

**State Prevention Advisory Board (SPAB)  
Call Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 18, 2021**

**10:00am**

**Participants:**

1. Seyram Selase, Chair
2. Elana Merriweather, Co-Chair
3. Beverly Johnson, ADMH
4. Satavia Mann, ADMH
5. Erin Burleson, ADMH
6. Shalandra Rogers, ADMH
7. Brandon Folks, ADMH
8. Catina James, ADMH
9. Deedra Roberts, MAO
10. Carrie Wimberly, Addiction Prevention Coalition
11. Jana Kirkland, Mountain Lakes
12. Vandlyn Pierre, Drug Education Council
13. Jamie Lake – Pride
14. Emi Brooks – East Alabama Medical Center
15. Eden Griffin, OMNI Institute
16. April Knight, Northwest Mental Health Center
17. Tommie Sanders, Wellstone
18. Danita Stapleton, Alabama State University
19. Shereda Finch, COSA
20. Raven Johnson, Addiction Prevention Coalition
21. Shai Markris, AltaPointe
22. Candy Gaff, SpectraCare
23. Susie Kingry, SpectraCare
24. Staci Wilson, South Center Mental Health Center
25. *Phone caller – name unknown*

The SPAB call meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Chairman, Seyram Selase.

Seyran Selase opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. All participants were asked to include their name and agency affiliation in the chat feature for documentation of attendance.

Seyram Selase requested an approval of the agenda as presented. Vandlyn Pierre made a motion to approve the minutes. Elana Merriweather seconded the motion.

Seyram Selase requested an approval of the minutes from the 8/4 meeting. Tommie Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes. Vandlyn Pierre seconded the motion.

Seyram thanked everyone for their availability to participate in the meeting and turned the agenda over to Beverly Johnson to present the budget proposal for the supplemental funding for the SACS budget.

**Office of Prevention Supplemental Funding**

Beverly Johnson greeted everyone and reviewed the specifics of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Budget Proposal that was reviewed at the previous meetings which has already been approved.

Beverly proceeded to provide an overview of the composition of the department to include the following: Seyram Selase who currently serves as the Chair of State Prevention Advisory Board will be presenting the budget at the upcoming SACS Committee Meeting. Beverly requested for Brandon to share his screen with participants to review the proposed budget and line items.

Beverly Johnson reviewed the activity and funding descriptions for the SAMHSA ARPA in detail to include the following columns:

- Activity function
- Description of the activities
- Funds available (\$8 million)
- Continuation status/funding timeline
- Total funding amount which includes prevention and treatment; and
- Prevention funds set aside only.

Funding has already been approved. Beverly also asked if there were any additional items that needed to be added. Are there any questions about the proposed budget prior to sending to the SACS?

#### **Other Comments Made / Discussion Points:**

- Letters of interest have been submitted.
- Seyram asked what is the year and timeline for the proposed budget. Beverly Johnson responded with the following information:
  - Veterans – goes through FY 2025
  - Other functions – goes through FY 2023
- April Knight - What does the State Survey data look like? Beverly Johnson responded that the state survey data is under review and will be shared with SPAB members when completed.
- Seyram Selase – What is the status of the Statewide Campaign? Beverly Johnson responded that the services would have to undergo the RFP process. Prospective marketing and promotion agencies that are interested in applying will go through a similar process as in the past and will have an opportunity to apply for a contract.
- Danita Stapleton – Could you expound on the letters of interest being sent out regarding the HBCU function and who would have received the letters? Beverly Johnson replied that letters are coming from Certified Prevention Providers. It will be at the providers discretion to establish a partnership and working relationship with their respective HBCU's. Funding will be provided at the Provider Level for drawing down of funding.
- Seyram Selase – From a SPAB Perspective, what is the thought process for coalition funding if money is not allocated towards certain categories to all coalitions. Beverly Johnson replied that is the desire to use funding for all categories but some providers may not have a level of interest. They may potentially reach out to providers who have not established a level of interest. If determined that dollars are remaining, they may need to come back before the SPAB to identify how to utilize the dollars. They may also need to go back to CADCA to maintain funding for coalition development if needed. If needed this will be brought back before the SPAB.
- Seyram Selase – What is some potential sustainability for military/veteran category due to the critical need to sustain this function after the funding? Beverly stated that an internal sustainability plan is underdevelopment. Beverly also emphasized that the supplemental funding is only available for one year and not guaranteed to be ongoing. (Paraphrased)
- Jamie Lake – What is the estimated date of notification for funding? Beverly Johnson responded that the projected date is August 30. There is hope to get the notification out after the SAC Meeting on Friday.

- April Knight – Commented about difficulties associated with gaining access to the veteran/military populations. April asked if whoever receives the veteran funding can share information about project activities. Beverly commented that a presentation on veteran activities could be shared at future QPPM Meeting's.
- Jamie Lake – How is activity information documented? Beverly replied that funding recipients will go through the same documentation process as contracted recipients.

### **SACS Budget**

Beverly Johnson again stated that Seyram will be representing the SPAB at the upcoming SACS Meeting on Friday and will be presenting the proposed ARPA budget.

Seyram commented on the great job that the ADMH Office of Prevention had done to develop the budget. Shereda Finch followed up to comment ADMH as well.

Seyram asked if there any other questions regarding the presentation of the budget for the SACS Meeting before the vote? No additional questions were asked.

Seyram Selase requested approval to obtain a motion from the SPAB to approve the Office of Prevention Supplemental funding for the ARPA funding. A motion to approve the funding proposal was provided by April Knight. The motion was seconded by Vandlyn Pierre.

The proposed budget will be presented at the SACS Meeting on Friday.

### **Provider Updates and Announcements**

- April Knight discussed about another incinerator machine was provided to the police and sheriff department.
- Seyram announced that the STACK Conference will be held tomorrow, August 19 at the Oxford Civic Center. A few featured speakers will include Seyram, Gloria Howard and April Jernigan among others.
- Elana announced that MAO will be hosting the quarterly BH Training on Thursday, September 9. The topic is Furry Friends Promote Positive Mental Health. A flyer will be sent to Brandon to share with the SPAB group.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in today's Call Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25AM

**Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, November 3, 2021**