

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program
Single County Authority (SCA)
Executive Commission Meeting
October 27, 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, Pamela Coveleski, Jill Sprau – 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 September 29, 2021. Mr. Hogan noted that we will review and approve the September Minutes in the November Meeting.

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. He commended Mr. Gagliardi for his due diligence and hard work on this very important project. The program has already connected approximately 150 individuals recovering from Opioid Use Disorder and/or Stimulant Use Disorder to housing services, rental assistance, utility assistance, and other social service needs like transportation assistance.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that our 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 Luzerne County. The collaboration is working to add Community –Based Warm Hand-Off Services to the service compliment as well as add ambulatory withdrawal management using Medication Assisted Treatment.

The SCA participated in a panel presentation and discussion at the PA Association of Community Health Centers (PACHC) Conference on October 13, 2021 in Lancaster, PA. The presentation and panel discussion focused on Establishing Working Relations and Collaborations with Community Partners. The other panelists included representatives from CCBH, The Wright Center and Children’s Service Center.

Mr. Hogan reviewed that the SCA is offering 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. 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.

Mr. Hogan, noted that he and Mr. Gagliardi attended a statewide PACDAA Conference in State College, PA from Wednesday, October 20 through Friday, October 22, 2021. Mr. Hogan discussed Harm Reduction Models, including Safe Syringe Programs (SSPs), and Fentanyl Testing Strips. He discussed an update for the DDAP-Department of Health HIV-Viral Hepatitis Project and the role of the SCA, as well as Opioid Settlement updates in PA. Mr. Hogan discussed additional funding for Case Management, Treatment and Prevention that may become available this November according to DDAP.

Case Management Report: Ms. Sprau noted that she is continuing with client chart reviews, and has closed all SOR 1 program enrollments and monitoring GPRA follow-ups due. She confirmed that Covid issues at the jail have impacted those individuals admitted to treatment, and having to get new court orders when quarantine is completed/or if individual tests positive again for Covid. Ms. Sprau noted that bed availability continues to be up and down. Case Managers are doing excellent in getting individuals placed into treatment as soon as possible. ClearVision has been a welcome addition, especially now that they have added detox. Ms. Sprau reviewed September assessments scheduled were 86, and 66 of those were completed. There were 41 Emergency/Hotline placements and 22 W.H.O follow-ups. *A motion was made to accept the report Mr. Bieski, seconded by Mr. Wilson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Fiscal Report: Ms. Coveleski reviewed the Fiscal Report for 7/1/21 to 9/30/21. She discussed expenses for Administration, Prevention, Intervention, Outpatient, Partial Hospitalization, Inpatient, Certified Recovery Specialists, and Case Management costs. Prevention Awareness Events are ongoing. Intervention with Student Assistance Program Services are ongoing 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 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 noted that there were no Provider concerns brought to his attention this past month. Mr. Miller reviewed that it is becoming more difficult to hire staff, noting that he is worried about the future of fulfilling staffing for each of the many programs available in our communities. *All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan noted that he participated in the SCA SAP Networking Meeting with Ms. Regina Myers from the PA State Student Assistance Program on Monday, 10/18/21 at 3:00 p.m. He also participated in the SAP Liaison Networking Session on Tuesday, 10/19/21 at 3:00 p.m. He confirmed that the Family Services Association of Wyoming Valley is hosting its National Family Week Conference Virtually on Friday 11/19/21. Mr. Hogan will be introducing two Certified Recovery Specialists as speakers at the conference. The conference topic will center around fighting the disease of addiction, and mental health during a pandemic. 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 discussed an upcoming Meeting scheduled on 11/3/21 at 1:00 pm with the Prevention Work Group that includes our SCA, Carbon/Monroe/Pike SCA & Lackawanna/Susquehanna SCA. Development of Pre-Post tests for REMARK Testing Software System will be determined. *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. * 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