

Minutes of the State Prevention Advisory Board – August 9, 2017

The August 9, 2017 meeting of the State Prevention Advisory Board (SPAB) was called to order by the Chairperson, Seyram Selase, at 10:06 AM. After a brief word of welcome, Chair Selase made a brief description of the facility in which the SPAB meeting for 8/9/2017 was being held. Chair Selase described the facility as the National Freedom Riders Monument, which, according to the Chair, was currently under renovation. Chair Selase remarked that, upon completion, the National Freedom Riders Monument will be restored to the condition that it had been in 1961. After providing the SPAB with a brief history of the Monument, as well as the significance that the bus terminal had in the history of the Civil Rights Movement, Chair Selase invited the members of the SPAB in attendance to tour the facility, as well as the surrounding Anniston Area.

In attendance at the SPAB 8/9/2017 meeting were:

Members In-person attendance

Bridgette Jordan-Smith, Rachel Lawley, Jan Corbett, Alan Miller, Carol Williams, Robin Wilson

Lantana McKenley, Vandlyn Pierre, Gloria M. Howard, Jason Lindell, Jimmeka Levette

Members In attendance via conference call

Elana Parker Merriweather (Vice Chair), Bruce Kimble (Secretary), Cedric Leonard Ebony Crews, Shereda Finch

Debbie Robbins, Erica Butler, Vincent Hinton, Derek Osborne, Qshequilla Mitchell Michele Moore, Patricia Moore, Delynne Wilcox

State Management Team

Tafeni English, Lauren Blanding, Dr. Necoal Driver, Catina James, Ashley Robinson
Bradon Folks (Conference Call), Erin Burleson (Conference Call), Charon Douglas
(Conference Call)

Chair Selase called for the agenda to be reviewed and for a motion for the agenda for the meeting to be approved. After a brief time of review, Vandlyn Pierre moved that the agenda be accepted as written. The motion was seconded by Robin Wilson and was carried unanimously.

Chair Selase called for the review and for a motion for the agenda of the minutes of the May 3rd SPAB meeting. After a brief period of review, Vandlyn Pierre moved that the 5/3/2017 minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Elana Parker Merriweather (Vice Chair) and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Selase introduced Mr. Brandon Folks for the office of Prevention. Mr. Folks stated that he would be presenting an update from the Office of Prevention of the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Mr. Folks stated that he would be presenting on behalf of Ms. Beverly Johnson (Director of the Office of Prevention) who, according to Mr. Folks, had been called away to a conference in Washington D.C. Mr. Folks reported that the end of the fiscal year reporting and review cycle has begun. Reviews of Block Grant providers, as well as “Partnership for Success” providers had been completed and reimbursements have been made. Mr. Folks reported that the National Prevention week had been from May 14th through 20th 2017, and that numerous events had been held across the State of Alabama. Mr. Folks went on to report that the “STOP ACT” survey, as well as the Underage Drinking Strategic Plan has been completed internally, and is currently under review. Mr. Folks related that these reports would be submitted to the SPAB for review and approval.

Mr. Folks went on to report on the Community College Initiative Awards have been announced. Mr. Folks reported that the recipients of these awards were

Region 1. Northwest Alabama Mental Health Center

Region 2. PRIDE of Tuscaloosa

Region 3. COSA

Region 4. SPECTRA Care Health Systems.

Mr. Folks announced that the Office of Prevention had two new staff members:

Ashley Robinson – Prevention Assistant working with Block Grant.

Dr. Necoal Driver – Consultant for the SPF-Rx program.

Mr. Folks reported that the Opioid SPR Targeted Response Grant is currently under review, and the RFP for this has gone out. Mr. Folks reported that “Partnership for Success” Discretionary Grant is under review, and notifications for continued funding for the FY 2018 has gone out.

Chair Selase introduced Catina James of the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Ms. James reported that that the State of Alabama Department of Public Health had been continuing efforts in the development of a data base in terms of the prescription of opioids in the state of Alabama. Ms. James went on to report that data sharing has been an ongoing issue. Ms. James stated that the wording of the program might require legislation to overcome these issues.

Ms. James went to report that the State of Alabama is currently number one in terms of opioid prescriptions per 100 people.

Ms. James related that access to the information that would be compiled in a database would be imperative to continuity in terms of development of programs, evaluation program effectiveness, and maintaining funding sources. Ms. James continued the Department of Mental Health is continuing to work with the Department of Public Health to develop wording that would be more acceptable to the legislature to allow for the resolution of the stated issues with the development of a data base system. Ms. James stated another option might be that the Department of Mental Health and Public Health obtain some form of waiver in relation to the information, however, Ms. James continued that “it

would be best to change legislation” in that the State Department of Mental Health could not, at present, generate information that would be obtained in the data based. Ms. James stated that this information would, not only be beneficial to the Alabama State Department of Mental Health, but would be beneficial to any agency seeking to obtain grant funding, or trying to “see what’s going on in the state” in relation to the use and misuse of opioids in the State of Alabama.

Mr. Allen Miller of the Shelby County District Attorney’s office related that he felt that the D.A.’s office would “come along side” of the data sharing issue, with the support of the SPAB.

Debbie Robbins of the Alabama Department of Public Health office of information related that one of the concerns that had been brought up in relation to the data sharing is an effective way to “de-identify” the data the data to prevent “data mining” and maintain confidentiality.

Chair Selase introduced Tafeni English of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention. Ms. English reported that she has been “tasked” with is a staff orientation. Ms. English continued that this is “not really an orientation as much as it is a welcome” to those individuals that agreed to serve as a “Prevention Counsel.” Ms. English related that she will discuss an EDP and “work groups” That, according to Ms. English, will be formed under the SPAB. Ms. English continued that, with regard to the SPAB, an email went out three months ago regarding the Prevention Counsel combining with the SPAB. Ms. English related that, following consultation with the Associate Commissioner, that the missions of the Prevention Counsel and the SPAB were similar enough to warrant a combining of these bodies, in an advisory capacity. Ms. English related that there are efforts to expand the SPAB to include all areas of Alabama, especially in relation to SOF SIG Grants throughout the state. Ms. English related that “we are moving to becoming all things related to Prevention,” so Ms. English continued, it is going to become very important that the individuals that work in the counties, live in these counties, and provide services in these counties be heard. That, according to Ms. English, is the primary role of the SPAB. Ms. English stated that she would be introducing the proposed new members of the SPAB at the end of

the meeting to be voted on. Ms. English went on to relate that she would be distributing the By-Laws of the SPAB following the meeting.

A question was asked if the Office of Prevention had reached out to coordinators around the state to see if they wanted to be a part of the SPAB.

Chair Selase raised the point that the SPAB was in need of committed membership. Chair Selase recognized Vice Chair Elana Merriweather in her efforts to coordinate the conference call meeting attendance that allowed several of the members of the SPAB to attend this meeting today. Chair Selase stated that committed membership would insure that the decisions of the SPAB would be reported to the Department of Mental Health and would be acted on in a timely manner.

Ms. English introduced Dr. Katie Whitely. Ms. English stated that Ms. Whitely was the State of Alabama Department of Mental Health Evaluator for “a number of years.” Under the SPF, Ms. English related that Dr. Whitely worked with several coordinators around the state in relation to the SPF SIG. Ms. English related that Dr. Whitely has been asked to lead the discussion with regard to the EBP workgroup. Ms. English introduced Ms. Whitely.

Dr. Whitely reported that she was going to discuss the EBP workgroup, “how it evolved, and what were the future plans for the group.” Dr. Whitely went on to relate the Evidenced Based Workgroup emerged and formed as a part of the SPF SIG process because we felt like we needed a group of committed “state folks who were comfortable the concept of evidenced based practices and policies and this would aid the sub grantees in choosing the correct evidenced based practice for their intervention and address their needs that were identified.” Dr. Whitely stated that the definition of Evidenced Based Practices, in terms of Prevention, is a practice, policy or program that has been validated in some way, either by peer review, or listed in the federal registry, or other method of validation. Dr. Whitely related that the EBP workgroup came about during the planning phase of the SPF SIG. Through an assessment Process, according to Dr. Whitely, an EBP would best address the identified needs found, and achieve the outcomes that the agency wants to achieve. Dr. Whitely related that the original workgroup had a wide

variety of experiences with evidenced based practices, programs, and policies, and were willing to devote time and effort to develop a formal approach to aid providers to achieve the desired outcomes, while maintaining the fidelity of those programs. Dr. Whitely related that “once the ball was rolling” in terms of the implementation of the EBP, the role of the workgroup, according to Dr. Whitely was “diminished” somewhat. Dr. Whitely stated that she was “happy to see the work of the workgroup “revived” in relation to the importance to the area of prevention and the SPF SIG process.

Dr. Whitely stated that the group developed an Evidenced Based Practices guidebook, as well as a catalog of EBP’s.

Dr. Whitely reported that the EBP workgroup developed an approval process that would help the sub recipients in achieving the desired outcomes in terms of evidenced based practices with a formalized “step by step” approach that the sub grantee had to go through to justify their choice of evidenced based strategy.

Dr. Whitely related that she was “working off of some slides” that she had prepared. Vice Chair Merriweather asked about SPAB members that were present via teleconference being given access to the slides. Dr. Whitely assured the slides would be made available to all SPAB members.

Dr. Whitely reported that the work of the Evidenced Based Practices workgroup has a “strong connection” to “core concepts” of the public health model, as well as the linking of problems addressed in an outcome based prevention model, “matching the interventions with the outcomes that we are seeking.” Dr. Whitely “cautioned” in relation to seeking a balance between environmental changes and the development of a valid program that has consistent outcomes.

Some of the roles and responsibilities of the workgroup, as listed by Dr. Whitely, are to:

1. Promote a more thorough understanding of what Evidenced Based Practices are and the roles these play.
2. To ensure that guidance manuals and documents such as the EBP catalog, are up to date.

3. Strategic plan reviews
4. Upgrade and maintain the selection criteria for the best choice of EBP
5. Promote fidelity to the program.

Dr. Whitely raised the question, What does it take to be an effective member of this workgroup? Ms. Whitely related that a potential workgroup member would have to know something about the EBP the validation and implementation process, and have the time to devote to this process. Ms. English related that anyone interested in serving on the Evidenced Based Practices workgroup should email her or Chair Selase.

Ms. English related that the EBP is developing a “peer helper” program. Ms. English reported that the EBPO workgroup is looking to recruit two members of the workgroup per region (1,2,3,4) across the state.

Chair Selase then called for Old Business. The issue of the Prevention Planning Committee being “absorbed” into the SPAB was discussed. The Board decided that this would happen with no further action required.

Chair Selase called for a vote on the new members of the SPAB. The names of the proposed new members of the SPAB are as follows:

1. Bridgette Jordan-Smith
2. Rachel Lawley
3. Jan Corbett
4. Carol Williams
5. Robin Wilson
6. Lantana McKenley
7. Gloria Howard
8. Jimmeka Levette
9. Ebony Crews
10. Derek Osborne
11. Qshequilla Mitchell
12. Michele Moore
13. Patricia Moore

The motion was called that the new members be placed on the board as a slate. The motion was made by Vandlyn Pierre and seconded by Cedric Leonard.

The next meeting of the SPAB was scheduled for November 1, 2017 at 10:00 AM with a location TBA.

As there were no announcements or questions, Chair called for a motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn was made by Vandlyn Pierre.

Respectfully Submitted by Bruce Kimble Secretary.