Quarterly Behavioral Health Consortium Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: 10/30/2019 11:00-1:00pm
Location: Buck Library, Buena Vista, 661 S Dupont Hwy, New Castle, DE 19720

Attending: Bethany Hall-Long, Karyl Rattay, Elizabeth Romero, Honorable David Bentz, Honorable Stephanie Hansen, Sandy Gibney, Chief R.L. Hughes, Tamera Fair, Wade Jones, Cheryl Doucette, Avani Virani, Michele Marinucci, Rebecca King, Josh Thomas, Traci Bolander, Emily Vera, Jennifer Smolowitz, Carolyn Petrak, David Humes

Topic: Welcome and Introductions

Review of previous meeting notes: Approval of meeting minutes was postponed until the next meeting

Topic: (1) Story of Recovery

Presentation: Jose (TJ) Mercad shared his story of recovery. He discussed the importance of having strong support as he left treatment. Also brought up the importance of cultural understanding in treatment

Topic: (2) Progress Report and Environmental Scan

Presentation: Mary Kane from Concept Systems spoke to the Consortium about the progress report and her upcoming plans to conduct an environmental scan. The progress report is an update on the 3 year action plan and includes information on where the consortium is for each task as well highlights legislative achievements made in the past two legislative sessions. The report includes priorities for the upcoming year as well as a plan for increasing collaboration and communication among the committees of the consortium.

Ms. Kane also spoke about the plan to conduct an environmental scan to understand who is doing work in this field. Ms. Kane will be reaching out to the consortium and committee members to build a network of doing the work. It will also help with building a communication network

Next Steps

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Topic: (3) BHC Policy Timeline

Presentation: The Lt. Governor proposed a procedure for policy from the consortium. The proposal is below:

Committee Process:

- Policy Standing Item will be included on the meeting agenda for all committees.
  - Anything that is brought up, must be heard by the committee
- Proposal will include thorough information gathering including having supporting documents, people etc
- Proposal will be discussed by the committee and vote approval by the committee for the idea to be heard at the BHC
Consortium Process:

- All Policy proposals that would like to be heard will be submitted to the Office of the Lt. Governor by mid-March for this year. (We will move the date up for next year to maximize time)
- Policy Proposals will be heard at the April Quarterly BHC meeting
  - The BHC reserves the right to hold meetings in between
- Consortium members will vote on the approval of policy proposals
  - If approved, Office of Lt. Governor staff will coordinate to advance the proposal

The proposal was approved by the Consortium.

Topic: (4) AB&C Public Awareness Campaign Report

Presentation: Alexandra Parkowski from AB&C presented the results from the BHC public awareness campaign that ran from May to July 2019. The campaign utilized print, media and internet ads. The campaign had about 2 million impressions. It also led to increased traffic to the HelpisHere website.

AB&C is also working to update the website to be more user friendly. Spoke about upcoming campaigns that they would want the input from the committee: non-opioid pain management campaign (public facing version), fentanyl campaign targeted for 18-25 age group, underage drinking prevention and DPH addiction stigma campaign for youth and adult focused.

Topic: (5) DCSYF and UD Study

Presentation: Steve Martin and Cynthia Robbins from the University of Delaware presented on their work conducting a needs and feasibility assessment on recovery schools in Delaware. Their findings were based on the Medicaid/Medicare population and excluded the privately insured. Their main finding was that a recovery school might not be feasible but that including recovery tracks within schools might be more feasible.

Topic: (6) DPH Overdose Mortality Report

Presentation: Director Rattay from DSAMH presented on DPH’s Overdose Mortality Report. The main findings were that many people who had a fatal overdose interacted with the health system at some point so intervention at that touch point is critical. Also noted that the food and construction industry had high incidences of overdoses. The report is being used to direct efforts and interventions

Topic: (7) Committee Update

Presentation: Limited updates since only half of the committees had met.

Topic: (7) Public Committee

Presentation: Harris Marx spoke about a Medicaid issue with his son.

Next Meeting: Possible DSAMH meeting in November, next Quarterly Meeting in January