

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program
Single County Authority (SCA)
Executive Commission Meeting
August 25, 2021

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, August 25, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants: Ryan Hogan, Michael Gagliardi, Jill Sprau, Pamela Coveleski, Marie Baratta – SCA
John Alunni – OHS
Dr. Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair
Gene Dziak – Executive Commission Co-Chair
Reverend Divis – Executive Commission Secretary
Jessy Miller – Executive Commission Program Representative
Ian Urbanski, Nicholas Wilson, John McCarthy – Executive Commission

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Mr. Hogan welcomed everyone, and asked the Committee to review the minutes of June 23, 2021. *With no corrections a motion was made to accept the minutes by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Wilson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED. Minutes were approved.*

Administrators Report: Mr. Hogan reviewed that our SCA had 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 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 approximately one-hundred-five (105) individuals recovering from Opioid Use Disorder and/or Stimulant Use Disorder and compliant in treatment with housing/rental assistance or other housing-related assistance, like utility payments. The SCA was recently commended by the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Program for the success in implementing this new housing program.

Mr. Hogan noted that he and Mr. Gagliardi will attend a “New SCA Directors” Training Conference from September 1, 2021 through September 3, 2021 that will be hosted by PACDAA.

The SCA completed, disseminated, and received returned Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Provider Contracts with additional County-specific memorandum language citing the required use of the new CPR Web data system and the requirement that all Clinical and Prevention/Education staff members begin training to become Trauma-Informed. The Provider contracts went out to Inpatient and Outpatient Treatment Providers, Medication Assisted Treatment Providers, Treatment-Related Providers, Case Management Providers, and Prevention/Education Service Providers.

The SCA successfully completed its 2021 PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Program’s Annual Program Monitoring Review. The DDAP Monitoring Review was held in two parts: a full day on-site visit and a half-day virtual review. No issues were found and no plans of correction were required.

The SCA and its contracted Prevention/Education Providers-Children’s Service Center, Pathway to Recovery, and Wyoming Valley Alcohol and Drug Services-have been preparing for events related to National Recovery Month in September 2021.

The SCA in collaboration with NBHCC, CCBH, and its Warm-Hand Off Provider, Northeast Counseling Services, have been working closely to improve Warm-Hand Off services, including identification, intervention, and rapid

response for those who recently survived an overdose or those presenting intoxicated in the emergency departments in Luzern County. We are attempting to identify specific contacts at all detox treatment facilities in order to expedite detox placements and eliminate unnecessary barriers to access services. We are also in early discussions with Lehigh Valley Hospital staff and our contracted outpatient provider, Pathway to recovery, to implement ambulatory Medication-Assisted Treatment Services from the Emergency Department in order to stabilize an Opioid Use disorder individual if they leave the ER abruptly without accessing treatment services.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that the SCA has offered free Narcan training and Narcan Kit Distribution to our county partners and other community agencies. At this time the SCA is responsible for having trained 191 individuals and distributed 213 Narcan Kits since April 1, 2021. Reverend Divis noted in the Administrative Program Committee that both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties Al-Anon groups would benefit from Narcan trainings, and Narcan Kits. Mr. Hogan agreed, and also confirmed that the website NEXT Distro – offers free Narcan by Mail in Pennsylvania. Click on: [Get Free Narcan](#) · allows individuals to request Narcan that will be mailed directly to their home address. RCAN® (naloxone HCl) - Be the One When it Counts <https://www.narcan.com/> [How to Get NARCAN®](#) · [FAQ](#) · [When to Use NARCAN®](#) [Get Free Narcan](#) A motion was made to accept the report by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Reverend Divis. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Provider Representative Report: Mr. Miller noted that Endless Mountains' Director, Ms. Scheller is working through the ASAM transition and is doing her best to keep their facility sustainable. He reported that WVADS's Director, Mr. Harlen, is having a difficult time hiring and keeping staff, as it seems there are not many applicants. Miners Medical, Mr. Montanez noted that they have no issues.

Mr. Miller reviewed that many clients are seeking to attend Drug Court but the back-log is very high in the number of applicants which causes a longer wait time to be accepted. CSC-Robinson Center are continually trying to hire and keep new staff, including early education intervention staff which is very important and is best to start in grades K, 1, 2, 3. Mr. Miller confirmed that it is difficult finding Detox beds and he appreciates the SCA CM Unit for their help and assistance. CSC-Robinson Center are mandated to hire new employees only if they have been vaccinated starting September 1, 2021. A motion was made to accept the report by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Case Management Report: Ms. Sprau confirmed that in July, 46 Assessments were completed out of 64 that were scheduled with a show rate of 71.8% which is very good. Medically-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services funded by the SCA were confirmed with 36 Active Methadone Clients, 1,052 Methadone Doses, 10 Active buprenorphine (Suboxone) Clients, and 3 Active Naltrexone (Vivitrol) Clients. Ms. Sprau confirmed that the CM Unit received 35 Calls/Placements through Help Line/Emergency Placements. A motion was made to accept the report by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Dziak. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Fiscal Report: Ms. Coveleski reviewed Cash Disbursements for Dec. 2020, Jan. 2021, Feb. 2021, March 2021, April 2021, May 2021, June 2021, and July 2021. She relayed that Narcan was purchased from Emergent Services DBA Adapt Pharma, Inc., and BoomSuper Creative Prevention materials for Prevention Education Services in our Communities were purchased in May 2021. Our SCA purchased Gravic Software that offers CPR Web which helps with many types of reports, and can also offer Pre-Post Tests that we can build ourselves for both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties Prevention goals. A motion was made to accept the report by Reverend Divis, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Prevention Report: The 1st Quarterly Prevention Committee Meeting was held Aug., 18th at 3:00 pm. Mr. Hogan reviewed Covid Protocols in Schools, review of REMARK Pre & Post testing Software implementation, Block Grant Supplemental Prevention Funds, Upcoming Pays survey in Schools, and School Contracts.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that August 31st is National Overdose Awareness Day and September is Recovery Awareness Month. The SCA conducted FY21/22 Prevention Planning sessions with our contracted Prevention Education Providers – WVADS, Pathway to Recovery, and CSC Robinson Center. The plans had been entered into PA WITS and have been approved by DDAP. Mr. Hogan reviewed Gambling fund updates with the Commission.

Executive Commission Nominating Committee: The Executive Commission has an opening for a Student representative. If anyone knows of a candidate, please contact Mr. Hogan. Our Luzerne County Executive Commission is at full compliment. 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.

By-Laws: The 2018 and 2020 By-Laws will be reviewed and approved by the ABC Committee when they are able to meet in person. 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: Please see Virtual Executive Commission Meetings will take place from 3:00-4:00 p.m

* September 29, 2021

* ~~Changed from Nov. 17th~~ to November 10, 2021

*December 15, 2021

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 4:00:00 p.m. by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Dziak. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by: Ryan Hogan, Administrator