

The Quarterly Meeting of the State Prevention Advisory Board/ AEOW was held on November 7, 2019 at the Alabama Power Conference Center in Clanton Alabama. The SPAB/AEOW meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair Seyram Selase.

In attendance at the SPAB meeting was:

Seyram Selase – Chair, Bruce Kimble – Secretary, Gerald Douglass, Gloria Howard, Deegan Malone, Carol Williams, Cedric Leonard.

Present via Conference Call:

Elana Parker Merriweather – Vice Chair, Vandlyn Pierre, Lantana McKenley, Danita Stephens, Sherry Cokes, Erica Butler

Representatives of the State of Alabama Office of Prevention:

Beverly Johnson- Director ADMH Office of Prevention, Lauren Blanding, Ashley Robinson, Necoal Driver, Catina James, Tafeni English, and Charon Douglass

Representatives of Office of Prevention via Conference Call:

Brandon Folks, Erin Burleson

Chair Selase called for the approval of the Agenda for the meeting. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

Chair Selase expressed thanks to Elana Parker Merriweather for securing the use of the Alabama Power Facility for the SPAB meeting.

Chair Selase then called for the approval of the Minutes of the SPAB meeting of August 22, 2018. Following amendments to the correction of names, the Minutes were approved.

Chair Selase then called for the State of Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention update. Beverly Johnson, Director for the Office of Prevention Services reported Initiatives for FY 19. The priorities would include older populations and suicide prevention. Increase problem identification and

referral as it relates to CSAP strategies. Another area of focus is the RFP FY 20. Things are in process and some are in draft form. Continued MH First aid training. Fortunate to have certified MH first aid trainers within the DMH to provide state wide trainings. In addition to the MH first aid training the DMH office of Prevention has been able to Incorporate the Question, Persuade and Refer (QPR) trainings throughout the state, coordinating with community mental health centers throughout the state to professionals and community members. Continue to work with the suicide prevention task force, and are currently working a suicide prevention state plan, and will meet with the department of public health, as well as other entities that are within the suicide prevention task force, including the department of education, coalitions and representatives from the Alabama crisis center, in an effort to craft a state plan to address suicide and crisis preventions efforts in the state. The ADMH had the opportunity on Saturday, September 22 at UAB to develop strategies, to develop a state plan. Will have the initial meeting on the week following this SPAB meeting to discuss and develop goals and objectives for a draft. Ms. Johnson reminded the SPAB that she had reported on the last meeting that the ADMH office of Prevention had participated in the STARS leadership conference sponsored by the higher education partnership for the state of Alabama, Executive Director Gordon Stone. This partnership that has collegiate recovery communities (CRC's) that have programs and groups that assist students that have experience with Substance abuse disorders. These programs ensure that these students get the necessary support that they need, without the risk of academic failure, as well as the necessary supports to aid them throughout their recovery. Through this conference Ms. Johnson reported that students from Jacksonville State University, UAB, and Auburn, as well as an individual representing the University of Alabama participated. Ms. Johnson reported that within the higher education partnership there are 14 Universities throughout the state of Alabama that are inclusive in that partnership. Ms. Johnson reported that the goal would be to reach all these 14 universities and with this goal in mind, ADMH office of Prevention have initiatives that are the focus with the college age population,

extending beyond the 14 Universities that are currently within the partnership, being inclusive within the colleges and universities within the state.

Ms. Johnson reported that ADMH office of Prevention attended the suicide prevention conference that was held Sept 10th in Homewood, as well as the suicide prevention summit that was held Sept 18th at Alabama State University.

The ADMH Office of Prevention held the Service Planning Meeting, on Oct 4th. This meeting, according to Ms. Johnson, was an opportunity to get together as an office to discuss initiatives and priorities.

Ms. Johnson reported that the office of prevention attended the mental health forum hosted by Delta Sigma Theda Sorority at Alabama State University on October 6th. This Mental Health Forum was an effort to address Mental Health issues that are associated with adolescents. This forum included mental health professionals as well as parents of individuals with mental health issues, individuals from the faith-based community and individuals from advocacy as it relates to associated risk factors related to mental health.

The office of prevention held a quarterly prevention provider meeting in Montgomery on Oct 18th. The office of prevention continues to be involved with the over the counter medication initiative. Ms. Johnson related that the Over the Counter Medication has a curriculum associated with it, at the level of 5th and 6th graders. Ms. Johnson related that anyone interested in becoming involved in this initiative should get in touch with Ashley Robinson of the Alabama Department of Mental Health office of Prevention. Alabama is one of four states participating in this initiative, and the Office of Prevention is interested in expanding these efforts. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention will be providing funds to assist with training in relation to these efforts through some carryover funds that was from the State Targeted Response Grant, a discretionary grant. Ms. Johnson stated that these efforts are within the Governor's Opioid response plan, and that these trainings were one of the recommendations from the Governor.

Ms. Johnson reported that the providers have completed the ASAIS (Alabama Substance Abuse Information System) Revisions. Ms. Johnson reported that these revisions were resubmitted on Monday November 5th. Ms. Johnson reported that these reports are going forward, and everyone involved did a great job. Ms. Johnson reported that Ashley Robinson is currently working with the providers to make revisions at the programmatic level in a timely manner so that we can move forward.

Ms. Johnson reported that the office of prevention services is currently working on the block grant report that is due on December 1st. This Block grant report is the report that the providers have been “cleaning up” the revisions, and the report is “looking good.”

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of prevention services has continued to go out on monitoring and compliance visits, to be assistance to providers. Ms. Johnson went on to state that these visits are designed to identify challenges that might be faced by providers, as well as office resources and technical assistance to resolve these challenges.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention has continued to provide workforce development training through consultants, Charon Douglass and Erin Burleson.

Ms. Johnson reported that the ADMH Office of Prevention continues to do monitoring and compliance visits, as it relates to discretionary grant, inclusive of the PFS, SPF-Rx, STR and SOR. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention currently has a RFP out as it relates to the SOR (State Opioid Response) involving Opioid Training Institutes. These Institutes are an effort to provide opioid response training, statewide, to medical professionals, first responders, law enforcement personnel, faith-based communities, and the community. Ms. Johnson related that this training would be all inclusive training that would be provided throughout the state. Ms. Johnson related that there would be a minimum of four training per region.

Chair Selase called for questions of Ms. Johnson. One such question involved the ASAIS system. Ms. Johnson reported that the ASAIS system was information provided at the provider level. Information pulled is required for the block grant. Some discussion was made between providers and the ADMH office of Prevention regarding the type of data that is required by ASAIS, as well as the advantages of having this data on hand. If there is a problem with ASAIS Ashley Robinson would be more than willing to help.

Another question that was posed by Carol Williams involved the Opioid Response Target Response, asking Ms. Johnson to “Break Down” the response, including the training that might be involved. Ms. Johnson Stated that the State Opioid Response (SOR) is an opportunity to expand upon the existing services of the STR (State Targeted Response). Ms. Johnson related that the office of prevention would continue to expand on the services with the state’s sub grantees that are afforded the opportunity through the States Targeted Response (STR). Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention is currently moving forward with the Opioid Training Institutes (OTI). Ms. Johnson reported that the effort of the OTI was to reach throughout the state with this training opportunity. Deadline for the RFP would be November 30th. Chair Selase posed a question surrounding the CADA training and the SPF, specifically, would those trainings revolve around each other. Ms. Johnson related that, due to the CADA and SPF close associations with the Governor’s Opioid Response Recommendations, that the office of Prevention was able to align those trainings and be able to devote funds to those trainings.

Chari Selase posed another question regarding a focus group, involving the information. Ms. Johnson reported that the office of prevention will be following up on this information. Ms. Johnson reported that Erin Burleson and Charon Douglas are currently working on a workforce development survey. Ms. Johnson stated that, utilizing this workforce development survey, she is going to develop a follow-up to the information from the focus group.

Ms. Johnson called upon Necoal Driver to address an initiative that Ms. Driver has been instrumental in. Ms. Driver reported on the initiative related to “My Smart Dose” campaign and how this has been instrumental throughout the state. Ms. Driver stated that she had been visiting colleges and universities throughout the state to discuss the dangers of misuse of prescription drugs. Ms. Driver stated that on November 10th, her group will be at the University of South Alabama. Ms. Driver stated that her group will be joined by South Central Mental Health. Ms. Driver reported that on November 24th her group will be at The University of Alabama and North West Mental Health will be there. Ms. Driver stated that the “My Smart Dose” group will be targeting Basketball games throughout the state. Ms. Driver expressed thanks for the support for the “My Smart Dose” Campaign.

Ms. Driver reported that the Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention, East Alabama Mental Health, and North West Mental Health participated in the “National Take Back” on Oct 27th.

Ms. Johnson called on Brandon Folks, who, in turn, referred to Lantana McKenley to report on underage drinking initiative in Sumter County. Sumter County is continuing with the PFS Summit Program which was started last year.

Ms. McKenley related that the PFS Summit was a collaborative effort from a member of their collation team who is a State Farm representative, who, according to Ms. Johnson, goes above and beyond being instrumental in this collaboration.

Ms. Johnson reported the National Prevention Network Conference which was held in Boston Mass., Aug 27th through 30th. Ms. Johnson reported the Chair Selase and Tafeni English from the Alabama Department of Mental was in attendance.

Chair Selase called for old and new business. There was no old business or new business

Cedric Leonard of Compact 2020 made the announcement that on March 6th there will be meeting at the South Union Building involving a Coalition meeting

for Mental Health Issues. Mr. Leonard went on to state that on Sept 21st there will be a NAMI walk to increase awareness of, as well as to raise funding for, individuals with mental health issues. Mr. Leonard encouraged as much participation in this as possible.

Chair Selase reported that Pride of Tuscaloosa, Derrick Osborn, will be having an Opioid Summit on November 28th at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa.

SPAB Meeting was called for February 6, 2019.

Motion to Adjourn was made.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bruce Kimble – Secretary SPAB/AEOW