

**Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Program
Executive Commission Meeting October 26, 2022**

The Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission Meeting took place on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Participants:

Ryan Hogan, Pamela Coveleski, Marie Baratta	SCA
Dr. Charles Blewitt	Executive Commission Chair
Commissioner Thomas Henry, Commissioner Ernest King	Wyoming County
Jessy Miller	Program Representative
Rachael Wydra	NEPA Dept. of Health
Ian Urbanski, John McCarthy	Executive Commission

Welcome and Review of Minutes:

Mr. Blewitt asked that the September Executive Commission Meeting Minutes be reviewed.

A motion to accept the September meeting minutes was made by Dr. Blewitt, 2nd by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. MOTION CARRIED.

Administrator Report:

Mr. Hogan confirmed that Mr. Gagliardi is participating in a Conference in Penn State today and Ms. Sprau is out on vacation.

Mr. Hogan presented the report on Ophelia. Ophelia is a virtual MOUD Program that touts high quality “tebuprenorphine” treatment to under-served communities. Mr. Hogan shared some of the “pros” and “cons” of a program like Ophelia. He also shared some of the viewpoints and analysis shared by our partners at NBHCC and CCBH. Mr. Hogan wanted to raise awareness of the new program to the Executive Commission.

Mr. Hogan stated that our SCA provided over 900 doses of Narcan since the Drug & Alcohol Program began capturing that data last March 2021. There are additional trainings and events planned for November and December 2022 aimed to get more Narcan in the hands of those impacted by OUD-individuals, families, community partners, and business/industry.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that the Annual Budget Review Hearings with the Luzerne County Manager and Luzerne County Council will take place on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 from 5-8:00pm at the Luzerne County Courthouse. Mr. Hogan noted that the County Manager proposed a 6.75% tax increase in Luzerne County. The Budget Hearing is open to the Public and all are encouraged to attend and support the Drug & Alcohol Program.

Mr. Hogan introduced The Sanctuary House, a new halfway house provider in Wilkes-Barre, to our contracted provider network. Ms. Shirlee Morrow is the owner and operator of the 10-bed male-only halfway house located on East South Street in Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that the Huntington Creek Adolescent Inpatient Treatment Program is open for Adolescent Males with 10 Residential and 2 Detox beds. The Adolescent Female wing is not open yet, but will be open soon with 12 female residential beds and 2 detox beds for females-only.

Family Services Association of NEPA will be hosting their annual National Family Week Conference at the Mohegan Sun Conference Center on November 18th starting at 8:30am. All are encouraged to register and attend. There will be breakout sessions for Narcan Training sponsored by CSC-Robinson and conducted by our Drug & Alcohol Program in partnership with the PA Department of Health, Rachael Wydra.

Mr. Hogan and Mr. Urbanski discussed the LETI Program currently in place in Wyoming County. This Program is not yet in place in Luzerne County. Mr. Urbanski shared a story about a young women struggling with an SUD who would have been a good candidate for a Luzerne County LETI Program and encouraged that we put the program in place as soon as possible.

Case Management Report:

No Report. Jill Sprau, Case Management Unit Supervisor, is out on vacation.

Fiscal Report:

Ms. Coveleski confirmed that the Auditors will complete our annual audit in November. The OHS Block Grant Report has been completed for both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. The report has been sent to the OHS Fiscal Officers for Luzerne County and Wyoming County respectively. Ms. Coveleski reviewed the Luz./Wy. Co. Fiscal Report for 7-1-22 to 8-3-22.

The 1st motion was approved by Dr. Blewitt, and the 2nd Motion was approved by Mr. McCarthy. All in favor. Motion was passed.

Provider Report:

Mr. Miller noted that the 3rd Warm Hand-Off Staff Contract will be completed in Wyoming County. He reviewed that a consumer was referred for assistance with alcohol abuse, to Ms. Butera- CRS who met the individual and provided transportation to re-hab. Ms. Butera will be helping with the Wyoming County Warm Hand-Off staff as well.

Mr. Miller discussed Trauma treatment in Wyoming County and all parties that assist including Police, School districts, Child Welfare, Probation, and more. He confirmed that there are Modules with Community Care in both Luzerne and Wyoming Counties who interact with those in need to offer training tools.

Drug & Alcohol Program Prevention Report:

Mr. Hogan presented Mr. Gagliardi's Report, noting that our Prevention Providers have spent SOR II Prevention funds down completely.

The SOR III prevention proposal was submitted to DDAP in August. Approval from DDAP was received on 10/24/22. The plans have been entered into PA WITS and submitted to DDAP for final approval as of 10/25/22. The period for spending of these prevention funds is 10/1/2022 through 9/29/24, although we have not received a notice of Subsequently Available Funds (SAF) from DDAP yet to make these funds available to our providers.

Prevention Phase G Update – This project is in the final stages, as Mr. Gagliardi has received and compiled data and program information from 2 out of 3 providers as of 10/25/22. There are no anticipated challenges with submitting the final product to DDAP by the due date of 11/18/22.

As of 10/25/22, our SOR Housing Referral Count is at 292 submitted referrals, and 1 outstanding referral that requires action on the referral source before it can be submitted to CEO.

Mr. Hogan confirmed that Commonwealth Health will be closing officially on 10/31/22.

A motion was made to accept the Prevention Report by Dr. Blewitt, 2nd motion by Commissioner Henry.

Executive Commission Nominating Committee:

Dr. Blewitt discussed the need for two Board Members and he nominated Mr. Nick Wilson for Vice President and Mr. Eric Bieski for Secretary. Both individuals were unable to attend today, so we will discuss this at our next meeting in November.

Dr. Blewitt made the 1st motion to approve, and Mr. Urbanski made the 2nd motion to approve.

The Executive Commission meeting adjourned at 4:05pm. Our next Executive Commission Meeting will be on November 16th at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Marie Baratta, Administrative Assistant

Reviewed and approved by: Ryan Hogan, Administrator