State Prevention Advisory Board (SPAB) Alabama Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (AEOW) Combined Meeting Friday, January 13, 2012

Location: Alabama Power Conference Center, Clanton, AL

Attendees:

Maura Culberson – Elmore Co. Juvenile Court Ruby Garrison – Big Lots

Pamela Payne Foster – UA Rural Health Institute

James Thompson – Brewer Porch

Vandlyn Pierre – Drug Education Council Michelle Moore – Quest Recovery
Penny Deavers – PRIDE of Tuscaloosa Shalandra Rogers – MADD

Maranda Brown-ADMH

Shelley Wyckoff – DOE

Erin Burleson – Consultant

Dave Peterson- National Guard

Vicki Cooper Robinson - DHR

Charon Douglass – Consultant

Tomy Gamble – Adm. Office of Courts

Loretta Nelson – Revenue

Marilyn Lewis – DOE

Patrick Pendergast – DYS

S'andor Cheka – Addiction Coalition Sharon Camp – Addiction Coalition

Jardarion Lassic – Addiction Coalition Jenny Hayes – Addiction Coalition

Carissa Anthony – Hoover Coalition

Carol Williams – Shelby Co. Drug Free Coalition

Catina James – ADMH

Katie Whitely – Evaluator

(Note: The sign-in sheet and agenda are a matter of record.)

The meeting was convened by the Chairman, CMSgt. Dave Peterson at 9:00a.m. Mr. Peterson welcomed the group and commenced introductions of the new staff members of the Office of Prevention at the Alabama Department of Mental Health (AADMH) that included: Dr. Maranda Brown, Prevention Services Director; Catina James, Epidemiologist; Lauren Blanding, CSAP Fellow, Prevention Fellow; Beverly Johnson, SPF-SIG (Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant) Coordinator; and SPF-SIG Evaluator, Katie Whitely. Following the staff introductions the members and attendees at large introduced themselves.

Correspondence items were presented by CSAP Fellow, Lauren Blanding including the newsletter and flyers. She also reviewed the contents of the portfolio that was distributed: the membership list and contact information; a meeting satisfaction survey; as well as the Epi-(Epidemiological) Profile Analysis and the Summary of Survey Findings upon which the SPF-SIG indicators will be defined.

Updates for the SPF-SIG were provided by Beverly Johnson, Coordinator with details about the progress and milestones of the planning process. The internal review of the Epi-Profile data is completed and will be used to make informed decisions. A continuation request was submitted to carryover the year-one grant funds. Ms. Johnson explained that in comparison with other states, Alabama is "on task and where we need to be." At this point in time the committees have the information to make decisions about the direction of plan. Instructions were given about the process for break-out sub-group discussions and reports today. It was emphasized that all decisions made shall be "data driven". Ms. Johnson explained that, "The process will be speeding up," and will require numerous conference calls, meetings, and e-mails.

Proceeding with the Strategic Plan was chronicled by Dr. Maranda Brown, Prevention Director and Dr. Katherine Whiteley, Evaluator. Dr. Brown explained how Dr. Whitely used available data to build a strategic plan outline based on the state guidance document. "Completion of the strategic plan is critical before putting money out to the communities," she said. The process entails oversight, collaboration, support, guidance and consensus. Dr. Whiteley followed with a brief overview of the benchmarks achieved in the SPF process; the survey findings; and the epi-profile analysis and ranking for indicators. The three Alabama SPF-SIG handouts ("Working Toward a Strategic Plan"; the "20II Prevention System Assessment of Core Competencies and Survey Findings"; and the "2012 Epi-Profile Analysis") helped to facilitate the discussion about the stage in the process that the State of Alabama currently holds. In summary, Dr. Whiteley explained that:

The assessment stage is practically accomplished with the completion of the epi-profile and the assessment surveys; while currently in the process of determining priorities and baseline data. Work is also being done to determine system strengths, barriers, and gaps. The epi-data includes state and community data with regard to every consequence. She emphasized that it was advised at the national level not to concentrate on tobacco. It was explained that the Alabama Department of Public Health is addressing tobacco. Dr. Whitely described the rigorous process of weighting data to identify indicators. With the help of Dr. Philip Graham, triangulated data presented six major areas: 1) Alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents 2)Drinking and driving and/or riding 3)Underage drinking 4)Binge drinking, both adults and youth, 5)Perceptions of harm, marijuana, and 6)Prescription drug use, both adults and youth.

- Building capacity includes mobilizing the personnel, resources, and processes to write and implement the strategic plan. Currently the work of the AEOW (Alabama Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup), the SPAB (State Prevention Advisory Board), and EBP(Evidence-Based Prevention) workgroup and other prevention partners will work together to implement the plan. It is indicated that the state has strengths and weaknesses in the core competencies of leadership, capacity, and process. Three separate surveys were administered to help to measure core competencies, including leadership capacity. The surveys revealed the collective capability to make a difference, but indicated some "discordance", according to Dr. Whiteley, with regard to a shared vision, feeling connected and communicating information. It was conveyed that while the skills, knowledge and data exists, more structure is needed. There is a need for a written plan for sustainability and a better understanding of risk and protective factors.
- O In moving to the planning stage, the priorities will be identified today after the breakout group discussions. CAPT will review the first draft of the strategic plan. Ultimately CSAP will approve the communities chosen to receive monies. The communities are then required to write a strategic plan as well, with a "community focus". The EBP Workgroup will identify and select evidence-based strategies. More volunteers are needed for the EBP Workgroup.
- o Implementation will not begin until the strategic plan is approved.
- Evaluation is on-going.

Four break-out groups reviewed and discussed the SPF-SIG State Epi Profile Analysis. The group reports included the following feedback and/or comments:

Group #1:

- Latino populations are not represented in the data
- If we don't have data on all populations how will we be culturally inclusive or sensitive?
- Region II rarely gets included or is identified as having few or no problems.

Responses: Catina James, Epidemiologist: Often very little data is available. Communities may have to address culture/ethnicity. Dr. Whiteley, Evaluator: It will be necessary to choose programs sensitive to all populations.

Group #2:

- Regions 1 and 4 have the highest arrest rates although Region 1 is a dry county.
- o There is a perception that marijuana is not harmful
- It is surprising that the data shows that the drinking prevalence rate in Alabama is lower than the national rate.
- o Prevention is working in regions with drug courts.

Group #3:

There is a concern about prescription drug use and the role of adults in decreasing access.

Group #4:

- The group feels that the 15.8% rate of "perception of no harm" is too low.
- o There is no information on evidence-based practices for prescription drugs.

Results: All four groups concurred overall with the data rationales and indicators. An official vote of the members present resulted in a consensus to move forward with the strategic plan.

Additional Comments by Dr. Brown and Dr. Whiteley:

Dr. Brown: "A major milestone has been accomplished in adopting these indicators today". The plan will be completed a little later than the original target date of January 31st. It is anticipated that the money "will flow" in June. Information is currently sought from the legal department on the appropriate process to announce and release funds out to the communities. Everyone will receive an electronic copy of both profiles and the survey. By the end of the fiscal year the "year-one" monies from the carry-over will have to be spent before "year two monies" can be accessed; although it may not happen as early as June.

Dr. Whiteley: "Criteria will be set to determine what communities can apply for money. Not everyone will be eligible to apply."

Chairman Peterson announced that the next meeting is scheduled for: Friday, April 20th at the Brewer-Porch Children's Center, Tuscaloosa, AL. James Thompson provided directions: 2501 Woodland Road (6 miles off campus behind the VA Hospital).

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Peterson.