

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ACT 88:

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEROIN AND OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Date: March 25, 2021
Time: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Location: Zoom Line

Minutes:

1. Call to Order- Dr. Hussey called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.
2. Roll Call- A quorum was reached.
 - a. Present:
 - Chair Dr. James Hussey:** *Department of Health/Office of Behavioral Health*
 - Lori Miller: *Department of Children and Family Services*
 - Michael Comeaux: *Department of Education*
 - Blake LeBlanc: *Department of Public Safety and Corrections*
 - Captain Heath Guillotte: *State Police*
 - Dr. Allison Smith: *Higher Education*
 - Sheral Kellar: *Workforce Commission*
 - Elsie Joanne Brown: *House of Representatives*
 - Monica Taylor: *Attorney General's Office*
 - Thomas Travis: *Department of Insurance*
 - Judge Timothy Marcel: *Supreme Court, Division "E" 29th Judicial District Court*
 - b. Absent:
 - Linda Theriot: *Veterans Affairs*
 - Senator Regina Barrow: *State Senate*
3. Review of Membership - Chair Dr. James Hussey recognized three new members and asked them to introduce themselves. The new members are:
 - a. Ms. Lori Miller with Child Protective Services at DCFS;
 - b. Captain Heath Guillotte with State Police;
 - c. Judge Timothy Marcel with the Adult Drug Court and Family Treatment Court in St. Charles Parish.
4. Review and Approval of March 25, 2021 Agenda
A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Tom Travis; Ms. Sheral Kellar seconded the motion. The agenda was approved.
5. Update on HOPE 2020 End of Year Report
Chair Dr. Hussey reported that the 2020 End of Year Report was submitted and it has been posted online at <https://ldh/la/gov/hope>.

Chair Dr. Hussey reviewed the recommendations in the report including:

1. Person-centered recommendations
2. System-centered recommendations
3. Special population-centered recommendations
4. Investigate executive/administrative/legal ways to remove barriers to SUD and OUD service access through regulatory flexibility
5. Data collection and data analysis recommendations
6. Treatment retention strategy recommendations
7. HOPE Advisory Council and Impact Workgroups

Mr. Tom Travis commented that there should be permanent changes to the open meetings law to allow boards and commissions that do not control any money to meet virtually.

6. Approval of January 2021 HOPE Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Tom Travis; Dr. Allison Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

7. Presentations

a. Supreme Court/Drug/Specialty Court Update by Kerry Lentini, Director, Supreme Court Drug & Specialty Court Office and Judge Timothy Marcel.

- Some of the challenges during COVID-19 include drug testing and internet access for clients.
- There was increased use of community service.
- Good outcomes from a bad situation include zoom peer-led support groups. Getting authorities out of the way and allowing peers to meet was very advantageous. These groups will continue to meet face to face or by zoom when necessary.

b. OPH Opioid Surveillance Update by Jay Besse, Office of Public Health

- 2020 challenges were reflected in fatal opioid overdoses which increased significantly during the pandemic especially quarter 2
 - Quarter 1: Jan-March Quarter 2: April-June Quarter 3: July-Sept Quarter 4: Oct-Dec
- Emergency department visits increased for all drugs from 2019 to 2020
- Current data is available at <https://lodss.ldh.la.gov>.

c. OBH Opioid Grant Updates By Janice Williams, PhD., Deputy Assistant Secretary OBH

Dr. Janice Williams reported that OBH grants have been operationalizing strategies for services and is in line with addressing most of the HOPE council recommendations. Trainings necessary to educate the workforce is in full swing with virtual meetings on specific topics.

Focus has been on prevention, intervention (narcain kit distribution) treatment and recovery efforts through administration of the grants. Awareness campaigns with partners, provider education, MAT services within OTPs (some encouraged to go 24/7), and OBOTs, discharge planning for citizens in criminal justice settings, Oxford Homes support and coronavirus support through telehealth, warm lines, and connecting to providers and resources.

- LaSOR 1.0- awarded 2018-2020 with No Cost Extension 9/20 to 9/21.
 - LaSOR 2.0 awarded 9/20 to 9/22.
- COAP grant focusing on justice population, working with New Orleans metropolitan area, local sheriff and Day Reporting Center

- Partnership for Success grants, long-standing prevention grants working in partnership with LGEs and local coalitions to address alcohol related issues and other local conditions involving substance misuse.
 - Emergency Grants to address mental and Substance Use Disorder, received last year with additional funds for supplement.
 - d. Law Enforcement Update by Captain Heath Guillotte, Louisiana State Police
 - Presented data for November 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021
 - Responses to questions in the chat:
 - Q: Do the pill seizures list in “criminal control seizures and arrests” contain fentanyl? A: This data does not indicate whether or not these were fentanyl seizures. Fentanyl was not reported because it was not in the template on the request.
 - Q: What are examples of sources for seizures? A: Sources of seizures are drug couriers seized by patrol officers
 - e. Other Member/Agency Updates
 - 2021 DEA National Drug Take Back Day
A Socially Distanced, Drive-Through Event
Saturday, April 24 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Baton Rouge Police Department Headquarters
Airline Highway at Goodwood Boulevard
 - Board of Regents:
 - Naloxone is now available on all campuses- required in residential facilities, athletic training facilities, recovery housing, student unions, and counseling, health and wellness centers.
 - Northwestern had a training yesterday
 - Let's Talk Series virtual educational awareness program sponsored by LDH-OPH & CAHS during the month of April. For more info, email Trudy.wickham@la.gov
- 8. Post-COVID Report Strategy- Chair Dr. Hussey reviewed the Health/ Healthcare/ Public Safety/ Community Impact Domains and invited participation among members and public. The HOPE Council seeks to engage stakeholders and interested parties in the examination of the broader impacts of the opioid epidemic in Louisiana. In an effort to identify those impacts, the Council has formed three (3) working groups to identify additional areas of action that can lead to collaboration and recommendations:**
- (1) **Health/Healthcare Domain** consisting of treatment and recovery providers, emergency responders, health care providers, behavioral health providers, pharmacists, insurers, public health professionals, health policy makers and coroners; *(Lead: J. Hussey, LDH/OBH)*
 - (2) **Public Safety Domain** consisting of law enforcement, EMS and firefighters, corrections personnel, court officials, and other government officials; *(Lead: Jay Besse, LDH/OPH)*
 - (3) **Community Domain** consisting of educators, educational institutions, employers, religious groups and clergy, persons with Substance Use Disorder, family members, and community organizations dedicated to quality of life issues for all persons. *(Lead: Allison Smith, PhD, Louisiana Board or Regents)*

Chair Dr. Hussey shared a sample online form to be used to sign up for workgroups and to request additional information. Another option is to utilize an email address. He requested feedback from

council members. Michael Comeaux stated that he likes the form and suggested that it could be emailed to potential workgroup members. Judge Timothy Marcel chatted that it is a good form. Several people commented in the chat that they would like to join workgroups.

9. Public Comments – none.

10. Next Steps – Chair Dr. Hussey summarized the plan:

- a. Finalize sign up form with input from workgroup leads
- b. Workgroup meetings
- c. Reach out to members to present at the next meeting
- d. Next meeting date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 9:00-1:00 a.m.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 am.