

Minutes of the State Prevention Advisory Board Meeting on November 13, 2019

Seyram Selase called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM

Chair Seyram Selase welcomed everyone to the SPAB meeting

Introductions/Role Call

On the phone:

Charon Douglass, ADMH Office of Prevention, Prevention Consultant

Necole Driver, ADMH Office of Prevention, Prevention Consultant

Danita Stapleton, ASU Rehab Studies

Ebony Crews, Spectra Care Health Systems

Antoinette Wilson, ASU Rehab Studies

Erin Burleson, ADMH Office of Prevention, Prevention Consultant

Elana Parker Merriweather, Co-Chair, Medical Advocacy and Outreach

Shai Markris, Altapointe Health

Gerald Douglass, Retired Educator

Liletta Jenkins, Alabama Department of Early Education, Children's Policy

Council

In-Person:

Seyram Selase, Chair, Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention

Investigator Cedric Leonard, Compact2020, Shelby County District

Attorney's Office

Iesha Crook, Agency for Substance Abuse Prevention

Phillip Howard, United States Attorney's Office

Nicole, PRIDE

Brandon Folks, ADMH Office of Prevention

Carol Williams, Williams Prevention Consulting

Dr. Shannon Murphy, Pediatrician, National Families in Action Board

Member

Zina Cartwell, Compact2020, Chilton Shelby Mental Health
Beverly Johnson, ADMH Office of Prevention
Natalie Steed, Compact2020
Adam Bagley, Chilton Shelby Mental Health
Lauren Blanding, ADMH Office of Prevention
Catina James, ADMH Office of Prevention
Steven Schmidt, National Alcohol Beverage Control Association
Cassandra Greisen, National Alcohol Beverage Control Association
Bruce Kimble, Secretary, Department of Corrections
Intern, ASAP

Chair Selase welcomed the committee members to the meeting. Introduced the special guest, Dr. Shannon Murphy.

Chair Selase called for the approval to the agenda as written. The motion to approve the agenda was made by Carol Williams, and seconded by Co-Chair Elana Parker-Merriweather. The motion to accept the agenda was carried unanimously.

Chair Selase called the approval of the minutes of the August 7th SPAB meeting. Charon Douglas reported that her name had been omitted from the role of the August 7th meeting. The Minutes now reflect that Charon Douglas was present at the SPAB meeting with apologies to Charon Douglas for the oversight. With the correction regarding Ms. Douglas, Chair Selase called for a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was made by Investigator Cedric Leonard and seconded by Danita Stapleton of ASU Rehab Studies. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Selase called for the report from Beverly Johnson, Director of the Office of Prevention Services, Alabama Department of Mental Health.

Beverly Johnson reported that the State of Alabama will be the host of the 2020 National Prevention Conference that will be held in Birmingham, Alabama on August 25th through the 27th 2020. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention is currently involved in the beginning planning phases of the hosting of the National Conference. Ms. Johnson reported that she will be providing the SPAB with updates as this planning phase progresses.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention held the Quarterly Prevention Provider meeting on October 17th. Ms. Johnson went on to reported that there were participants from the Prevention Provider Network, as well as from other collations across the state.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention was fortunate to present two sessions at The National Prevention Network Conference that had been held in Chicago Illinois on August 27th through 29th 2019. Ms. Johnson related that this was an opportunity to present, on a national lever, the progress that the state of Alabama had been making in the area of Prevention, such as the Opioid Training Institutes in partnership with Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy and the Workforce Development Opportunity at Auburn University at Montgomery, offering certifications through the Alabama Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (AADAA). Ms. Johnson related that the National Conference that the National Conference that is currently being planned for Birmingham will be another opportunity to further exhibit the progress that has been made in the state of Alabama in this area.

Ms. Johnson related that there are currently two positions offered within the Office of Prevention Services of the Alabama Department of Mental Health. Ms. Johnson reported that the first was a Suicide Prevention Coordinator Position. Ms. Johnson reported that the other position is a Prevention Associate Position. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office was represented at the Marijuana Outreach Education meeting that was held on September 4th. Ms. Johnson reported that the Special Guest of the SPAB meeting, Dr. Shannon Murphy, would be discussing this topic.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention attended the State of Alabama Recovery Month Proclamation Signing on September 16th.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention had a SAMASHA State Opioid Response (SOR) Site visit that was held on September 23th through the 26th. Ms. Johnson related that the Office of Prevention was able to do "on site" observation, as well as the Administrative Reviews. Ms. Johnson credited Ms. Lauren Blanding, Opioid Prevention Manager for the assistance in the smooth operation of these site visits. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention had the opportunity to attend the Medical Advocacy Outreach Fall Behavioral

Health Conference, which was held on October 10th . Ms. Johnson expressed gratitude toward Co-Chair Elana Parker Merriweather for the invitation to the MAO.

Ms. Johnson related that the Office of Prevention Services held an Opioid Implementation Meeting on November 6th. Ms. Johnson related that the Opioid Implementation Committee is Co-Chaired by The Alabama Commissioner of Mental Health, The Alabama State Attorney General, as well as the State of Alabama Health Officer.

Ms. Johnson reported that there is a new SAMASHA Regional (Region 4 including Alabama) Administrator, Captain/ Dr. Michael King.

Ms. Johnson related the discussion of another funding opportunity during the October 17th Quarterly Meeting. Ms. Johnson went on to discuss that this funding opportunity would be to address the opioid overdose prevention efforts in partnership with the Alabama Department of Public Health. Ms. Johnson related that this funding opportunity was a Center for Disease Control (CDC) grant opportunity. Ms. Johnson reported that this funding opportunity would be a \$600,000.00 grant opportunity (over the next three years) devoted to opioid prevention efforts. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention is hoping to get the Request for Funding Proposal (RFP) out as soon as possible.

Ms. Johnson discussed, in relation to the block grant and multiple funding sources, the Office of Prevention is continuing to provide Technical Assistance, as requested. Ms. Johnson went on to report that Prevention Consultants continue to provide the Workforce Development Training. Ms. Johnson reported that the Certification Site visits have been sent to the office of Certification.

Ms. Johnson reported that, as it related to discretionary funding, the Partnership For Success, initiative Underage Drinking, is in the final year.

Ms. Johnson reported that the SPF/RX (Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs) discretionary Grant Funding continues the “My Smart Dose” Campaign, and continued to provide training and technical assistance.

Ms. Johnson reported that, as is related the State Opioid Response (SOR) funding opportunity, the Opioid Training Institutes began in May of 2019, and concluded these institutes on September of 2019. However, Ms. Johnson went on to state that Webinar Offerings on this subject matter will continue to be offered for the

next four years at alabamaoti.org. Ms. Johnson reported that with the “face to face” offerings, the Officer of Prevention was able to offer these trainings to 1066 registrants (455 community members and 611 health care professionals.)

Ms. Johnson addressed Suicide Prevention initiative efforts through-out the state. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention is responsible for administrating the Block Grant portion of this initiative. Ms. Johnson related that the Office of Prevention is a participant in the Suicide Prevention Conference Planning Committee. Ms. Johnson reported that the State of Alabama will be having the first Suicide Prevention Conference on February 21st at the University of Alabama.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention Services is involved with the Suicide Prevention Advisory Board. Ms. Johnson reported that a conference call was held on September 9th, as well as on November 4th. As it related to this, Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention has been able to establish the Alabama Suicide Prevention Network, making The Alabama Department of Mental Health the founding member of this network. Ms. Johnson related that the board members could look at SPNA.alabama.org for resource information. Ms. Johnson reported that the Office of Prevention has had the opportunity to attend the Higher Education Suicide Prevention Conference, held at Troy State University in Montgomery on September 13th. Ms. Johnson Reported that the Office of Prevention has continued to provide the Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) training and Mental Health First Aid training.

Ms. Johnson called on the Prevention Program Managers, Brandon Folks and Lauran Blanding.

Brandon Folks reported that the Office of Prevention has received funding for an additional year for technical assistance with the “Partnership For Success,” as well as the prescription Drug use grants.

Lauran Blanding reported that the Suicide Prevention Conference, in Tuscaloosa at the Bryant Conference Center, will be held on February 21st 2020. Ms. Blanding reported that the Suicide Prevention Conference will be held from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM. Ms. Blanding reported that the registration information for this conference will be out be December 31st.

Chair Selase presented a question for Ms. Johnson regarding the National Prevention Network Conference. Chair Selase inquired in relation to any updates in relation to this conference being held on August 25th through 27th. Chair Selase inquired as to any assistance that the SPAB might be in this effort. Ms. Johnson related that she would inform this board should that need arise.

Mr. Phillip Howard of the United States Attorney's Office Inquired in relation to the need for any assistance regarding the Suicide Prevention efforts through-out the state, as well as conferences to address this issue. Ms. Blanding related that the Office of Prevention Services are currently looking for speakers, as well as participants for panel discussions for the Suicide Prevention Conference.

Chair Selase reminded the SPAB of the excellent presentation of Dean Argo from the ABC Board on the August 7th SPAB meeting. Chair went on to related that the SPAB was going to get the opportunity to hear from Mr. Argo's counterparts on the National Level. Chair Selase went on to introduce Cassandra Greisen of the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association (NABCA) from Washington D.C. Ms. Cassandra Greisen related that she had met with Chair Selase and Ms. Johnson through the National Prevention Conference in Chicago. Ms. Cassandra Greisen related that she had been interested in the work that had been progressing in the State of Alabama

Ms. Greison related that the reason that she sought out representatives from the state of Alabama is that part of her job as the Manager of Public Policy with the National Alcoholic Beverage Control Association is to find individuals who are working in public health and prevention and connect. Ms. Greison went on to relate that the NABCA understands that policy be rooted in science. Ms. Greison went on to state that it is important that individuals that are doing to work in prevention and public health be connected to policy makers doing the regulation of alcoholic beverages.

Ms. Greison then introduced Mr. Steve Schmitt, NABCA Senior Vice President of Communications of Public Policy.

Mr. Schmitt related that Ms. Greison had done an excellent job in summarizing the importance of connecting providers and policy makers. Ms. Schmitt related that her would add a "bit of urgency" in that "a lot is going on in the prevention field in regard to regulation. Mr. Schmitt related that the NABCA is involved with

policy regarding beverage alcohol, as it relates to prevention service providers, researchers, law enforcement, regulation of sales etc.

Mr. Schmitt related that there has been a good deal of pressure to deregulate beverage alcohol in individual states and individual counties. Mr. Schmitt related that, at the National level, there is a Supreme Court Case out of the state of Tennessee, that Mr. Schmitt related might be a “game changer.” Mr. Schmitt related that this case might be a discussion in what regulation should be “rooted in,” i.e. science, public health or public safety. Mr. Schmitt stated that this was the motivation for making deeper connections in the public health and public policy at the national level, and organizations, such as SPAB, at the state level. Mr. Schmitt stated that this allows a dialog with the national policy makers, and the individuals at the state level, who would be involved in providing services to individuals in the individual community.

Ms. Greison related that her background is in community prevention efforts. Ms. Grayson related that, in relation to her background, she feels that this shows an intentional effort on NABCA’s part to invest in public health.

Chair Selase expressed the gratitude of the SPAB to Ms. Greison and Mr. Schmitt of NABCA for addressing the SPAB. Chair Selase reported that he was going to ask Mr. Phillip Howard of the United States Attorney’s Office – Northern District to address the SPAB. Mr. Howard reported that he is the outreach coordinator with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Mr. Howard related that this involved reviewing federal grant opportunities, working with the V.A., juvenile justice, reentry efforts through the Alabama Department of Corrections.

Chair Selase called for questions for Mr. Phillip Howard. Carol Williams of Williams Prevention Consulting, inquired as to the method for engaging with the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Mr. Howard discussed several avenues that a dialog could be started.

Chair Selase called on Nicole Driver, ADMH Office of Prevention Consultant for an update. Ms. Driver commented that the Northern District Attorney’s Office have been “Vital” in the area of working with SPAB as well as the Agency for the Prevention of Substance Abuse round table committee, coming up on March 3rd from 6:00 to 8:00. Ms. Driver stated that this event is going to take place at the Anniston City Meeting Center, and approximately 250 are expected in

attendance. Ms. Driver reported that the SPF/Rx did a “Take Back” event on October 26th, which, according to Ms. Driver, included vaping devices. Ms. Driver reported that the “My Smart Dose” initiative has continued to do well, targeting eight schools in the state of Alabama, including Auburn University, Jacksonville State, Miles College, Talladega College, Alabama State University, Tuskegee University, University of North Alabama, and the University of South Alabama. Chair Selase called for community provider updates. Chair Selase reminded the SPAB that ASAP was planning the Community Roundtable Event for March 3rd 2020 at the Anniston City Meeting Center. Chair Selase went on to report that ASAP’s recent “Take Back” event had been able to “take back” 717.8 pounds of expired and unused medications.

Ms. Nicole of PRIDE of Tuscaloosa announced that her organization will be hosting “Engage Tuscaloosa Summit” in two weeks (November 20th at Bryant Conference Center.)

Ms. Beverly Johnson reminded the SPAB that she has sent the pictures from the RSA lighting for the Red Ribbon Week.

Chair Selase introduced the Special Speaker, Dr. Shannon Murphy, noted Pediatrician and Board Member of the National Families in Action. Dr. Murphy stated that she had spent 10 years in private practice, however, her area of concern has been drug education, particularly the area of marijuana. Dr. Murphy reported that the American Academy of Pediatrics has released two Policy Statements opposing the legalization of marijuana, as well as opposing the use of marijuana outside of the FDA regulatory process, because of the potential impact of teenagers and young adults. Dr. Murphy stated that she sees the use of marijuana as the next emerging health crisis, if the treatment and prevention community does not take a preventative stand on this issue.

Dr. Murphy reported that the Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Adams, issued an advisory on marijuana. Dr. Murphy went on to report that the Surgeon General’s advisory reported that there were several health risks associated with the use of marijuana, and that there was no safe level of use of marijuana for pregnant women or adolescences.

Dr. Murphy related that marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Dr. Murphy reported that in 2017 more than 9 million teens and

young adults reported use of marijuana in the previous month. Dr. Murphy reported that the number of reported new users of marijuana rose 30% in 2017 from the previous years for that same age group.

Dr. Murphy cited some reasons for this:

1. Misinformation in the media. Young people are hearing that this is “no big deal.”
2. Normalization.

Dr. Murphy reported that marijuana has the same toxins that are in tobacco smoke. Dr. Murphy reported that this has an effect of fertility. Dr. Murphy reported that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration have choose two key points in relation to marijuana use.

1. Marijuana’s impact on Cognitive Health. (memory attention and learning)
2. Adverse effects of marijuana on mental health, such as psychosis, and increase risk for schizophrenia.

Dr. Murphy reported that the National Achedemy of Sciences Engineering and Medicine Report 2017 cited that there is a significant increase in the incidents of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in relation to regular marijuana use.

Dr. Murphy reported that there are over 500 chemicals in marijuana that the medical community knows very little about.

Dr. Murphy reported that a study that involved airline pilots and marijuana use.

Dr. Murphy reported that these pilots still had impairment 24 hours following the acute “high” of the marijuana. These pilots, according to Dr. Murphy, reported that they were not aware of any impairment.

Dr. Murphy reported that in Canada, where marijuana is legal, pilots, flight attendants, and flight crews are prohibited from using marijuana a full 28 days prior to reporting for duty.

Dr. Murphy addressed the issue as using marijuana as a medicine. Dr. Murphy reported that the therapeutic components of marijuana lie in the components of the cannabis plant, and not the whole plant. Dr. Murphy went to make an excellent case for any therapeutic use of cannabis be place in the process of the FDA and under strict medical supervision.

The SPAB expressed gratitude to Dr. Shannon Murphy for her efforts, as well as her presentation to the SPAB.

Chair Selase called on Beverly Johnson for an update on the Revised Opioid Strategic Plan. Ms. Johnson reported that she has sent the updated Opioid Strategic Plan to the members of the SPAB for consideration. Ms. Johnson reported that there are multiple funding streams in relation to the Strategic Plan, so instead of coming up with strategic plans for each funding source, the Office of Health Services would like to develop a comprehensive approach for these funding sources.

Chair Selase called for the motion to approve the revised Strategic Opioid Plan. The motion to approve the motion was made by Bruce Kimble of the Alabama Department of Corrections, and seconded by Investigator Cedric Leonard of Compact 2020. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chair Selase expressed appreciation to the Office of Prevention.

Chair Selase announced that the next meeting will be February 12, 2020, and called for adjournment.

Respectively Submitted by Bruce Kimble Secretary Alabama State Prevention Advisory Board