

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program

Single County Authority (SCA)

Executive Commission Meeting

September 29, 2021

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants: Ryan Hogan, Michael Gagliardi, Marie Baratta – SCA
Dr. Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair
Jessy Miller – Executive Commission Program Representative
Eric Bieski, Nicholas Wilson – Executive Commission

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Mr. Hogan welcomed everyone, and asked the Committee to review the minutes of August 25, 2021. *With no corrections a motion was made to accept the minutes by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Bieski. 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.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that Providers are looking to hire English/Spanish bi-lingual counselor staff. Mr. Hogan confirmed that both Children Service Center and Pathway To Recovery are doing very effective work. The SCA was recently commended by the PA Department of Drug & Alcohol Program for the success in implementing this new housing program. Mr. Hogan confirmed that the Hazleton Treatment Center held their Grand Opening several weeks ago, and he was honored to be the opening Speaker at this new clinic located on Broad Street. He reviewed that Ms. Bollick is the Clinical Director, and they offer Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

Mr. Hogan reviewed that he and Mr. Gagliardi attended the “New SCA Directors” Training Conference from September 1, 2021 through September 3, 2021. This training was hosted by PACDAA, and was very informative.

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. He reviewed the Warm-Hand Off, and the process of interviewing/hiring new Certified Recovery Specialist staff for the local Hospital Emergency Rooms.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that the SCA is looking at increasing Outpatient Rates per hour for Provider Services. He will discuss and determine rate increases to help improve Inpatient staff retention with CCBH.

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.

Case Management Report: Mr. Gagliardi reviewed Ms. Sprau's report as she is out the office today. Ms. Sprau attended Drug Court, W.H.O. front door, CM Roundtable meetings. A new representative has joined WDR -Ms. Rudderow, and a new Representative will be joining Just Believe in the near future. CPR-WEB version 3 upgrade has been completed and installed on computer and laptops for the SCA Staff. DDAP required handouts for Hepatitis C and HIV education/testing/treatment and have been compiled. All Yearly Employee Performance Evaluations have been completed. Case Managers continue to do an outstanding job with assessments/placements and working with the outpatient provider's encounter authorization requests. There were 91 August assessments scheduled, and 59 were completed. There were 25 Emergency/Helpline placements and 25 W.H.O follow-ups. *A motion was made to accept the report Mr. Bieski, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Fiscal Report: Mr. Hogan confirmed that Ms. Coveleski is not in the office today. He reviewed the Fiscal Report for 7-2-21-8-31-21. He discussed expenses for Administration, Prevention, Intervention, Outpatient, Partial Hospitalization, Inpatient, Certified Recovery Specialists, and Case Management costs. Prevention Awareness Events are ongoing. Intervention Student Assistance Program Services are low as they are just getting starting in the school districts. A Better Today Outpatient was discussed, and has not been drawn down the funding they had requested for their contract. Mr. Hogan noted that Ms. Zelsnack has not reached out to discuss concerns. Mr. Hogan noted a trend that clients are seeking less Inpatient Services. *A motion was made to accept the report Mr. Bieski, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Provider Representative Report: Mr. Miller relayed that Providers' had nothing to report. Mr. Miller noted that Children's Service Center received 84 Referrals for September, and completed many Assessments this past month. He confirmed that there were 52 referrals in late August, and 36 referrals in early August. He reviewed that many clients are not showing up for treatment or follow up. *A motion was made to accept the report by Mr. Bieski, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan reviewed that September is Recovery Month. National Overdose Awareness Day will take place on September 21st at the Capitol in Harrisburg. He reviewed Covid Protocols in Schools, and the REMARK Pre & Post testing Software implementation, Block Grant Supplemental Prevention Funds, and discussed the upcoming Pays survey that will be in School Districts in October. The SCA is currently receiving the mandatory School District Contracts. The 2nd Quarterly Virtual Prevention Committee Meeting will be held on Nov. 8, 2021 at 3:00 pm.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that Prevention Awareness Events have been ongoing, and staff have been distributing prevention materials in many forms such as brochures, booklets, tote bags, stress balls, and more with the Get Help Now (1-800-662-4357) contact information, as well as our Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program information and Case Management (570-826-3035) contact information.

Mr. Hogan reviewed Gambling advertisements appearing on television/internet online commercials. Mr. Hogan noted that there are several groups looking into how to gain revenue from the Gambling commercials for SCA's to offer Gambling Prevention Services, and Treatment Assistance. *A motion was made to accept the report Mr. Wilson, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Executive Commission Nominating Committee: The Executive Commission has an opening for a Student representative. 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 to fulfill a Wyoming County

seat on the Commission. 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 upcoming dates for Virtual Executive Commission Meetings that will take place from 3:00-4:00 p.m

* October 27, 2021

* November 10, 2021

* December 15, 2021

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

Respectfully submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by: Ryan Hogan, Administrator