



Minutes of the State Prevention Advisory Board – August 22, 2018

The quarterly meeting the State of Alabama Prevention Advisory Board was held at the Alabama Department of Mental Health on August 22, 2018.

The meeting 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.

State Prevention Advisory Board Members in Attendance

Seyram Selase – SPAB Chair

Elana Parker Merriweather – SPAB Co-Chair

Bruce Kimble – SPAB Secretary

Gerald Douglas, Danita Stapleton, Gerald Douglas, Michelle Moore, Wendy Johnson.

State Prevention Advisory Board Members Present via Conference Call

Vincent Hinton, Ebony Crews, Gloria Howard, Erica Butler.

Representatives of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention



Beverly Johnson – Director of Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention, Brandon Folks, Tafeni English, Necoal Drive, Catina James, Laura Blanding, Ashley Robinson, Erin Burleson, Charon Douglas.

The Chair called for the approval of the Agenda for this meeting, as well as the minutes of the last meeting. After a period for review, the motion was made to

accept the agenda and minutes, and the motion was seconded. All in attendance voted to accept the agenda and minutes as written.

The Chair called on the Director of Alabama Department of Mental Health, Office of Prevention, Ms. Beverly Johnson, to report on the activity of the Office of Prevention Services.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services held its quarterly meeting on 7/12/2018. Discussed in this meeting was funding sources, as well as the network updating efforts between the Office of Prevention and The Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA). Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention and CADCA are currently working on multiple initiatives, one of which is the “Over the Counter Initiative. Ms. Johnson related that this is a training curriculum for fifth and sixth grade children. Ms. Johnson reported that this curriculum focused on the abuse and misuse of over the counter medications. Ms. Johnson related that Alabama is among four other states that promote this curriculum.

Ms. Johnson stated that the Office of Prevention Services have continued to work in promoting the “Drug Free Communities” program, currently with 5 “DFC” grantees within the State of Alabama. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services is currently working with CADCA on customizing training as it related to statewide Coalition efforts.

Ms. Johnson reported to the SPAB on the Office of Prevention Services involvements with the Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council. Ms. Johnson went on to explain, this is the Governor’s Advisory Council as it relates to the misuse and dependence on opioids throughout the state of Alabama. Ms. Johnson related that CADCA initiatives are one of the Governor’s recommendations. Ms. Johnson related that the customized training that the Office of Prevention and CADCA working currently on will align with the Governor’s recommendations, and focus on Judicial Circuits, as well as Prevention Provider Services throughout the state of Alabama. Ms. Johnson reported that Brandon Folks and herself had just

returned from the CADCA Conference held in Orlando Florida from 7/16/2018 until 7/19/2018.

Ms. Johnson reported that Ashley Robinson and Ashley Hudson had “spearheaded” multiple activities of the Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention during National Prevention Week (May 14th through 16th). Ms. Johnson stated that this was the first time that the Department of Mental Health of Prevention Services had taken on so many activities at the department level during this week. Ms. Johnson related that there had been several different media opportunities, such as former subcommittee chair Josh Johnson, Chief meteorologist for WSFA was the presenter for “Cookies and Coffee with Josh Johnson.”

Ms. Johnson went on to report on prevention funding. Ms. Johnson related that the Office of Prevention Services is currently working on a new round of funding, which is the State Opioid Response Grant Funding Opportunity. Ms. Johnson related that this will be the State Opioid Response funding opportunity (SOR). Ms. Johnson reported that the grant proposal was submitted, and the Office of Prevention Services anticipate that the initiative will be funded. Ms. Johnson went on to report that this initiative will begin 10/1/2018. Ms. Johnson stated that this will initiative will offer the opportunity to sustain current prevention strategies as it relates to the STR initiative, as well as affords the opportunity to expand the training efforts. The office of Prevention services has identified the need to train community members, as well as medical personnel, law enforcement, first responders, etc. Ms. Johnson stated that these additional monies will afford the opportunity to expand these trainings. Ms. Johnson stated that the Officer of Prevention Services has envisioned that the Office of Prevention Opioid Training Institutes positioned on a regional level. Ms. Johnson went on to report that Naloxone distribution has continued to expand, and more information will be forth coming.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention deliverables will be finalized for the fiscal year (FY) 19-22. Ms. Johnson reported that this is a three-year plan

based on the specifications provided by SAMSHA, as this relates to Block Grant Funding Requirements. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of prevention services is currently finalizing this as well as the strategic plan for the office of prevention during this period.



Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services is working in partnership with the Alabama Suicide Prevention and Resources Coalition (ASPARC) in the “QPR” (Question, Persuade, and Refer) initiative, in relation to suicide prevention training. Ms. Johnson reported that the goal in this partnership is to provide “QPR” trainings within all the “comprehensive Mental Health Centers” throughout the State of Alabama. Ms. Johnson reported that these “comprehensive Mental Health Centers” currently number 26 in the state.



Ms. Lauren Blanding of the Office of Prevention Services reported that there were three Mental Health Centers, *East Alabama Mental Health Center*, *South Central Alabama Mental Health*, and *AltaPointe* that have scheduled these two-hour trainings. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services is looking to expand the involvement of the Office with these efforts, and has participated in multiple conference calls with (ASPARC).

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services has participated in the Tobacco Advisory Board meeting on 7/25/2018. Ms. Johnson reported that Ashley Robinson and Brandon Folks were in attendance.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services were currently involved with two subcommittees on the Alabama Governor’s Council on Opioid Overdose and Addiction, related to prevention. Ms. Johnson related that the Office of Prevention Services currently serve on two subcommittees:

1. Public Education and Media, chaired by Shereda Finch from the Council on Substance Abuse.
2. Community Engagement, chaired by District Attorney Allen Miller of Shelby County and Dr. David Albright of the University of Alabama.





Ms. Johnson reported that these committees focus on the education and prevention efforts throughout the state, as these relate to opioid initiatives. Ms. Johnson related that, in reviewing the Governor's state plan shows an involvement in these subcommittee initiatives. Ms. Johnson reported that, collectively, these subcommittees report to the chairs of the Opioid Committee Council at the Implementation Meetings. Ms. Johnson reported that these chairs include Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear, State of Alabama Health Officer, Dr. Scott Harris and the State of Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall. Ms. Johnson reported that the last Implementation Meeting of the Council was on 6/12/2018.

Ms. Johnson reported that the providers held the Opioid Summit on 7/10/2018. Ms. Johnson called on Ms. Michelle Moore of North Central Alabama Mental Health Center to Discuss the Opioid Summit. Ms. Michelle Moore reported that there was a panel of five speakers, which included Dr. Scott Harris from the Opioid Council, the local fire chief representing the first responders, a local Emergency room physician, a local pharmacist, as well as the local district attorney.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Data Driven Prevention Institute from the Alabama Department of Public Health (funding initiative with the Center for Disease Control), as well as the Office of Prevention Services is currently coordinating efforts with the SPF-Rx.

Ms. Johnson reported that she had participated in a presentation at the Alabama County Government Institute, in Prattville, Alabama on 6/21/2018. Ms. Johnson reported that her presentation received overwhelmingly positive responses.

Ms. Johnson reported that Prevention Consultants Erin Burleson and Charon Douglas participated in the Center for the Application of Prevention Technologies Virtual Training of Trainers. Ms. Douglas reported that the training was a positive experience, however, Ms. Douglas reported that she was concerned that CAPT would no longer be a resource. Ms. Johnson reported that as of 9/30/2018 the



CAPT would no longer be under contract to provide technical assistance for the Prevention Provider Network. Ms. Johnson related that Prevention providers have received some JBS technical assistance as of 6/8/2018, as it related to prevention efforts with older population. Ms. Johnson related that these efforts were facilitated with the participation of SPAB members.

Ms. Johnson reported that the “STOP ACT” survey regarding underage drinking has been completed, and the Office of Prevention Services has received confirmation that this has been received.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services is currently working on an RFP for the Block Grant finding for Fiscal Year 19. Ms. Johnson went on to state that this will be submitted in December.

Ms. Johnson reported that she accompanied Mental Health Commissioner Lynn Beshear to the STARS Leadership Conference on 8/7/2018 in Destin Florida. Ms. Johnson went on to report that this participation by the Office of Prevention Services had presented the opportunity to show coordinated efforts with colleges and universities, as well as the efforts to expand involvement with the College Recovery Communities (CRCs) throughout the state. Ms. Johnson reported that there are four universities that currently have these CRCs, Auburn University, Jacksonville State University, University of Alabama, and the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

Ms. Johnson reported on the ongoing efforts of the Office of Prevention Services. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services has continued to conduct site visits, and technical assistance visits, as well as training in Mental Health First Aid, and QPR training. Compliance Monitoring is currently in place “across the board” throughout the state. Ms. Johnson went on to report that the Office of Prevention Services is currently conducting ASSIS compliance site visits with providers throughout the state. Ms. Johnson reported that a team is going out to all the providers to retrieve unreported information, and is continuing to

do monitoring and compliance visits in relation to PFS Underage Drinking initiative, SPF-RX, as well as preparing the “My Smart Dose” Campaign.

Ms. Johnson called on Ms. Necoal Driver to discuss the “My Smart Dose” Campaign. Ms. Driver related that the “My Smart Dose” Campaign is geared toward college students and involves the practice of “sharing” of prescription medications. Ms. Driver went on to report that this Campaign is in year two of it’s existence. Ms. Johnson related that this was the conclusion of her report of the numerous activities that the Office of Prevention Services had been involved in.

Chair Selase thanked Ms. Johnson, as well as the Office of Prevention Services for their diligent efforts, as well as the detailed report. Chair Selase called for questions in relation to the report. Chair Selase related that he had a question relating to the existence of an evidenced based resource center in substance abuse prevention focusing on Grade School Youth. Ms. Johnson related that the orientation on evidenced based curriculums come from the National Prevention Network, (NPN), however it will be going away and we are awaiting instructions and guidance as it relates to EBPs.

Chair Selase then called for any new business to be brought before the SPAB. When none was called, Chair Selase called for new business. Again, none was called.

Chair Selase then called for announcements. Co-Chair Elana Parker Merriweather announced the Alabama Department of Public Health was sponsoring an HIV testing and Linkage training. Ms. Merriweather further related that she could be reached for details. Ms. Merriweather distributed pamphlets containing this information.

The announcement was made by Chair Selase the National “Take Back Day,” regarding unused prescription medications, was currently scheduled for 10/27/2018.



Chair Selase reported that he will be participating in the Substance Abuse Coordinating Subcommittee and be attending in November, as well as representing the State of Alabama on the National Prevention Network (NPN) conference in Boston Mass.

The next SPAB Meeting was scheduled for 11/7/2018.

The SPAB meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by Bruce Kimble Secretary of the State Prevention Advisory Board.