

HOPE Advisory Council

July 11, 2024

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Bienville Building: Room 118

628 N. 4th St, Baton Rouge, LA

***In-Person Only**

1. Call to Order.

2. Roll Call

Present:

Guest Chair Nell Wilson, sitting in for Quinetta Womack and Karen Stubbs

Lt. William Bosworth

Shelley Edgerton

Troy Prevot

Crystal Lewis

Dr. Jason Picard

Etrena Gerard

Absent:

Michael Comeaux

Sen. Regina Barrow

Ronald Callegari

Judge Thomas Duplantier

Dr. Allison Smith

- A quorum was reached.

3. Introduction/Welcome New Members

a. Dr. Jason Picard

b. Troy Prevot

4. Review and Approval of July 11, 2024 Agenda

Vote to approve agenda- a motion made by Shelley Edgerton and seconded by Crystal Lewis.

The agenda was approved.

5. Approval of December 2023, January and April 2024 Minutes

Vote to approve all prior minutes- a motion made by Shelley Edgerton and seconded by Crystal Lewis. All prior minutes were voted approved.

6. Presentations:

a. Louisiana Center for Prevention Resources (LCPR) Services by Dr. Catrice Tolbert

Dr. Tolbert reviewed the history of the LCPR Center and the continuation of the Center.

The Mission is to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for training, education, advocacy and technical assistance to prevent or reduce problems resulting from alcohol, tobacco

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and other drug use by working collaboratively at the state, regional and community levels.

The Vision is to serve as a statewide resource to improve behavioral health services through innovative substance abuse prevention education, resources, training and advocacy.

She then reviewed the organizational structure along with the operational aspect, partnerships and workforce development. A Prevention Professional leadership series is offered.

Areas of focus include

- Substance Use & Misuse Prevention
- Opioids Prevention
- Suicide Prevention
- Promotion of Mental Health

LCPR provides classes, trainings and resources, which includes:

- The Brain and Addiction in Substance Abuse Prevention
- Preventing Prescription Use & Misuse
- Identifying & Selecting Evidence-Based Prevention Interventions
- The Application of Prevention Science and The Role of Harm Reduction
- Beyond COVID-19: Changing the conversation - The Role of Prevention, Treatment, Recovery, and Youth during a national Crisis

Last year they offered around 12 different trainings which are free of charge.

They offered a LCPR Inaugural Prevention Conference to show Prevention through the lens of digital media. They were able to gain a lot of information and how digital media is changing the landscape of offering prevention services. They want to be the Hub for digital media campaigns. They are currently focused on a statewide media campaign that focuses on the Service Members, Veterans, and Families (SMVF) population. The webpage for this is: <https://www.subr.edu/lcpr-crisis-support>.

b. OPH LOSI/LODSS Presentation by Tranettea Williams and Nell Wilson

Tranettea Williams presented on the national data for health statistics from 2016 to 2023:

Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: For all drugs, opioids and synthetic opioids there is a decrease in 2023. For the first time in years, the US is predicting slight decreases in drug overdose deaths nationwide. Synthetic opioid deaths decreased 1.7% in 2023. Opioid deaths decreased 3.3% in 2023. Drug poisoning deaths of any type decreased 2.8% in 2023.

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Substantial decreases in Provisional Counts of Drug-Involved Deaths from 2022 to 2023. Our program extracts and analyzes data in a measure we call a “drug involved” death. An overdose death is when an overdose is listed by the coroner as the primary cause for the death. A “drug-involved” death is one where the coroner recorded a drug toxicity or poisoning as either a cause or contributor to the death. When we look at the annual data, we saw decreases in the last two years.

For Emergency Department Visits by Chief Complaint for Drug Related visits, Opioid related visits, Heroin-related visits, and stimulant-related visits we can see a decreasing trend in emergency room visits for drug overdoses.

Nell Wilson reviewed the Percent Positive in Postmortem Toxicology for Drugs of Concern which include Xylazine and Kratom. Year 2021 was much larger percentages, but have decreased since.

She then discussed a new project with Coroners where they can indicate if opioids are present in the toxicology, if drug-related. This will help improve surveillance of opioid-involved deaths.

They can now differentiate between drug-involved deaths and opioid involved deaths AND now opioid-present deaths using ICD codes.

Troy Prevot asked about other drugs and whether we know what the other drugs are. Nell said sometimes they know and sometimes they do not.

This new data is not in LODSS (<https://lodss.ldh.la.gov>) yet until they can provide the complete picture.

7. General Updates

a. Office of Behavioral Health

- Service Members Veterans and Families (SMVF) Media Campaign- Dr. Leslie Brougham-Freeman with OBH introduced herself and Felecia Johnson who is also with OBH. Mrs. Johnson mentioned again that the courses from LCPR are available to anyone. She then introduced Krista Pouncy-Dyson who owns and runs Performance first Digital in New Orleans and runs the statewide media campaign for SMVF population.

Ms. Pouncy Dyson reviewed the Campaign Goals:

- REACH: targeted audiences, including Veterans, Service Members and their families who may be struggling with over consumption of alcohol in congruence with the COVID-19 pandemic.

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- EDUCATE: Raise awareness of alcohol use and misuse due to COVID-19 and the associated consequences along with the resources and crisis support available within Louisiana.
- ACTIVATE: Leverage digital display and videos to drive audiences to the LCPR landing (web) page.
- MEASURE: Closely monitor your advertising engagement to inform future health and awareness campaigns.

From March 4th - June 30th this campaign drove 178.8K users to this landing page. She also shared the audience engagement which includes the audience, campaign impression and number of people reached. Advertisements are also present on bus and bus shelters, billboards, entertainment venues and dining, and offices.

Contact Information: krista@performancefirstdigital.com

- Review of Recent Legislation- Dr. Ashley Jefferson presented info regarding the recent legislation.

Rep. Egan requested Dept. of Health and Medicaid work together to look at standards for psychiatric residential facilities as well as those involved with substance use facilities and taking a look at Medicaid rate reimbursement, while OBH will write reports and review information regarding this.

Rep. Marcel requests HCR14 to create a taskforce to study potential expansion of BH providers eligible for enhancement reimbursement.

SCR10- Sen. Lambert- to create a plan with OBH in conjunction with LA State Board of Examiners of Psychologists to keep BH providers in state of LA.

SCR23- Sen. Barrow- LDH to study Behavioral Health demand and access. OBH has devised a utilization plan. A report to come from this.

Act 147- HOPE Council extension on report- New date is March 15th.

OBH is staffing a taskforce- the suicide prevention team to continue to staff this taskforce to study suicide rates of African American men. Rep. Joyner brought this resolution last year and asked to continue.

- Introduction of OBH's New Medical Director – Dr. Ashley Jefferson introduced Dr. Vanessa de la Cruz as the new Medical Director and Chair of the HOPE Council.

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- b. Community Impact Group- Dr. Smith is absent so no update.
- c. Healthcare Impact Group- No meeting during transition period. Now that Dr. de la Cruz is here, the meetings should pick back up.
- d. Public Safety Impact Group- Shelley held a formal meeting – Worked with some of the regional resource coordinators with OBH and they discussed wanting to focus on training some of the parole officers on MAT and what those medications are.
- e. Other Updates

8. HOPE 2023 Year End Report Update

The Report is still with LDH leadership for their review. Another update will be available shortly.

9. Public Comments

Missy Graves with OBH presented the following:

The Louisiana Department of Health is intending to submit an application to CMS for an 1115 demonstration waiver to improve care transitions for Medicaid-eligible individuals who are incarcerated and to provide certain covered services during the 90-day pre-release period. LDH is working with the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the Medicaid actuaries at Milliman to finalize the list of covered services and benefits. CMS has provided guidance on a set of minimum benefits to be provided, so we know that the waiver will include case management, medication-assisted treatment and counseling for substance use disorders, and a 30-day supply of all prescription medications. The eligible carceral settings will include all state prison facilities and up to 10 parish jails.

LDH is planning to provide a public comment period in August, including posting the draft waiver application on the LDH website and hosting a couple of public forums to encourage public comments and feedback. The team will circulate this information as soon as it is available.

10. Discussion and Next Steps

- a. Impact Workgroups: HOPE@LA.GOV
- b. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 10th 9:00 - 11:00 am

11. Adjourn- Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Picard and seconded by Troy Prevot.

Future HOPE Council Meetings

Thursday, October 10th