

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program
Single County Authority (SCA)
Executive Commission Meeting
November 10, 2021

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants: Ryan Hogan, Michael Gagliardi, Marie Baratta – SCA
Dr. Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair
Reverend Divis – Executive Commission Secretary
Eric Bieski, Ian Urbanski – Executive Commission
Rachael Wydra – NEPA Dept. of Health

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Mr. Hogan welcomed everyone, and asked the Committee to review the minutes of October 29, 2021. *A motion was made to accept the minutes by Mr. Urbanski, seconded by Mr. Bieski. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

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. **The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug & Alcohol Program will continue this grant opportunity through September 28, 2022.**

Mr. Hogan discussed Harm Reduction Models, including Safe Syringe Programs (SSPs) and Fentanyl Testing Strips. The SCA will attempt to engage the Luzerne County District Attorney's Office and Wilkes-Barre Mayor's Office to discuss SSPs and Fentanyl testing strips in hopes of decriminalizing both harm reduction activities. Mr. Hogan noted he will reach out the Mayor of Wilkes-Barre, and the Mayor of Hazleton to discuss Safe Syringe Programs to help support important changes to Legislation. The Update on DDAP and (DOH)-Department of Health HIV-Viral Hepatitis Project, and the role of our SCA with DOH testing and linkage services that are becoming more available. Changes to contract languages to adjust to ASAM Alignment, Medical Marijuana statutes, and other requirements of the DDAP Case Management & Clinical Services Manual. Mr. Urbanski reviewed that the Hemp Bill Act has passed Legislation under Cannabinoids with Delta 9 THC. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Gagliardi will begin more detail analysis of monthly Compliance reports generated through PA WITS. Our Luzerne County Budget Hearing will take place on Monday evening on November 15, 2021. Our Wyoming County Budget Hearing will take place on Wednesday evening on November 17, 2021. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Gagliardi will be participating in a one day training at Penn State-Lehigh Valley for Prevention/Problem Gambling Awareness and the Gambling coalition. *A motion was made to accept the Report by Mr. Reverend Lou, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

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 is exploring increasing rates for outpatient services, including Outpatient group, and Intensive Outpatient group services. For example, the SCA rate currently is \$76.00/hour for individual outpatient services. The Managed care rate per hour of outpatient service is \$92.00. They are expecting a 5% increase come January 1, 2022 to bring the hourly rate to approximately \$96.00/hour. Dr. Blewitt commended Mr. Hogan for this much needed support and upgrade in pay scales for Provider Staff.

Case Management Report: Mr. Hogan the CM Report on behalf of Ms. Sprau who is out of the office today . Ms. Sprau attended the Case Management Roundtable and DDAP ASAM Assistance meetings. The October WHO Survey has been submitted, and WHO data collection is being updated to match the new DDAP survey questions which will start January 2022 data collection. Ms. Sprau continues Chart Reviews and now is sending SOR II GPRA follow up due notifications to the providers. COVID issues at the jail have improved with requests for negative COVID tests within 24 hrs. prior to bed date.

The Luzerne County Drug Court will be having their graduation next Friday, November 19, 2021 with 9 graduates, as well as Veterans Court Graduations for 5 graduates. Case Managers are doing excellent work in getting individuals placed into treatment as soon as possible. October assessments scheduled were 64, with 48 assessments completed. There were 35 emergency/helpline placements and 21 WHO follow-ups. *A motion was made to accept the report Mr. Bieski, seconded by Mr. Urbanski. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Fiscal Report: No report.

Provider Representative Report: No report.

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan 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. Our SCA 2nd Quarterly Virtual Prevention Committee Meeting was held on Nov. 8, 2021. Mr. Hogan reviewed Gambling Legislation to hold Gambling business' accountable to pay revenue at a local and State Level to assist the individuals presenting with Gambling Addiction and/or concerns. *A motion was made to accept the report Mr. Urbanski, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Executive Commission Nominating Committee: The Executive Commission has an opening for a Student representative. Mr. Hogan noted that the Wyoming County compliment is in need of one more person. Mr. Hogan has sent a letter to Commissioner Henry to ask if he is interested in fulfilling a Wyoming County seat on the Commission. At this time Mr. Hogan has not gotten back 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 next Virtual Executive Commission Meeting that will take place from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on December 15, 2021. *With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 4:00 p.m. by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Urbanski. All in favor. Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by: Ryan Hogan, Administrator