
STATE OF ALABAMA OPIOID AND OVERDOSE AND ADDICITON COUNCIL

SUB-COMMITTEE PROGRESS REPORTS

JANUARY – JUNE 2020

Kay Ivey, Governor



Submitted by: Kathy House, State Opioid Coordinator

Date: July 6, 2020

Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council Sub-Committee Reports

January -June 2020

Treatment and Recovery and Support Committee – Nicole Walden

During the February meeting, new committee members were added, and non-participating ones were removed. It was decided that the focus of upcoming work would be around families and the criminal justice system. The committee is continuing to work on developing a family and friend certification which will be similar to the current peer certification that is used by ADMH. The goal is to find a significant way for family members and friends to have a place in the system of care. One of the committee members (the executive director of Not One More Alabama) discussed her agency's involvement in a Parent and Family Peer to Peer coaching certification provided by the Partnership for Drug Free Kids and Center for Motivation and Change. The committee agreed to explore this training to determine if it would meet our needs.

The second area of focus will be the drug court population. We are particularly interested in developing or assisting in the development of an exit interview for all individuals leaving drug court regardless of reason for leaving.

The committee is also committed to partnering with the faith-based community and developing stronger relationships.

Prescribers and Dispenser – Dr. Traffanstedt

The Prescribers/Dispensers Committee goal for 2020 is to develop a plan for educating tomorrow's prescribers and dispensers around appropriate prescribing, treatment of acute and chronic pain and assessment/treatment of addiction. In August 2019, a stakeholder group was formed that included most of the prescribing and dispensing educational programs in the state as well as some graduate medical education programs. The group initially planned to reconvene in early 2020 but that meeting was delayed by COVID-19. The Co-Chairs of the group met with a group from UAB working to develop a curriculum for medical residents. There are additional meetings planned with the UAB group. The Prescribers and Dispensers Committee will plan to meet in late Summer 2020 to regroup and begin work on a recommendation for a statewide plan/curriculum for prescribing and dispensing educational programs.

Law Enforcement – Darryl Morgan

The March meeting for the Law Enforcement (LE) Sub-committee was cancelled due to COVID concerns. It has not been rescheduled. Co-Chair Denise Shaw left her position with the Administrative Office of Courts and resigned her position as co-chair of the LE sub-committee. We hope to have a replacement volunteer at our next meeting.

We plan to have a sub-committee meeting in mid-August. If COVID is still a concern, efforts will be made to have the meeting online.

As the end of the year will be upon us quickly, we will limit focus to a short list of achievable goals for 2020. The Bureau was awarded a BJA grant for substance abuse treatment for dual diagnosed offenders attending our Day Reporting Centers. We hope to use some of those funds to implement a MAT program at one of the centers. Our team is in the planning stages for this program.

Data – Dr. McCurry

Develop Centralized Data Repository to describe opioid epidemic and monitor trends.

- Data Governance Board has established governance guidelines.
- Data Governance Board has established a data request process and tracking form.
- Data is available through this request process for grants, reports and policy decisions.
- Public-facing opioid data dashboard has been drafted for approval.
- URL (druguse.alabama.gov) has been acquired for public-facing opioid data dashboard.
- Agencies with signed data-sharing agreements are: ADMH, ALEA, ADPH, Forensics and AMA.
- Several third-party and national de-identified data sources have been included in our data system.
- As many data sources go beyond opioids to include meth, marijuana, etc., the centralized data repository has been designed to be extensible and encompass all illicit drug use data.
- Conversations continue with numerous other state agencies and partners to include their data in our system as well.
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Prevention and Media – Shereda Finch

The subcommittee is still in the process of securing a Proclamation from Governor Ivey declaring the last week of October as Opioid Prevention Week. Due to COVID-19, limited other activities have taken place. The My Smart Dose and Stop Judging, Start Healing campaigns are still being promoted and implemented across the state. A subcommittee meeting will be scheduled in August to discuss the status of all planned activities and assess whether changes are needed for the next year.

Rescue Committee – Dr. Mark Wilson

From January thru June 2020 there were 763 Narcan kits given out, 14 reversals and 2 deaths were reported. There 300 kits given out at the Heroin Walk 2020. Dr. Traffanstedt is working to put a team together to go into counties with high overdose rates and provide Narcan training with ADPH OD2A grant. There are 1308 kits available for this initiative. The counties are Jefferson, Walker, Colbert, Cherokee and Lauderdale. ADMH is targeting Etowah and Calhoun counties due to increase in overdoses.

Community Engagement – Beverly Johnson

Primarily exploring avenues of community reach during Covid-19. Exploring social media platforms, potential coordination with the Alabama State Department of Education as it relates to parental notification call-outs, and virtual training opportunities to optimize reach.

The Veteran Task Force has deployed the survey to ADMH-certified providers, Alabama Medicaid providers, and other entities providing service to Veterans. The survey is to better understand services to treat substance use and opioid use disorders being provided to military Veterans across the state. Results will be compiled and shared. The Task Force is also working to reconstitute and strengthen the group.

Workforce – Nick Moore

Alabama's WIOA plan was approved on June 4, 2020 with the following:

- Amend the Title I WIOA section of the state combined WIOA plan and the Alabama Opioid Action plan to include explicit strategies to connect those recovering from or affected by the opioid crisis to wrap-around support services needed to persist in the workforce.
- Amend the Title I WIOA section of the state combined WIOA plan and the opioid action plan to include language focused the state plan on advancing workforce training, upskilling, advancing credentials and training healthcare professionals in high demand jobs.

The Alabama Workforce Council will survey employers to determine need in July 2020. The survey will inform the development of the one pager.

Special populations report and attainment goal for those recovering from substance abuse and addiction was finalized in June 2020.

The competency model and registered-apprenticeship program will be available in June 2020.

In January 2020, Alabama applied for a Support to Communities: Fostering Opioid Recovery Through Workforce Development grant that is funded through the U.S. Department of Labor as

part of the response to the national opioid health emergency. The lead agency is the Alabama Department of Commerce, Workforce Development Division. The grant program would serve several thousand Alabamians who have been affected by the opioid crisis in the North Alabama Works! (Region 1) region over a four-year project. The grant project will develop a partnership that will include community colleges, one-stop centers, DHR centers, treatment providers, community-based organizations, and employers.