



## Behavioral Health Consortium Quarterly Meeting

<b>Date:</b> 7/16/2024	<b>In Person Location:</b> Buena Vista 661 South Dupont Highway, New Castle, DE 19720
<b>Time:</b> 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	<b>Hybrid Location:</b> Zoom Link
	<b>ID:</b> 894 8544 1639
	<b>PC:</b> 503283

**Attendees:** Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, Danielle Johnson, Khalil Abdar-Rashid, Manisha, MaryBeth, Peggy Gesiler, Senator Stephanie Hansen, Eric Rodriguez, Dr. Sandy Gibney, Liz Booth, Dave Humes, Liz Farrell, Rev. Dr. Carol Boggerty, Patty Davis, Dr. Aileen Fink, Dr. Cherese Godwin, Lydia DeLeon, Patrick Ogden, Jennifer Graber, Susan Holloway, Karen DiNardo, Azure DeShields, Dr. Avani Virani, Dr. Yu, Daphne Warner, Noah Wright, Jessica Estok, Senator Eric Buckson, Alyssa Selimov, Lydia York, Jordan Weisman, Dr. Abigail Mercer, Paresh Perry Patel, Keira McGillivray, Kenny Dunn, Pam Price, Sandi Syglowski, Nick Stonesifer, Nick Beard, Janet Mueller, Janice James-Webb, Cassandra Code Benjamin, Sabra Collins, Hope Ellsworth, Kelly Morgan, Letty Santarelli, James Ellison, Liam McCall, Kim Kirk, Dr. Teri Lawler, Margaret Guy, Alex Parkowski, Matt Swanson, Rep. Valerie Jones Giltner, Annie Slease, Rita Landgraf, Jennifer Smolowitz, Ken Brenner, Rebekah Nuttall, Leslie Palbedino, Jarrett Avena, Julia Lawes, Carolyn Petrak, Jenn Ford, Andrew Thurn, Lynn Dilliplane, Emily Vera, Jerome Herlihy, Jody Roberts, Dr. Debra Mason, Rep. K. Johnson, Mason Holliday, Krissy McMahan, Charese Smith-Demory, Dionne Cosby, Dr. Meghan Walls, Lynn Morrison, Dr. Rebecca Walker, LeAnn Hamilton,  
**Staff:** Alexia Wolf, Laura Rapp, Yvonne Bunch, Dr. Larence Kirby, Catherine Bedenbaugh, Riley Feinour

### Topic 1: Welcome and Introductions

**Presenter – Lt Governor Hall-Long**

- Lt Governor Hall-Long called the meeting to order.
- Lt Governor Hall-Long welcomed attendees.

### Topic 2: Announcements and Approval of Minutes

**MOTION:** Lt. Governor Hall-Long called for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

- Dr. Debra Mason made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2024 meeting.
- Emily Vera seconded the motion.
- Minutes Approved.

### Topic 3: Story of Recovery- Unity Dinner

**Presenter – Bishop Carol Boggerty**

- The BHC collaborated with Black Faces, Black Voices to host two Unity dinners.
- One took place on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Wilmington, DE and the other took place on June 25<sup>th</sup> in Dover, DE.
- There was a great turnout from the community and community members got a chance to share their stories and their concerns regarding behavioral health and drug use in the state of Delaware.
- Two more Unity dinners are to take place, on July 24<sup>th</sup> in Middletown, DE and the other on July 25<sup>th</sup> in Seaford, DE.

## Topic 4: Public Comment

- Calvin Davis Jr. discussed the impact of individuals experiencing homelessness in Wilmington, the lack of progress for this issue and its urgency. Mr. Davis advocated for better education of services for this population given the relevance of mental health issues.
- Rebecca Nuttall read a letter on behalf of Domenica Personti. Ms. Personti's letter, addressed her concerns raised by Attorney General Kathy Jennings's letter dated June 28, 2024. Ms. Personti's letter acknowledged that the funds are designated to help those in need and if there is a delay in funding, the individual served may face dire consequences.
- Dave Humes voiced being in favor of approving the funds. Mr. Humes called attention to the POSDC systems that caught potential fraud and the POSDC will try to recover those funds. Mr. Humes highlighted that it is crucial to release the funds as Delawareans. Mr. Humes details of the May 28<sup>th</sup> POSDC meeting, Mr. Humes discussed that the primary purpose of the funding is to keep people alive and help people, and the funds are needed to continue to save lives.
- Senator Stephanie Hansen voiced concerns regarding the June 28, 2024 letter Attorney General Kathy Jennings sent and the importance of the funding to help people. Senator Hansen highlighted that the letter did not accurately reflect what took place in the May 28<sup>th</sup> POSDC meeting, according to the meeting minutes. Senator Hansen advocated for a deeper discussion about what is going on behind the letter.
- Peggy Geisler voiced concerns regarding the June 28, 2024 letter from Attorney General Kathy Jennings, and possible collateral damage to the reputations of those who have received POSDC grant funds.
- Jill Fredel provided a letter written on behalf of atTacK addiction, read by Alexia Wolf. Ms. Fredel's letter was in response to Attorney General Kathy Jennings's letter dated June 28, 2024. Ms. Fredel's letter emphasized their organization understands the accountability that they accept when they receive outside funding. Ms. Fredel's letter highlighted how atTacK addiction carefully monitors the funding to ensure it is being spent properly and goes to the correct places. Ms. Fredel's letter noted the intensity of the monitoring process by POSDC and advocated for approval of future funding.
- Senator Eric Buckson advocated for a halt in approving further funding until concerns regarding accountability could be addressed, and requested looking into long-term solutions the funding could support.
- Representative Kendra Johnson advocated for the funding to be released. Representative Johnson noted that the POSDC systems work, and that they do help Delawareans who are suffering.
- Dr. Cheresse Godwin highlighted her support for passing the social work compact bill in Delaware. Dr. Godwin discussed that the bill represents a step forward in addressing the growing demand of social work services and the bill will greatly enhance the mobility and flexibility of workers.

## Topic 5: Presentation of Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission Recommendations for 3- month Bridge Funding for Existing Phase 1A and Phase 1B Grantees.

### *Presenter – Susan Holloway, Executive Director, POSDC*

- 2023 was the first reduction of fatal overdoses in 10 years.
- 1.8% decrease overall (147% increase in Black and Brown Communities)
- For 2024, the reported numbers of suspected overdoses are expected to be lower than previous years.
- Available POSDC Fund Balances as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - Settlement Fund Balance: \$31,599,518
  - Impact Fee Fund Balance: \$3,370,398
- Bridge Grant Awards
  - Grant Extension Initiative: Voted and Approved on May 28, 2024

- Eligibility: Phase 1A and Phase 1B awardees in good standing
- Amount of Bridge Funding requests: approximately \$1.9M
- POSDC approval vote: June 28, 2024
- Phase 1C Grant Awards Cycle
  - Phase 1C Grant Cycle: voted and approved on May 28, 2024
  - Eligibility: all Delaware businesses in good standing
  - Grant focus: initiatives identified by POSDC subcommittees and approved by full voting POSDC.
  - Amount budgeted for Phase 1C: \$15M.

**Discussion and vote on Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission Recommendations for 3-month Bridge Funding for Existing Phase 1A and Phase 1B Grantees.**

*Vote*

- Roll Call vote to approve Bridge Funding for DSAMH from Phase 1A.
  - 19 in favor, 1 objection, 3 abstained, and 1 no answer: motion carried for approval.
- Roll Call vote to approve Bridge Funding for Dover Interfaith Mission for Housing from Phase 1A.
  - 21 in favor, 0 objections, 3 abstained: motion carried for approval.
- Roll Call vote to approve Bridge Funding for Impact Life from Phase 1A.
  - 20 in favor, 0 objections, 3 abstained, 1 no answer: motion carried for approval.
- Roll Call vote to approve Bridge Funding for balance of Block Vote of Phase 1A.
  - 21 in favor, 0 objections, 3 abstained, 1 no answer: motion carried for approval.
- Roll Call vote to approve Bridge Funding for DSAMH from Phase 1B.
  - 20 in favor, 0 objections, 3 abstained, 1 no answer: motion carried for approval.
- Roll Call vote to approve Bridge Funding for the Sussex County Health Coalition from Phase 1B.
  - 20 in favor, 0 objections, 3 abstained, 1 no answer: motion carried for approval.
- Roll Call vote to approve Bridge Funding for balance of Block Vote from Phase 1B.
  - 21 in favor, 0 objections, 2 abstained, 1 no answer: motion carried for approval.

**Open Item from Phase 1B**

*Presenter—Stephen Ferguson, Deputy Attorney General & Patricia Davis, State Solicitor*

- Patricia Davis provided an update on the DOJ review of an application from Phase 1B.
- Patricia Davis stated that the DOJ concluded its review and closed the application due to no response from the applicant.

**Topic 6: BHC Committee Updates**

Topic deferred.

**Topic 7: BHC and POSDC Website Update**

Topic deferred.

**Topic 8: Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Military Veterans, Service Members, and their Families Update**

Topic deferred.

**Topic 9: Overdose System of Care Update**

Topic deferred.

**Topic 10: Addiction Action Committee Update**

Topic deferred.

**Adjourn: 12:03 pm**

Next BHC Quarterly meeting is **October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 am**