

**Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council Meeting  
March 27, 2017**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Maria Bruni, Assistant Secretary of Programs, and Kim Fornero, Bureau Chief, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Ms. Fornero noted that the Committees had been very busy and working at a brisk pace over the past three weeks.

Angie Bailey, Community Benefits Manager for the Southern Illinois Healthcare and Kim Sanders, Director of the Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine - Center for Rural Health and Social Service Development (CRHSSD), presented information on initiatives underway in southern Illinois. (Presentation handouts are attached).

- Initial work began in 2014 via a forum organized by the Community Behavioral Health Association of Illinois and CRHSSD. The forum brought together a wide range of stakeholders and was the first step toward developing a regional action plan to address the opioid crisis in southern Illinois.
- Three regional planning meetings were convened in 2016 and 2017 to bring stakeholders from all sectors together on a regular basis, assess current efforts, provide information and facilitate collaboration and coalition building.
- Thirty-three counties in southern Illinois are involved in ongoing coalition activities and are discussing and developing action plans. Links to action plans completed to date are available at: <http://crhssd.siu.edu/previous-meetings/>
- Strategies counties are focusing on include: expanding public education and build community partnerships; increasing access to substance abuse treatment; ensuring responsible prescribing practices; and supporting law enforcement efforts.
- Accomplishments to date include: training law enforcement on Narcan administration, coordinating care between Shawnee Health Service and Gateway, training providers on PMP, creation of a youth advisory council at Massac County High School, and increased community engagement and feelings of empowerment that people can do something to address the opioid crisis.
- A copy of the community resource guide created by one of the groups can be found at: <http://www.hsidn.org/>
- The next regional planning meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2017 in Carbondale.

Following the presentation, the group discussed several topics.

- It is critical for the Council to be aware of regional initiatives, and vice versa. There are geographical differences in the opioid crisis and resources currently available to address it. Assistant Secretary Bruni stressed the importance of including work of local and regional coalitions in the strategic plan. We also want to share information statewide to make sure efforts aren't working at cross-purposes. Allison Hasler (IDPH) will send Southern Regional Coalition information to the Council and will also share Council information with the Coalition.
- Drug Free Community Support Grants can help support prevention-focused local coalitions. Go to: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sp-17-001>

- Prevention First has several good resources that coalitions may find useful. These include resources on training and technical assistance, and strategic planning. See the links below for more information.  
Link to websites with coalition resources: <https://www.prevention.org/Professional-Resources/Coalitions/>  
Training offerings: <https://www.prevention.org/training/event?ti=1030>  
Opioid resources: <https://www.prevention.org/Virtual-Clearinghouse/Opioid/>
- One of the key metrics for success for the coalitions has been community readiness and changes in community attitudes about the opioid crisis.
- In addition to ensuring regional representation on the Council, representatives from managed care organizations (MCOs) should be included, given the state's move to Medicaid managed care in 2018.

Discussion related to the committees' reports addressed several topics.

- The MAT Committee refined its initial goal statement to: Everyone in Illinois who wants and needs MAT services for opiate use disorder (OUD) has access to it. The action steps associated with this goal are to 1) develop a user-friendly tool that assists any professional who want to prescribe MAT with information on how to do it, and 2) disseminate the tool. The tool will incorporate a recovery approach and emphasize the importance of linking clients to ancillary recovery support services. Assistant Secretary Bruni shared that DASA has been working on a report for the legislature that will include updated mapping of MAT resources. This document will be shared with the Council and MAT Committee after it has been publicly released.
- The group discussed the importance of being able to locate providers who are actually prescribing MAT. Many trained providers aren't prescribing, others aren't taking new patients and directories of providers are outdated. The group noted that Alkermes maintains an updated list of Vivitrol prescribers: <https://www.vivitrol.com/find-a-treatment-provider>. Resources like this could be included in the tool.
- Public awareness and education is a broad topic, and the committee has been focusing on narrowing down its long list of target audiences and messages to those most impacted by the opioid crisis. The group discussed the importance of consistent messaging across statewide campaigns and the need to reach out to the general public to de-stigmatize the crisis. Ms. Fornero has information on messaging campaigns from other states; these resources may be useful to help identify some common or standard messages.
- The Prescribing Practices Committee has refined its goals to better understanding prescribing practices, improving education and awareness around appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids for the treatment of non-oncologic pain, and gaining a fuller understanding of the PMP and how it can be more easily and effectively used. The group shared efforts the VA is undertaking work with state PMPs. Assistant Secretary Bruni noted that there are many different prescribing guidelines and asked if an inventory of prescribing practices and guidelines would be useful as an appendix for the strategic plan.
- According to CDC data, Illinois has had one of the lowest opioid prescribing rates nationwide. We need to review data to determine where and how these rates can be further reduced.
- Assistant Secretary Bruni shared that DASA interns can assist committees; chairs should think about how the interns might help them identify resources, create inventories, etc.

- Similar to public awareness and education, criminal justice population is a very broad topic. The Criminal Justice Populations Committee is working hard to narrow its goals, and much of its discussion has focused on deflection. Assistant Secretary Bruni shared that DASA is submitting an application to the Department of Justice for the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-based Program (<https://www.bja.gov/funding/CARA17.pdf>). DASA is applying for category 4, which includes criminal justice-focused strategic planning. While Assistant Secretary Bruni encouraged the committee to focus on one or two sequential intercepts for the statewide strategic plan, she noted that if DASA wins this DOJ grant funds, goals for additional intercepts could be included in the criminal justice-specific strategic plan.

Sue Pickett (Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.) gave a brief update on the strategic planning process. Her team is developing a web-based survey that will be distributed statewide to obtain stakeholder input on the opioid crisis. Please send suggestions for survey items to her at [spickett@ahpnet.com](mailto:spickett@ahpnet.com).

### **Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Council Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule**

The upcoming meeting is scheduled from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. on April 27, 2017 in Chicago and Springfield. Below please find the exact locations. Phone/conference call and videoconferencing will be available. The conference call number for all Council meetings is: 888.494.4032, passcode: 4030829754#. Note: The April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled.

#### Chicago

Illinois Department of Public Health  
69 West Washington, 35th Floor  
Suite 3500 - Director's Conference Room

#### Springfield

Illinois Department of Human Services - Harris Building  
100 South Grand Avenue East  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Executive Conference Room

### **Committee Meeting Schedule**

MAT Committee: April 14, 2017, 2:00-4:00 pm, 401 S. Clinton

The other committees are currently scheduling their next meetings.