

SPAB Meeting February 12 at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Meeting was called to order at 10:30 AM

Chair Selase welcome the SPAB and AEW as well as Prevention Planning Committee. Chair thanked the Staff of the Southern Poverty Law Center for the use of the facility.

Present at the meeting:

Chair of the SPAB – Seyram Selase

Director of Prevention Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health – Beverly Johnson

Co-Chair of the SPAB – Elana Merriweather

Vandlyn Pierre

Danita Stapleton

Ebony Crews

Derek Osborn

Brandon Folks

Bruce Kimble

Phillip Howard

Gerald Douglass

Necoal Driver

Charon Douglass

Satavia Mann

Catina James

Lauren Blanding

On Conference Call:

Shereda Finch
Shai Markris
Hannah Chandler
Gloria Howard

Chair Selase called for the SPAB to approve the Agenda. In relation to the Agenda, Chair stated that the SPAB elections will be added to the agenda under New Business.

Motion to approve Bruce Kimble

Seconded Elana Merriweather

Chair called for the minutes to be approved.

Motion by Derek Osborn

Chair Selase recognized Ms. Beverly Johnson for updates from the State Department of Mental Health Office of Prevention.

Staff changes

Associate Commissioner - Dr. Tammy McCurry. Dr. McCurry has served as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner. Dr. McCurry has also served as Director of Performance Improvement.

Prevention Associate Satavia Mann, working primarily with the Block Grant, Corresponding with providers regarding technical assistance, Monitoring and compliance.

Suicide prevention Coordinator is still vacant.

Ms. Johnson related that she has attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America, Over the Counter Medicines Business Meeting on December 9th and 10th in Philadelphia Penn.

Ms. Johnson reported that she attended the Opioid Response Network Meeting, Region two, held on January 15 through the 16th in Birmingham, Al. Ms. Johnson went on to state that Chair Selase and Derek Osborn was also in attendance at the region two meeting. Ms. Johnson reported that the Opioid Response

Network for region three was held, and the Opioid Response Networks for Region 1 and 4 are currently being developed. Ms. Johnson explained the Region 1 would be a north Alabama area, and region 4 would be a south Alabama area. Ms. Johnson related that the Opioid Response network has a contract with SAMSHA in an effort to expand on what resources are available in the area of the state of Alabama's response to the opioid crisis, as well as expand the coalition network. Ms. Johnson related that Mike Vest from the Addiction Prevention Collation was one of the presenters at the Opioid Response Network. Ms. Johnson reported that the Quarterly Prevention Provider Meeting was held on January 22, and, Ms. Johnson reported that she attended the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum on February 4th through the 6th in National Harbor Maryland. We had an opportunity to network with the state members in attendance at the CADCA National meeting. Ms. Johnson went on to explain that CADCA has a "Capitol Hill Day." Ms. Johnson went on to relate that CADCA holds this event that allows its members to interact with members of congress in relation to the issues relating to their respective areas.

Ms. Johnson reported that many of the providers have received notification of the regional assessment crisis meetings that are currently taking place. Ms. Johnson related that these meetings are currently in "Phase one" of development, allowing stakeholders the opportunity to address issues involving the crisis system. Ms. Johnson reported that there have been two of these meeting, one at Huntsville, on February 10th, and the second meeting was held on February 11, in Birmingham. Ms. Johnson reported that there will be a meeting on February 13, in Andalusia, another meeting on February 14th in Montgomery.

Ms. Johnson reported that there is planned a "Phase Two" of the assessment crisis meetings, involving breakout sessions for specific sectors. Ms. Johnson reported that the first of the "Phase Two" meetings will be held in Decatur, at the North Central Alabama Mental Health, on February 24th, the second "Phase Two" meeting will be held in Birmingham, at JBS Mental Health Authority, on February 25th, a third will be in Mobile, at AltaPointe Health Systems, and a fourth will be held in Troy, at East Central Mental Health Center, on February 28th.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Opioid Overdose Prevention RFP has been released. Ms. Johnson reported that the responses to this RFP will be due on February 21st. Ms. Johnson related that this is a Center for Disease Control (CDC) grant in an effort to expand prevention efforts throughout the state.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Suicide Prevention Conference will be held on February 21st. Ms. Johnson that registration is at <https://www.spnalabama.org/to-register>.

Ms. Johnson reminded the SAPB that the state of Alabama will be hosting the 2020 National Prevention Network Conference in Birmingham, on August 25th through the 27th. Ms. Johnson related that the theme of the conference would be “Advancing the Science of Prevention Through the Lens of Change.”

Ms. Johnson stated, in relation to funding opportunities are concerned the Office of Prevention is one staff member away from being at full capacity. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention has continued to provide compliance visits, as well as technical assistance. Ms. Johnson reported, in relation to the “Partnership for Success,” that this program is in the final year. Ms. Johnson commented that the Office of Prevention would continue to fund some of the initiatives that are currently in place for a limited period of time, pending SAMHSA funding. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention would continue to provide compliance visits with the initiatives that are involved in the PFS.

Chair Selase called for questions for Ms. Johnson. Ms. Danita Stapleton asked about the Crisis Assessment meeting scheduled for Friday, February 14th, at the Mental Health authority. Ms. Johnson related that that meeting is currently scheduled for 9:30 AM.

Mr. Derek Osborn inquired if the Alabama Department of Mental Health was currently applying for the PFS Grant. Ms. Johnson related that she is “anticipating” that the department will be making referenced application.

Chair Selase inquired as to the possibility of having Dr. Tammy McCurry, the newly appointed Associate Commissioner of Mental Health to attend the SPAB meeting. Ms. Johnson related that a time for the new Associate Commissioner to attend the SPAB meeting.

Chair Selase then called on the new Prevention Associate, Satavia Mann, to provide the SPAB with some introductory information. Ms. Mann reported that

she had previously worked for the Council on Substance Abuse as the Program Director for the HIV Substance Abuse program.

Chair Selase called for provider updates. Chair Selase reported that his program would be having an Opioid “Roundtable” in Anniston Al. on March 3rd, 6:00PM until 8:00 PM at The Bridge in Anniston. Chair Selase reported that the panelist would include the Northern District U.S. Attorney, the Local District Attorney, a local physician, as well as Pam Butler with the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Chair Selase went on to report that a special presentation would be made by Mr. Dereck Osborn, of PRIDE. Chair Selase related that APT (Alabama Public Television) is scheduled to be covering the event.

Mr. Phillip Howard of the United States Attorney’s office related that Alabama Public Television has expressed an interest in doing programs in relation to the opioid crisis.

Ms. Johnson called on Shereda Finch of the Prevention Education Subcommittee of the Alabama Opioid Counsel. Ms. Finch Related that the counsel is currently working with the Governor of the State of Alabama to proclaim a week in October as Opioid Prevention Week.

Ms. Finch went on to report that on Wednesday, February 19, the Montgomery area Mental Health Authority is planning a Provider Fair.

Ms. Hannah Chandler of CED Mental Health reported that CED Mental Health is putting on their annual youth prevention conference on March 3rd, 4th, and 5th from 8:30 AM until 11:30 AM.

Ms. Gloria Howard of Althea House is planning an Advocacy Day for April 20th. Chair Selase announced that the ABC’s “End Heroin” walk is scheduled for February 21st, at 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. Chair Selase related that, for more information contact Mike Vest.

Co-Chair Elana Merriweather announced the MAO will be hosting a training regarding legal and ethical issues, as these relate to Substance Abuse Treatment as well as other helping professions.

Derek Osborn of PRIDE announced that his agency will be hosting a “Girls Only” event. Mr. Osborn related that this all female event will be centered on opioid crisis as it related to specifically women’s issues, on April 23rd from 8:30AM until 1:30 PM at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Ms. Ebony Crews of SpectraCare announced that SpectraCare, along with Wallace State Community College will be hosting a “Don’t Crash Spring Break” event on the Sparks Campus in Eufaula Alabama on March 8th at 10:50 AM.

Under New Business, Chair Selase brought up the issue of prevention provider contracts and billing. A good deal of discussion regarding the request that the Office of Prevention take a look at the contracts, in reference to the methods of billing in other states, regarding the billing and state contracts.

Chair Selase called for a motion to request that the Office of Prevention review the billing practice for prevention services. The motion was made by Vandlyn Pierre and seconded by Ebony Crews. The motion was carried unanimously. Chair Selase related that elections of Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary will be held at the next meeting. Chair Selase thanked the current officers:

Chair Selase

Co-Chair Elana Merriweather

Secretary Bruce Kimble

For their service.

Mr. Phillip Howard of the United States Attorney’s Office reported that there had been a major arrest regarding a “Pill Mill” situation which, according to Mr. Howard, uncovered a child pornography ring. Mr. Howard related that these efforts are priority of the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

Co-Chair Elana Merriweather announced that MAO, along with the Alabama Department of Public Health, is hosting a day long HIV conference that is specific to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) National Initiative. Co-Chair Merriweather announced that the conferenced is scheduled to occur in June from 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM.

Chair Selase announced that the next SPAB meeting will be May 6th.

Meeting was dismissed at 12:00

Respectfully Submitted by Bruce Kimble Secretary of SPAB