

Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council

May 20, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

IDHS/SUPR Director Danielle Kirby welcomed the group and introduced Assistant Secretary of Programs Designate Kia Coleman. Ms. Coleman thanked the group for their work.

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Updates

Jenny Epstein, Director of Strategic Opioid Initiatives, shared the following updates:

- IDPH updated their recent NOFOs and hopes to announce the grantees at the next Council meeting.
- IDPH released a comprehensive health protection plan that includes funding for Narcan and overdose prevention for eligible health departments.
- A report on the 2018 dashboard data will be given at the June Council meeting.

IDHS/ Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) Updates

Director Kirby shared the following updates:

- Awards have recently been made to 13 new State Opioid Response (SOR) grantees. Go to <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=117777> to read more detailed information on the projects described below.
 - Digital Toolkit Recovery Supports will provide secure, individualized digital resources to Illinois residents with OUD who are seeking or currently in treatments. Gateway Foundation, Kenneth Young Center, Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center, Phoenix Recovery Support Services, LLC and South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse were granted Digital Toolkit Recovery Support funding.
 - Residential Stabilization Centers (RSC) for Patients with OUD will provide safe, short-term housing for Illinois residents with OUD who are in crisis, and/or individuals with OUD who may need additional support in a residential setting during the first few days of medication assisted treatment. Loretto Hospital, Family Guidance Centers and the Women's Treatment Center received RSC for Patients with OUD funding.
 - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to Provide OUD Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Services aims to increase the availability of OUD MAT and recovery support services for Illinois residents and their families who are currently in need of OUD intervention and treatment. FQHCs chosen for this program will provide a range of recovery support and case management services, FQHC-based MAT for OUD and outpatient treatment for uninsured or under-insured Illinois residents with a diagnosed OUD. Crossing Healthcare, Greater Elgin Family Care Center, Heartland Health Centers, Lawndale Christian Health Center, and Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation, Inc., received FQHC for OUD MAT funding.
- The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is inviting individuals interested in serving on the Detox Subcommittee of the Medicaid Advisory Committee to apply for consideration. Members are appointed by the Director of HFS and serve for two years. Members include physicians, people with lived experience, and health professionals who are familiar with the healthcare needs, services and resources available for the populations served by HFS. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Detox Subcommittee, please submit your resume, biography or CV to Cheryl Easton at Cheryl.Easton@illinois.gov by June 17, 2019.

Advisory Council Web Survey - Preliminary Survey Results and Discussion

- Dr. Sue Pickett, Advocates for Human Potential, Inc., shared preliminary Council survey results. The survey asks for feedback on Council membership, functioning and effectiveness. It also asks for ideas on what the Council needs to address in future meetings. Director Kirby shared that the Governor's Office is very interested the survey results. A full report will be available at the June Council meeting
 - As of May 20th, only 39 people had completed a survey – less than 17% of the total Council membership. We would like an 80% response rate and encourage people to fill out the survey. (Note: The survey closed on May 30, 2019). Preliminary results suggest that the Council is a good venue for learning about opioid initiatives statewide and that members want the Council to continue meeting. Survey participants reported that they use information and resources shared at the Council in their own work; this includes information on naloxone, improving access to MAT, and IDHS/SUPR funding opportunities.
- Discussion: Who is missing from the Council? Who needs to be at our table?
 - Council members noted that the following groups were missing from and need to be represented on the Council: People with lived experience of OUD, family members of people with OUD, problem solving/drug court associations, physical therapists, smaller advocacy organizations (i.e., Jolt), organizations that represent the South and West sides of Chicago, Illinois Association for MAT, county sheriff departments, National Association for Methadone Advocates, veterans and the VA, heads of major healthcare organizations across the state, rural organizations/communities south of I-80, housing providers, harm reduction and overdose prevention groups, law enforcement, and workforce development groups.
- Discussion: How do we best reach out to these groups and encourage their participation on the Council?
 - Council members suggested several outreach strategies. These include targeted invitations to specific groups or individuals (e.g., hospital CEOs), creating additional subcommittees that focus on issues of interest to these groups (e.g., minority outreach, workforce development), and Council members attending meetings of existing groups and giving presentations about the Council. Stipends to cover travel expenses and existing IDHS/Division of Mental Health statewide peer calls and learning collaborative calls are potential resources to reach people with lived experience of OUD and encourage their participation. Marketing campaigns focusing on community issues and how the Council can address those issues may encourage participation among people living in Chicago's South and West side neighborhoods.
- Discussion: What topics should be discussed at future Council meetings?
 - Council members would like presentations on the following topics: latest research on opioid response efforts, including what other states are doing to address the opioid crisis, updates on the A-MAT Hub & Spoke pilot projects, law enforcement and DEA efforts related to fentanyl, law enforcement approaches to harm reductions, and how the Council can better align its work with ongoing interventions.

Department of Insurance - Access to Care and Treatment Presentation

Carol West of the Illinois Department of Insurance (IDOI) gave a presentation on its Access to Care and Treatment (ACT) project (see attached handouts).

- Illinois is the only state to change the Essential Health Benefit-Benchmark Plan to include benefits for OUD. These include removing barriers to obtaining buprenorphine and covering prescriptions for intranasal naloxone when initial opioid prescriptions of 50MMEs or higher. These changes go into effect in 2020.

- DOI has been educating Illinois residents on consumer rights to behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) parity since 2016. DOI has created a user-friendly palm card and toolkit that educates consumers about health insurance basics and mental and SUD parity. These resources include information on how to communicate with insurance plans, how to get out-of-network approval, understanding what is covered in insurance plans, mental health and SUD parity, and how to file an appeal. The toolkit contains communication logs that consumers can use to document conversations with their insurance providers. Contact Karen Woods at Karen.Woods@illinois.gov for order palm cards and toolkits.
 - Consumers can call the Consumer Assistance Hotline (866-445-5364) with questions about parity and denial of coverage. Complaints must be submitted to DOI in writing.
- DOI continues to educate Illinois residents on the importance of insurance and how they can access coverage—including Medicaid—through Get Covered Illinois: <https://getcovered.illinois.gov/en>
- Discussion
 - It was noted that justice-involved individuals who are re-entering the community need education about and assistance with insurance. DOI is actively working with HFS and the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) educating and enrolling this population. DOI has partnered with IDOC on several events to get this information to the re-entry population. This includes A Summit of Hope, an IDOC and IDPH sanctioned community expo for parolees and probations that provides assistance with services to reduce recidivism, including insurance. For a list of upcoming Summits, go to: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idoc/communityresources/SummitofHopeRegistration/Pages/default.aspx>

Prevention First - A Dose of Truth Campaign

Kim Zambole of Prevention First gave the following presentation on the A Dose of Truth Campaign (see attached handouts).

- A Dose of Truth is a primary prevention campaign that launched on April 29, 2019. The campaign aims to increase knowledge and perceived relevance of risks of opioid use and misuse, promoting safe and responsible use of prescriptions. Its target audience is adults ages 18 and older. The campaign was developed and launched with help from Rescue the Behavior Change Agency. Four focus groups were conducted in early 2019 in Chicago and Springfield with adults ages 18 and older who have used prescription opioids. Focus groups assessed participants' opioid use, knowledge of opioids, reasons for use, access and risk of use. Participants also were asked for feedback on campaign logos and media strategy channels.
- Focus group results indicate that participants have poor knowledge about opioid use and misuse risks. Many participants reported using their opioids after their pain subsided, using opioids for reasons other than the condition for which the drugs, and using opioids with alcohol. Participants noted that the logo that uses the outline of the state was perceived as familiar, relatable, and local and caught their attention. The symbol conveyed to them that the state government recognized that the opioid crisis is a problem in Illinois. Participants expressed pride in knowing that their home state is being proactive in fighting the opioid epidemic.
- Recommendations based on focus group results include: 1) use the A Dose of Truth brand name for the campaign with the Illinois state outline logo, 2) educate adults about the basics of prescription opioids, 3) focus on patient accountability, 4) encourage adults to engage with medical providers and 5) show adults that anyone can be susceptible to prescription opioid misuse.

- The A Dose of Truth website (<https://www.prevention.org/a-dose-of-truth>) includes videos and other resources. Brochures have been distributed to doctors' offices and pharmacies statewide. Videos will be updated and address specific topics, such as polyuse (i.e., taking opioids with alcohol). Ads for the campaign have been placed on Facebook and Instagram. As of May 20, 2019, the campaign's Facebook post reach (estimated number of people who had any posts from the page) was 1,066,681 and the video had 968,769 views.
- Discussion
 - Council members discussed the importance of making materials available in Spanish. Brochures and pharmacy bags are printed in both English and Spanish. Prevention First is working on translating the website into Spanish for the next campaign rollout.
 - It was suggested that PMP be made aware of the campaign and encouraged to use materials in their pharmacist trainings.
 - The Prescribing Practice Committee has discussed the importance of exploring ways to use drugs other than opioids for surgical pain. The Illinois Surgical Collaborative's Enhanced Recovery After Surgery pilot project has been successful in reducing opioid use after surgery by 50%. The Council welcomes a presentation on this initiative when the final results are available.

June 2019 Council Meeting

The next Illinois Crisis Response Advisory Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 17 20, 2019 from 1:00-3:00 PM. Committee Chairs will be sharing updates and next steps for their groups. Please e-mail Brian Pacwa at Brian.Pacwa@illinois.gov if you would like to be added to the email list. Information on Chicago and Springfield locations will be sent closer to the meeting date.

Call in number: 415-655-0052 Access Code: 599279395

Council meeting minutes and materials (including handouts from this meeting) can be found on the Council's website: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=97186>