

State Prevention Advisory Board (SPAB)/ Alabama Epidemiological Outcomes
Workgroup (AEOW) Combined Meeting
July 13, 2012
East Alabama Mental Health Center, Opelika, AL

Attendees:

Lauren Blanding
Richard Bonds
Celeste Bradshaw
Tracy Craig
Judge Maura Culberson
Penny Deavers
Lynnese Ferguson
Brandon Folks
Ruby Garrison
Vanessa Huggins
Catina James
Beverly Johnson
Rotasha Madden
Greg Mayo
Amber McArthur
Cesily Means
David Peterson
Vandlyn Pierre
Kelly Price
Tonia Schaffer
Meg Shelnett
Jim Toney
Jessica White
Katie Whiteley

Agency:

Alabama Department of Mental Health
Cheaha Mental Health Center
East Alabama Mental Health Center
Cahaba Center for Mental Health
Elmore County Juvenile Court
Southern Prevention Association
UAB TASC
Alabama Department of Mental Health
Big Lots
Gateway
Alabama Department of Mental Health
Alabama Department of Mental Health
Alethia House
Mental Health Care of Cullman
Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Care Systems
Serve Alabama
Alabama National Guard Counterdrug
Drug Education Council, Inc.
Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention
SAMHSA/ CSAP
Southwest Alabama Behavioral Health Care Systems
Alabama State Department of Education
Alethia House
Alabama Department of Mental Health

Welcome/Introductions

Chairman, CMSgt. David Peterson opens the meeting at 10:04AM. He greets and welcomes all attendees as everyone continues with refreshments and distribution of the sign-in sheet. Everyone is informed SPF-SIG Project Officer, Tonia Schaffer is attending the meeting via conference call. Beverly Johnson intervenes to introduce Ms. Schaffer and asks all attendees to introduce themselves so that Ms. Schaffer can become familiar with the group.

Each individual went around with specifics such as their name, agency/organization, title, and years in prevention. Before Tonia Schaffer gave her introduction, Lauren Blanding (CSAP Fellow) greeted everyone and made sure that all attendees signed-in and had an agenda along with the SPAB newsletter. Ms. Schaffer stated that she was the project officer for Alabama as well as five other states. She is very familiar with the SPF process and its challenges. Her background is in substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and behavioral

health. She was very excited to hear about the group's diversity and background information.

SPF-SIG Updates

Beverly Johnson, SPF-SIG Coordinator, informed everyone that the latest version of the strategic plan was available for review on the projector display. The SPF-SIG management team has been working with Tonia Schaffer for the past several weeks on all revisions. The plan was submitted and returned with comments that were addressed, which were then re-submitted. The team is now taking a look at the state and community Epidemiological ("Epi") profiles to identify potential gaps as recommended by Ms. Schaffer and the CAPT representatives. Epidemiologist, Catina James, is setting up a conference call to receive technical assistance from SAMHSA Epidemiologist, Dr. Carol Hagen, on next week. This conference call will assist in identifying what steps need to be taken to identify the gaps and make the Epi profiles more consistent. Further technical assistance will be provided face-to-face on July 24-25, 2012 with the SPF-SIG management team and AEW members. In this two-day training, Dr. Hagen and CAPT representatives will look at the strategic plan, provide their feedback, clean up anything necessary with hopes of seeking approval and moving into the implementation phase of the process. All AEW members that are able to come on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at 8:00AM-5:00PM are encouraged to do so; the training will take place in ADMH substance abuse conference room located on the 4th floor of the RSA Union Street building.

Catina James states that "the Epi profile must be data driven, so everything needs to be consistent." Beverly Johnson followed-up by saying "CAPT will be taking everything step-by-step to get the plan approved. We must ensure that we get you the proper information." Beverly wants to make sure that all SPAB and AEW members are actively involved in this process. She thanks each and everyone for their involvement thus far, but identifies that there is still work to be done. She states that "we really need AEW members' involvement on July 24 and 25 to finalize things. Conference calls, emails, etc., can be taken into consideration for those of you that are not available. Everything is always taken into consideration."

Penny Deavers says that she had some concerns about the strategic plan, but after listening to everything that has been said, she may need to wait until after CAPT representatives convene with the Prevention Management Team and AEW, and the plan is re-submitted to give her comments and/or approval. Beverly informs the group that this has all been a learning process, and it will be as if the 24th and 25th will be a starting point for us all.

SPF-SIG Evaluator, Dr. Katie Whiteley tells attendees that Beverly and herself got together on the day before to revise some things but decided to wait once they realized that there was a two-day training approaching. Dr. Whiteley professes to attendees that if there are ever any questions and/or comments, it is imperative to express those. She states that she had "three pages of notes for the meeting with Beverly." Dr. Whiteley also speaks on the data aspect of the plan. She asks "The question is are we starting with good

data?” The data aspect has always been a struggle area.” She tells attendees that today is July 13, 2012 and we have until July 24, 2012 so take the time to address anything that you feel is necessary.

Beverly Johnson enters back into the discussion to address again that this has been a long process, but tells everyone that everything done is a part of the process. She wants everyone to keep in mind that the SPF-SIG management team received all of the consultation being discussed on the previous day. All of the information is fresh off of the press.

Kelly Price asks is there a final deadline for all of this. Beverly informs him and the group that no one can determine that until approval is granted for the strategic plan, which must come from project officer, Tonia Schaffer. Ms. Schaffer has notified us that she wants a solid foundation plan, and set an original deadline of August 3, 2012 but that may need to be extended depending on the outcome of everything. Penny Deavers chimes in to say that “in reality it may be later.” Ms. Deavers also asks if there will be another meeting before the next set quarterly SPAB/AEOW meeting to discuss the strategic plan and any updates with the SPF-SIG. Beverly informs everyone that a meeting will take place, but no date was set.

Judge Maura Culberson asks will there be any bridge funds available if there is extension into the fiscal year. Tonia Schaffer says that this is a conversation that she will need to have with her colleagues in the finance and grants management department.

Beverly asks the group if there are any more questions for Tonia, and encourages everyone to ask while she is available. There is no further discussion or questions for her, but everyone thanks Ms. Schaffer for her time and effort in this process. Ms. Schaffer continues on the phone line as the meeting proceeds with other agenda items.

CMSgt. David Peterson has introduction of those attendees who entered after the meeting began, and brings greetings from Dr. Maranda Brown, Director of Prevention Services, in her absence due to military leave.

Information Session- 411

CSAP fellow, Lauren Blanding brings to the group a video on underage drinking that was sponsored by SAMHSA/CSAP. This has been a project that SAMHSA/CSAP has been doing with several states throughout the U.S., and the opportunity was brought to Alabama. She informs everyone the meetings and scheduling for the video started back in November 2011 with the Department of Mental Health, Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Baldwin County Mental Health Center, the Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention, and Drug Education Council, Inc. A theme of “We love em to death” was decided upon with a target audience of parents and grandparents. Beverly Johnson intervenes to say that the video would be available on the Department of Mental Health’s website, prevention providers’ website, as well as other avenues. She wanted everyone to know that although certain agencies were involved with filming, that this was a video for the entire state. Lauren gave thanks to everyone involved in the filming

process, including Baldwin County Mental Health Center, the City of Gulf Shores, Foley High School Students, and Drug Education Council, Inc. After the video presentation, Lauren asked for any feedback and received a great response from the attendees. Judge Culberson particularly like the segment that talked about underage drinking and its effect on brain development. She knew that this was something that many people are not properly educated on. Ruby Garrison asked about the lighting, but both Beverly and Lauren assured her that the quality was much better since the shooting was done in HD. The windows and blinds could have possibly affected the way everything was shown to the group. Lynnese Ferguson asked about availability, and Jean Spicer was curious about this being a statewide campaign and having copies for prevention providers. Beverly said that she would be getting in touch with the producer, Christopher Phillips, to see what were the necessary steps to receive duplicate copies. Whatever the case may be, everyone will have access to the video.

Unfinished Business

CMSgt. David Peterson has those members that walked in late introduce themselves to group, and welcomes everyone once again to the meeting. He goes into the unfinished portion of the meeting. Deborah Soule (SPAB member) is being replaced by Candace Dunaway with the Partnership for a Drug Free Community. Louis Zook with the Office of the Attorney General agreed to serve as a member of SPAB. Tafeni English from Montgomery Eve's Circle girl empowerment program will also serve as a member of SPAB. Cesily Means (AEOW member) will continue to serve as the representative for Serve Alabama. CMSgt Peterson asks that if there are any other individuals in mind for either board to let him, Beverly, or Lauren know.

Open Discussion

CMSgt. Peterson notifies everyone of the CADA mid-year training that will take place on July 22-26, 2012 in Nashville, TN. He states that "this conference will be expensive but there will be great speakers and excellent SPF training." He wanted to know if anyone in attendance would be attending, but there was no response. Attendees are informed that all CADCA information is available on their website.

Kelly Price takes the floor to inform everyone of the ethics training on July 27, 2012 at UAB. He also discusses the annual prevention conference that will be on August 9-11, 2012. Kelly says that the conference will be "really good this year," as he recognizes some of the committee members including Richard Bonds and Lynnese Ferguson. Included in the conference will be national representatives, so everyone is encouraged to bring questions for the panelists. Lunch under the trees and the jazz music will also be a big hit at the prevention conference. Beverly Johnson notifies the group of the SPF-SIG track that will be available

CMSgt. Peterson takes back over the meeting to discuss the National Prevention Network (NPN) conference that will be held on September 19-21, 2012 in Pittsburgh, PA. Kelly Price asks if provider funding is going to be cut off for the NPN conference. Beverly Johnson responds by first informing those unaware that there have been administration changes within the Department of Mental Health, so all information will have to be

presented to acting administration concerning NPN funds. All providers will be made aware of the decision that is reached.

Beverly Johnson notifies the attendees that Brandon Folks, ADMH Prevention Associate, was responsible for the 2012 National Prevention Week that occurred May 20-26, 2012. Brandon discusses how the week went, saying that the timing was bad for the state of Alabama because usual planning activities take place earlier in the year instead of at the end when the school year is preparing for close. Some of the prevention providers submitted those activities that they planned, which included town hall meetings and other community activities. A proclamation signing took place on May 22, 2012 where Governor Robert Bentley declared May 20-26, 2012 as National Prevention Week for the state. Brandon wanted to thank all those who participated, displaying their hard work and effort.

CMSgt. David Peterson stated that President Obama signed a bill to ban several types of synthetic drugs into law. Penny Deavers discussed how the city of Tuscaloosa is trying to pass an ordinance to where citizens will be able to go from the downtown area into the strip with open containers.

Richard Bonds wonders when prevention providers will hear back about prevention plans. Brandon Folks informs him that they are still currently under review, but there may be something available towards the end of the following week.

Lynnese Ferguson talks about UAB partnering with the city of Tarrant, AL in getting their youth access to jobs. She informs the group that the kids are not able to be a part of the activities and resources that occur in Birmingham, AL; therefore Cedric Sparks with the Division of Youth Services is taking initiative to bring jobs for Tarrant youth to reduce underage drinking, substance use/abuse, and teenage pregnancy.

CMSgt. Peterson states that Randy Dodd with the National Guard Counterdrug Program is overseeing VetCorp and is seeking to hire two representatives in prevention and treatment. He will forward the information to Lauren to distribute to all members. He also discusses EANGUS and their Veterans against Drugs Program. The purpose of the program is to mobilize veterans and engage themselves in their communities. He sees this as a great opportunity to mobilize veterans around the country to help their communities with substance abuse issues.

Jim Toney encouraged attendees to talk to legislation about the Children's Trust Fund, which is seeing a cut in funding.

Richard Bonds tells how he is a certified mental health first aid provider, and the only one in central Alabama. This is a 12-hour course with the idea to get people to battle the stigma of mental health and standing in until professional help comes along. The cost is \$25/person, and either taught in two full days or four half days. He will forward more information to Lauren to distribute to all members.

Judge Culberson talks of the Kids and Cops program that brought in about 1400 kids in Millbrook and about 500 kids in Wetumpka. A partnership is underway to make the event more successful. This is a one day event where children go to the police department to become educated and see law enforcement as less of a threat. The drunken driving car, "SIDNE" (Simulated Driving Experience) is available along with several other activities. Jim Toney agrees with this program and informs attendees that officers sponsor fatal vision activities. He also tells the group that if you ever want an experience to go to active shooting training with law enforcement to see what they actually go through on a daily basis. Judge Culberson informs of another event, Party Time, which is like a reality show for kids. This is a six week program for prevention where you choose every aspect of living from your house, car, etc.

Cesily Means notifies attendees of the bi-monthly newsletter with Serve Alabama. This particular newsletter offers grant information across the state, and to sign-up all you need to do is go to Serve Alabama websites and enter your information into the listserv. She provided her contact information to all in attendance if they needed further assistance.

Agency Spotlight

CMSgt. David Peterson states that the hosting agency should tell the group about the success they have encountered. Jean Spicer of East Alabama Mental Health Center mentions a two month summer camp program for failing high risk students in the 7th and 8th grades. Students in the program work on academics during the morning session then do prevention activities in the afternoon. Community service and life skill activities are also implemented. An Auburn University professor is available to teach swimming lessons. She states that the "giving back part of the program is great."

Judge Culberson asks CMSgt. Peterson to inform the group of what is taking place with his agency, The National Guard Counterdrug Program. He tells everyone that they have shifted away from the Stay on Track program because of sustainability and funding issues, and are focusing more on Coalition development and Adventure Based Education. Their capacity is limited so they make effort to respond to requests whenever they have the capability. Beverly Johnson enters the conversation to state how important it is to look for resources throughout this entire process.

Richard Bonds announces National Night Out on Tuesday, August 7, 2012 in Sylacauga, AL. Activities include break dancing, play stations, poetry, spoken word, and possibly a high school band competition.

Next Meeting

CMSgt. Peterson asks if any agency is willing to host the next SPAB/AEOW combined meeting. Richard Bonds with Cheaha Regional Mental Health Center in Sylacauga, AL is more than happy to be the hosting agency. He informs attendees that the meeting will be held in the Chamber of Commerce building. A vote is taken, and majority of those attending agree that the next meeting will be tentatively held on October 5, 2012 at 10:00AM. Beverly Johnson makes a comment that Sylacauga is the home of the famous

Blue Bell Ice Cream. Individuals that are able to attend the meeting may have the option of touring the Blue Bell Ice Cream Shop.

CMSgt. David Peterson adjourns the meeting at 11:46AM.