

Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program

Single County Authority (SCA)

Executive Commission Meeting

December 15, 2021

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants: Ryan Hogan, Michael Gagliardi, Jill Sprau, Marie Baratta – SCA
Dr. Blewitt – Executive Commission Chair
Jessy Miller – Provider Representative
John McCarthy, Eric Bieski, Nick Wilson – Executive Commission

Welcome and Review of Minutes: Mr. Hogan welcomed everyone, and asked the Committee to review the minutes of November 10, 2021. *A motion was made to accept the minutes by Mr. Bieski, seconded by Dr. Blewitt. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Administrators Report: Mr. Hogan confirmed 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, as well as offering excellent assistance to our Providers. This program has already connected approximately 175 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 reviewed that the SCA is reviewing partial hospitalization programs (PHP) for January 1, 2022. Mr. Hogan stated that Luzerne County has no PHP at this time as WVADS and Pathway-To-Recovery have rescinded PHP. The SCA will look into Just Believes PHP in Uniondale-Lackawanna County. Mr. Hogan confirmed that Graniteville are on their 4th DDAP Provisional License.

Changes to contract language to adjust to ASAM Alignment, Medical Marijuana statutes, and other requirements of the DDAP Case Management & Clinical Services Manual have been updated. Changes to RIP Grant through Luzerne County Adult Probation, Mr. McNulty will be discussed in an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that our SCA in collaboration with NBHCC, CCBH, and its Warm Hand-Off Provider Northeast Counseling Services, and CRS Staff 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. Mr. Hogan reviewed that Lehigh Valley Medical Center will begin a Pilot through a Service Agreement for Ambulatory Withdrawal Management-Detox using Bridge Funding for 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. *A motion was made to accept the Report by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Wilson. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Case Management Report: Ms. Sprau attended DDAP ASAM Technical Assistance meetings, WHO Extended Front Door Meeting, as well as the DR-CT Graduation in November. She discussed the November's WHO Survey and updated WHO data collection to match new DDAP survey questions, which will start in January 2022 with the updated screening tool. Ms. Sprau scheduled CPR Web Provider training and ABT CPR-Web training. Mr. Hogan, Mr. Gagliardi, and Ms. Sprau met with Just Believes new representative Mr. Gowin-Collins. Ms. Sprau noted that Chart Reviews and SOR II GPRA follow up notifications are being completed. Ms. Sprau confirmed that 47 assessments were scheduled in November and 36 of those assessments were completed. Emergency/Helpline had 27 placements, and 15 WHO follow ups. Ms. Sprau confirmed that she is happy to announce that a new Staff, Ms. Lentz will be starting as a Case Management Specialist on January 14, 2022. *A motion was made to accept the report by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Bieski. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Fiscal Report: Ms. Coveleski's reviewed the October Fiscal Report and Cash Disbursements. *A motion was made to accept the report by Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Bieski. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Provider Representative Report: Mr. Miller reviewed that CSC will do its very best with Provisional RFQ Agenda's. CSC WB is working very well with MAT. Mr. Hogan and Mr. Miller discussed new staff recruitment and retention, that would be better supported by increased wages. *A motion was made to accept the report by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. Bieski. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.*

Prevention Report: Mr. Hogan and Mr. Gagliardi have begun more detailed analysis of monthly compliance reports generated through PA WITS for each provider. The objective is to get real-time data to the providers to show what areas need improvement, but to recognize areas of strengths that can be built upon. Updates from November's Compliance Reports were reviewed.

Mr. Hogan, and Mr. Gagliardi met with New Roots Recovery Center to discuss the possibility of a future contract with the SCA, future collaborations, and partnerships, especially using Harm Reduction Models, and programs to address Social Determinants of Health, such as Educational Needs, and Job Skills Training *A motion was made to accept the report Mr. Bieski, 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: The next Virtual Executive Commission Meeting that will take place from 3:00-4:00 p.m. on January 26, 2022. *With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 4:00 p.m. by Dr. Blewitt, seconded by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by: Ryan Hogan, Administrator