

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ACT 88:

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEROIN AND OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Date: August 10, 2018
Time: 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Location: Louisiana Department of Health
628 North 4th Street, Bienville Building, Room 118
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Minutes:

1. Call to Order - Dr. Hussey called the meeting to order at 1:35
2. Roll Call –
 - Present*
 - Dr. James Hussey (Co-chair), Office of Behavioral Health
 - Mona Michelli, Department of Children and Family Services
 - Michael Comeaux, Department of Education
 - Dr. John Morrison, Department of Public Safety and Corrections
 - Keetsie Gunnels, Department of Justice
 - Thomas Travis, Department of Insurance
 - Judge Jules Edwards, 15th Judicial District
 - Absent*
 - Major Bob Brown, State Police
 - Matt Adams, Board of Regents
 - Linda Theriot, Veterans Affairs
 - Sheral Kellar, Workforce Commission
 - Senator Regina Barrow, House Senate
 - Troy Prevot, LCTA Worker’s Compensation
3. Approval of new agenda –Approval deferred due to lack of quorum
4. Approval of minutes from February and May meetings – Approval deferred due to lack of quorum
5. **PEW Charitable Trust**

Andrew Whitacre- PEW was invited to help Louisiana understand the scope of the opioid crisis and make recommendations and guidance based upon experience in other states. Their focus is policy changes to improve access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with the goal to improve timely access to comprehensive, evidence-based and sustainable care for OUD. PEW refers to MAT as the combination of medication plus behavioral therapy. A PowerPoint was used to demonstrate the scope of the opioid crisis in Louisiana. According to the CDC, Louisiana is in the top tier in drug overdose deaths with statistically significant overdose death rate increases in the last two reported years. Opioid-related emergency department visits are also increasing. MAT is the standard of care for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). MAT (FDA-approved drugs) plus behavioral therapy is more effective than either used separately. MAT significantly reduces illicit opioid use compared to abstinence-based approaches. The three FDA-approved medications available to treat OUD (Methadone, Buprenorphine and Naltrexone) were discussed. A National Survey of Substance Abuse Treatment Services (NSSATS) is a self-reported survey conducted by SAMHSA with Louisiana’s 2018 survey results indicating 47% of SUD providers in-state who responded to the survey are classified as either “does not use medication for opioid addiction” or “does not treat opioid addiction.” To understand Louisiana’s system, PEW will engage stakeholders to build on evidence-based and emerging practices.

Previous state partnerships were reviewed. Alaina McBournie provided an overview of effective state-based models of care in other states. Currently, Louisiana has robust Medicaid coverage of all ASAM levels of care, but there is a lack of providers to deliver those services, and Louisiana Medicaid does not cover all 3 FDA approved medications (i.e., Methadone).

Pew contact information shared:

Andrew Whitacre: awhitacre@pewtrusts.org 202-552-2228

Alaina McBournie: amcbournie@pewtrusts.org 202-540-6967

A group discussion ensued and addressed questions related to policy barriers and policy opportunities. Chair Dr. Hussey stated LDH is working with Mercer to look at the projected cost of Methadone coverage. Dr. Binder of Woman's Hospital suggested there are challenges within infrastructure to share information with providers (i.e., DCFS, etc.) and offered that Women's Hospital has hired a social worker and a nurse practitioner to work with for pregnant women with SUD to help navigate addiction services.

6. Mid-year Report/Workgroup Updates
 - a. **Mid-year Report** – Chair Dr. Hussey reviewed Act 88 deliverables; Year End Report is due December 31, 2018.
 - b. **Interagency Coordination Plan Workgroup** – Judge Edwards (group Co-Lead) reported: The workgroup identified questions to include in survey (<http://ldh.la.gov/indes.frm/newroom/detail/4574>); Surveyed 19 stakeholder agencies included in the legislation and the list has been expanded; 84 survey responses were received (<http://ldh.lg.gov/index.cfm/page/3034>); Plan is to create another wave of communication to collect additional information; Currently determining the best method for gathering additional information.
 - c. **Data Surveillance Workgroup** – Jay Besse of Office of Public Health reported: The workgroup compiled a list of data sets and identified information necessary for the LA public-facing website; Developed a draft website map based on other states; OPH Bureau of Informatics is completing the LA Opioid Data & Surveillance Dashboard which is currently being tested and reviewed; Projected launch is August 2018; Funding is available for HOPE Council webpage; Reviewing other state's webpages for design/formatting concepts.
7. Grants Update – Dr. Peterson reported:
 - a. State Targeted Response Grant (LA STR) – SAMHSA Award received May 2017, \$8 million per year for 2 years; Targets prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery; To build capacity for Opioid Treatment programs and LGEs; discussed first year process outcomes.
 - b. State Opioid Response Grant (La SOR) – SAMHSA Award will be awarded September 2018; \$11 million per year for 2 years; Targets prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery; discussed goals for this grant.
8. Public Comment and General Discussion –
 - a. Dr. John Morrison of DOC stated Louisiana is ahead of other states for MAT and is reviewing support available after release from incarceration; Department of Corrections is expanding their program.
 - b. Rosanna Dichiro of JPHSA stated peer services are a crucial piece of the continuum of care and having it as a billable Medicaid service is suggested.
 - c. Dr. Parhem Jabari of OPH explained that Office of Public Health's role is education; looking forward to working with LGEs and others; OPH is applying for a grant regarding primary prevention.
9. Next Steps
 - a. Draft written report and website by November 1, 2018
 - b. Minutes will be distributed for review prior to next meeting for approval next meeting.

10. Date, time, place of next Council meeting – Potentially November 8th or 9th, 2018.
11. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 3:30.