luzerne County residents. The District Attorney’s Office has been identified as the Centralized Coordinating Entity (CCE) for Luzerne County by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). The CCE will also collect expiring Narcan, which will be recycled through the Drug Task Force Mr. Dziak is the contact point for Narcan for Police/EMS in Wyoming County. *A motion to accept the report was made by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Wilson. All in favor.*

Other Business: Mr. Hogan confirmed that the SCA has held interviews for Case Management Specialists to fill 2 vacant positions.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that the Luzerne County Manager Mr. C. David Pedri has resigned. Ms. Romilda Crocamo will be the interim Acting Luzerne County Manager. Mr. Pedri has accepted a position at The Luzerne Foundation.

Executive Commission Nominating Committee: Mr. Hogan and Mr. Dziak noted that Commissioner Thomas Henry would like to join the Executive Commission Board. Dr. Blewitt proposed a nomination of Commissioner Henry to join the Board. Mr. Hogan stated that he will reach out to him. Our Wyoming County Compliment have one opening at this time.

By-Laws: The 2018 and 2020 By-Laws will be reviewed and approved by the ABC Committee. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is unknown as to when they will meet to pass a vote to approve them. The By-Laws will be reviewed on a bi-yearly basis in the 1st quarter of Calendar Year 2022.

Next Meeting: The next VIRTUAL Microsoft Teams Executive Commission Meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. *With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 4:00 p.m. by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor.*

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