

State Prevention Advisory Board Meeting August 19, 2020

The State Prevention Advisory Board (SPAB) meeting for Wednesday 8/19/2020 was called to order at 1:35 PM by Chair Seyram Selase

In attendance to the SPAB meeting:

Seyram Selase – Chair

Elana Merriweather – Co-Chair

Brandon Folks

Laura Blanding

Catina James

Shia Markris

Vandlyn Pierre

Necoal Driver

Deegan Malone

Erin Burleson

Ebony Crews

Charon Douglass

Gerald Douglass

Jamie Lake

Cynthia Williams

Satavia Mann

Candice Abernathy

Danita Stapleton

Gloria Howard

Phillip Howard

Carrie Wimberly

Michelle Moore

Liletta Jenkins

Lt. Cedric Leonard

Hannah Chandler

Bruce Kimble – Secretary

The meeting was a virtual Zoom meeting. Chair Seyram Selase voiced thanks to Alabama Department of Mental Health for providing the technical assistance for the ZOOM meeting. Brandon Folks was asked to provide the Director's report, in that Ms. Beverly Johnson could not be in attendance, due to a conflict in scheduling. Brandon Folks reported that Ms. Johnson was currently at the SAMASHA Policy Academy (August 18th, 19, and 20th).

The first order of business was Chair Selase called for the approval of the agenda Motion for approval of the agenda was made by Vandlyn Pierre and seconded by Co-Chair Elana Merriweather.

Chair Selase then called for the approval of the minutes of the June 24th SPAB meeting. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Gerald Douglass and seconded by Degan Malone.

Brandon Folks began Directors report 2020 National Prevention Conference is scheduled for August 25th through August 26th. Although Alabama was selected to host the 2020 conference, the current Covid 19 crisis prevented a "face to face" conference. Alabama will host the 2021 National Prevention Conference in Birmingham, Alabama.

The National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD) annual meeting took place July 13th, 15th, through 17th. Brandon Folks reported that Beverly Johnson represented the Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention Services at this meeting. Ms. Folks reported that the Quarterly provider meeting was held on July 16th (via Zoom) along with the Substance Abuse Coordinating Sub-Committee. Mr. Folks reported that the CADCA meeting was held July 27th through 30th. Mr. Folks went on to report that this event was attended by prevention providers through-out the state, as well as ADMH staff. Mr. Folks reported that the Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council was held via conference call on August 18th. Mr. Folks went on to report that ADMH staff was present and Shereda Finch was one of the presenters. Mr. Folks reported that this meeting was Co-Chaired by the State Health Officer, and the Commissioner of the State Department of Mental Health, Ms. Lynn Beshear, as well as the Alabama Attorney General. Mr. Folks went on to report that the Community Engagement Sub-Committee of the Opioid Overdose and Addiction

Council had a meeting on July 10th and August 14th, a presentation of which was given on the August 18th meeting. Mr. Folks reported that the Suicide Prevention Advisory Board met, virtually, on July 6th, and a Suicide Prevention Coordinator has been hired by the State of Alabama Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention Services. Mr. Folks reported that this Suicide Prevention Coordinator will begin on September 1st.

Mr. Folks reported that Ms. Beverly Johnson and Dr. Tammy McCurry, Associate Commissioner of the ADMH Office of Prevention participated in the “Governor’s Challenge” on July 14th.

Mr. Folks reported that the Alabama Commission on the Evaluation of Services, a.k.a. the ACES, meeting was held on July 31st.

Mr. Folks reported that The ADMH Office of Prevention Services has held some Workforce Development Trainings. Mr. Folks reported that Charon Douglass and Erin Burleson were present at these trainings. Ms. Erin Burleson reported that an announcement for a training anticipated for October will be forthcoming as soon as this becomes available.

Mr. Folks reported that the Substance Abuse Block Grant application is due on October 1st. Mr. Folks went on to state that the Prevention Portion of this grant is complete, although the actual expenditure application will be due in December. Mr. Folks stated that the Office of Prevention will be reviewing contracts and expenditures to ensure that the maintenance of efforts is continued so that the federal Block Grant will not be reduced.

Mr. Folks discussed the SPF/Rx updates and called on Necoal Driver and Chair Syram Selase to discuss any updates. Chair Selase reported that efforts have continued regardless of the Covid-19 crisis. Chair Selase reported that efforts have been conducted with local feeding stations, providing prevention material. Chair Selase related that his agency is looking at innovative ways to implement the “Drug Take Back” days, such as drive through take backs (reducing the amount of contact). Chair Selase went on report that his agency is working with Jacksonville State University to put in “drop box” locations. Chair Selase went on to report that he has reached out to Talladega College in these efforts.

Mr. Folks reported that the “Partnership for Success” initiative is in its final year of the five-year implementation. Mr. Folks reported that an extension has been

submitted to SAMSHA and the Office of Prevention is currently awaiting a response.

Mr. Folks called on Ms. Lauren Blanding for updates on the SOR initiative. Ms. Blanding reported that she would be sending out e-mail updates for the end of the fiscal year soon.

Mr. Folks called on Catina James for updates on the “Eppy Corner.” Ms. James reported that she will be speaking with representatives of Virginia and Georgia on a panel dealing with AEOs.

Mr. Folks called on Satavia Mann in relation to the Adverse Childhood Experiences trainings. Ms. Mann reported that her group has begun the training process, and has conducted the orientation for the training on Thursday, August 13th. Ms. Mann reported that the first training of the curriculum will be held on Thursday August 20th.

Mr. Folks called on Charon Douglass and Erin Burleson to update on Technical Assistance that has been given. Both Ms. Douglass and Ms. Burleson reported that Technical Assistance has continued to be available.

As Mr. Folks reported that this was the conclusion of the Director of Prevention Services report, Chair Selase asked if there were any questions regarding the report. Mr. Gerald Douglass reported that he had a question regarding the Suicide Prevention Coordinator that has recently been hired by the Department of Mental Health. Mr. Folks reported that he would be meeting this individual for the first time when she starts in September. Mr. Douglass related that this issue is of particular importance for him, having been a school principal. Ms. Blanding reported that the name of the individual filling the Suicide Prevention Coordinator Spot is Megan Ford, and Ms. Ford will be actually beginning September 1st.

Chair Selase called for new business. Hearing no call for new business, Chair Selase called for provider updates.

Co-Chair Elana Merriweather reported that there were some updates as it related to Medical Advocacy Outreach (MAO). Ms. Merriweather reported that MAO is currently operational and is currently operating at half-staff in all of the buildings. Ms. Merriweather reported that the MAO clinic is open, with priority given to newly diagnosed or critical care patients. Ms. Merriweather reported that MAO behavioral Health has moved into a new location at the suites in midtown. Ms.

Merriweather reported that this move will enable the MAO behavioral health to expand some of the existing services.

Ms. Vandlyn Pierre reported that she has staff working from home, and the community feeding programs have continued.

Ms. Michelle Moore reported that their agency has continued to participate in feeding programs, as well as the distribution of prevention materials, 12,000 tool kits, through-out their seven counties.

Ms. Moore continued to report that her agency has held an Opioid Summit, virtually, by way of YouTube Channel. Ms. Moore reported that her agency was able to hold a drive through “Drug Take Back” day in June. Ms. Moore related that she has “touched base” with some schools in their area, however, Ms. Moore went on to relate that the uncertainty of the Covid-19 crisis has made scheduling difficult.

Chair Selase Introduced Mr. Jamie Lake. Chair Selase related that Mr. Lake took over for Derek Osborne, as Executive Director of PRIDE of Tuscaloosa. Mr. Lake related that PRIDE has moved to a new location in Tuscaloosa, and has done most of the outreach virtually. Mr. Lake went on to related that his agency has reached out to the local parks and recreations in Tuscaloosa, in an effort to have activities with the summer camps in the area. Mr. Lake reported that PRIDE has efforts, primarily with middle school and high school age individuals, thus the summer camps have provided PRIDE with the opportunity for outreach. Mr. Lake reported that the schools in the Tuscaloosa area are beginning, and using a good deal of virtual learning. Mr. Lake reported that he has met with the school superintendent, who, according to Mr. Lake, has assured them access to the schools as this becomes possible. Mr. Lake stated that his agency’s relationship with the Department of Parks and Recreation in his area will be a valuable asset in maintaining outreach efforts. Mr. Lake reported that his agency is also utilizing social media, as well as television and radio, to “fill in the gap.”

Ms. Ebony Crews of SpectraCare reported that her agency has continued to provide prevention services in the five counties that is served by her agency. Ms. Crews reported that her agency has continued to provide community feeding, as well as “Drug Take Back” days. Ms. Crews reported that SpectraCare has been working with local Community Colleges and other agencies to provide “Health

Cast Messages” to students to increase awareness of resources that are available to them.

Ms. Hannah Chandler with CED mental Health reported that CED is helping with feeding programs within their catchment area, and giving out prevention material regarding drug and tobacco use. Ms. Hannah Chandler reported that the Covid-19 crisis has prevented the summer camp, however, CED was able to hold a billboard contest. Ms. Chandler reported that CED has begun preparations for a virtual campaign, with a video contest, talking vaping in high school.

Ms. Blanding announced that the 2nd Annual National Addict Professional Day Conference, entitled “Celebrating Connections Through Service” will be held Through Alabama State University Department of Rehabilitative Studies. This virtual conference will be held on September 18th and the flyer will be forthcoming.

Chair Selase announces that on October 24th, the DEA has scheduled the National Drug Take Back Day. Chair Selase went on to announce that on August 29th Self Recovery Detox and Betty’s BBQ will be hosting an Overdose Awareness event at Betty’s BBQ. Chair Selase related that his agency will be sponsoring and presenting at this event. Chair Selase went on to announce that September 17th the Adverse Childhood Experiences virtual conference will be held, more information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Liletta Jenkins announced a “Save the Date” regarding a virtual training conference for October 29th. Ms. Jenkins related that more information will be forthcoming.

Ms. Shereda Finch announced that the Council on Substance Abuse will be having a number of events during recovery month, information will be forthcoming. Ms. Finch went on to announce that a federal grant targeting teens and adults in Dallas Lous and Montgomery Counties for HIV and Substance Abuse Prevention. Ms. Finch announced that her agency will be Partnering with 105.7 in Montgomery to host 30 min segments discussing topics such as substance abuse prevention, teen violence, as well as HIV prevention.

Ms. Kari Wimberly Addiction Prevention Collation, announced a virtual media campaign “The Journey,” a six-week series on addiction and recovery. Ms. Wimberly related that every Thursday there would be two sessions in this series.

Ms. Wimberly went on to state that on September 17th the Addiction Prevention Collation will be starting a virtual media campaign. Information will be forthcoming. Ms. Wimberly stated that the Addiction Prevention Collation has created a “Face Book Page,” about recovery month. Ms. Wimberly reported that the Addiction Prevention Collation has been awarded the SPF/Partnership for Success grant for the Birmingham area.

Mr. Jamie Lake announced the PRIDE of Tuscaloosa has developed a series of videos regarding substance abuse prevention. Mr. Lake went on to announce that these videos will be on PRIDE’s social media sites.

The Next meet of the SPAB was scheduled for November 4th.

Respectfully Submitted by Bruce Kimble – Secretary of the SPAB