

Minutes of The State Prevention Advisory Board – November 15, 2017

The Meeting of the State Prevention Advisory Board (SPAB) was held at the Dannon Project – 2324 5th Ave. N. Birmingham, Alabama on November 15, 2017.

The meeting of SPAB was called to order by chair – Seyram Selase at 10:00 AM. After a brief word of introduction and welcome, all members in attendance, as well as members joining by conference call, were introduced.

Members in-Person Attendance

In attendance at the Dannon Project was Vice-Chair Elana Parker Merriweather, Deegan Malone, Lantana McKenley, Carol Williams, Janelle Brown (representing host Dannon Project) and Secretary Bruce Kimble.

Members in Attendance Via Conference Call

Joining the meeting via conference call was Gerald Douglass, Debra Robbins, Gloria Howard, Candy Gaff (representing Ebony Crews) Shereda Finch, Patricia Moore, and Ashley Hudson.

State Management Team

Beverly Johnson- Director of the Office of Prevention, Lauren Blading, Tafeni English, Catina James, Ashley Robinson, Brandon Folks, and Charon Douglass

Chair Seyram Selase recognized Beverly Johnson - Director of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention. Ms. Johnson discussed a multifaceted array of projects and directions that the State of Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention Services is taking in prevention of substance abuse efforts. Ms. Johnson discussed that Prevention services are currently in all 67 counties in the State of Alabama, and prevention plans have been approved by SAMSHA. Ms. Johnson went on to relate that Partnerships for

Success (PFS) quarterly reports have been submitted and reviewed. Ms. Johnson reported that the opioid crisis has become the focus of attention of several considerable efforts in the Office of Prevention. Ms. Johnson discussed STR Strategic Plans have been submitted, and efforts are currently underway. Ms. Johnson explained that she is working with Carter English, the Director of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Pharmacy Division, and that six (6) medication disposal kits will be distributed, as well as efforts to distribute Narcan spray kits.

Ms. Johnson outlined the priorities of the Office of Prevention:

- 1. Prevent or reduce underage drinking.**
- 2. Prevent or reduce tobacco use.**
- 3. Prevent or reduce illicit or prescription drug misuse or abuse.**
- 4. Coordinate prevention services across the life span, with an emphasis on adolescents, and “baby boomers.”**
- 5. Prevent substance abuse related suicide and attempted suicide.**
- 6. Build emotional health and prevent or delay onset of and mitigate symptoms and complications from substance abuse and mental illness through coordinated services.**

Ms. Johnson related that the Office of Prevention is currently placing an emphasis on “high risk” populations in terms of substance abuse prevention efforts. These “high risk” populations would include Military families, LBGTQI populations, Native American populations, and Alaskan Natives.

Ms. Johnson went on to report that all the 2017 accomplishments of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention Services will be made available.

Chair Selase then called on Lauren Blanding for a “Recap” of the state sponsored CAP training. Ms. Blanding reported that on Thursday, October 12,

2017 CAP/Opioid response training was held. Ms. Blanding went on to report that this training was met with positive feedback.

Chair Selase then called on Tafeni English for an EBP workgroup update. Ms. English reported that the EBP workgroup is still in the process of recruiting volunteer workgroup members. Ms. English related that Ms. Carol Williams has been extremely helpful in these efforts, as well as several other efforts in relation to the EBP workgroup. Ms. English reported that the peer helper program will go forward and be evaluated under the EBP Test Fit to determine if it will be used as a strategy.

Chair Selase then called for old business. As there was no old business, Chair Selase called for new business, and again there was no new business.

Chair Selase called for announcements. Vice-Chair Elana Merriweather reported that a press release had gone out regarding opioid misuse and prevention. Ms. Merriweather related that this press release addressed pharmacy involvement in these opioid misuse prevention efforts.

Ms. Gloria Howard of Althea House reported that on Monday, a joint effort of the FBI and DEA was hosting a showing of “Chase the Dragon.” Ms. Howard related that the showing was well received, with positive feedback. Ms. Howard described the film as in the approximate area of a “scared straight” effort. Ms. Howard went on to relate that copies of the film would be made available.

Danny from the Department of Public Health reported that this agency and the Outreach Prevention Program was working with marketing groups in Escambia, St. Clair, Tallapoosa and Bibb counties.

Co-Chair Merriweather reminded the SPAB that November 13th through November 19th was Antibiotic Abuse Awareness Week.

Chair then stated that, if there are no more announcements, he wished all the members of the SPAB a “wonderful holiday season.” Chair Selase reminded the

SPAB to remember those less fortunate, and that he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

The Motion to adjourn was presented by Deegan Malone, and Seconded by Co-Chair Elana Parker Merriweather.

Following the SPAB meeting, the members of the SAPB were treated to a tour of the Dannon Project. The staff of the Dannon were extremely gracious to the SPAB, explaining all the efforts in the area of education and rehabilitation that are currently under way at this agency.

Respectfully Submitted by Bruce Kimble – Secretary of the SPAB