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## State of Wisconsin

### State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse

1 West Wilson Street, P.O. Box 7851  
Madison, Wisconsin 53707-7851

## Draft Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2020 via Zoom Conference Call

**Members Present:** Dr. Subhadeep Barman, Sen. Janet Bewley, Rep. Jill Billings, Brian Dean, Kevin Florek, Roger Frings, Mary Ann Gerrard, Jan Grebel, Sandy Hardie, Anthony Peterangelo, Christine Ullstrup, Tina Virgil, Thai Vue, Julie Willems Van Dijk, Sue Shemanski.

**Members Excused:** Jessica Geschke, Brenda Jennings, Mike Knetzger, Autumn Lacy, Terry Schemenauer, Sen. Patrick Testin, and Dr. Andrew Putney.

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Ann DeGarmo, Mark Wegner, Fil Clissa, Gina Bartoszewicz (for Colleen Rinken).

**Ex Officio Members Excused:** Carl Hampton, Kenyon Kies, Delora Newton, Dr. Andrew Putney, Timothy Weir, Jennifer Wickman.

**Staff:** Mike Derr, Sarah Coyle, Teresa Steinmetz, Andrea Jacobson, Anne Larson, Allison Weber, Ryan Stachoviak, Dennis Radloff, Rebecca Main, Michelle Lund, Beth Collier, Raina Haralampopoulos, Amanda Lake Cismesia, Gary Roth, Ashley Rogers, Dan Bizjak, Holly Audley, Sandra Hendricks, Saima Chauhan, Katie Behl, Paul Krupski, Cindy Matz.

**Guests Present:** Amy Anderson, Michelle Devine Giese, Pam Lano, Mike Christopherson, Harold Gates, Lynn Harrigan, Raeanna Johnson, Chris Wardlow, Joe Muchka, David Macmaster, Sandra Westerman, Jill Gamez, Chris Thomas, Patricia Faulhaber, Kellie Blechinger, Eugenia Sousa, Valeri Vidal, Nicole Mueller, Neville Duncan, James Ahern, Jamie Schrandt, Freddie Smith, Sara Aranda, Angie Moran, Ron Rubin, Jessica Cwirla, Denise Johnson, Dwain Barry, Antonio DeShazor, Tiffany Sanchez, James Nelson, Nicole Keeler and Tracy Kleppe (ASL interpreters);

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**Call to Order:** Roger Frings called the meeting to order at 9:34 am, and reviewed Zoom protocols. Attendance was taken during this time.

**Approval of September 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Thai Vue's name was spelled incorrectly. Mark Wegner stated that he attended the Sept. meeting. The final draft of minutes will reflect these corrections. Tina Virgil motioned to approve the minutes. Thai Vue seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Public Input #1:** No public comments were offered.

**Residential SUD Treatment Coverage Benefit:**

Dr. Pam Lano with the Division of Medicaid Services (DMS) explained the purpose of the expanded Medicaid benefit - to cover short term residential SUD treatment services. The benefit was discussed over the course of five different large group meetings from June to October. Treatment provider enrollment is set to open in mid-December. Dr. Lano explained the need for training on system use. Initial training sessions will be held in December. January trainings will cover all aspects of the new Medicaid benefit program. One session will be recorded to use for online training purposes. Once the benefit launches there will be an ongoing need for technical assistance for providers. Field representatives will provide individual help and support. There are resources in place to provide help and support to individuals and treatment providers through the transition.

Dr. Lano disclosed information regarding reimbursement rates for services. It is anticipated that there will be a daily rate that covers a range of included services. The benefit can be used for medical screening if it is completed prior to admission, and lab drug tests that are sent out can also be billed. Psychiatric and medical services for those that need additional support can be billed separately from the SUD provider. Services can be provided as long as they are deemed medically necessary. Medication-assisted treatment can be billed by the provider. If a resident cannot receive Medicaid access through CCS, other arrangements will be made.

Chris Thomas discussed constraints on the new Medicaid benefit, including the requirement that the overall Medicaid coverages remain revenue neutral. Residential treatment room and board costs will not be covered by Medicaid; however, many counties have indicated they will continue to cover room and board. The Department of Health Services has requested that the Governor's 2021-23 budget include a line item for reimbursement of room and board costs for Medicaid residential treatment providers.

Dr. Lano sought feedback from SCAODA workgroup as to what worked well and what improvements are needed. Thai Vue brought up language and hard of hearing services. Dr. Lano responded that those populations are addressed across all forward health providers. Access to those services must be available within contracts. Denise Johnson inquired what was available to those with intellectual disabilities. Dr. Lano responded explaining that there is enhanced reimbursement for therapists to modify approaches to meet needs, however this is only when a disability has been diagnosed. Denise asked for consideration for those who are not undiagnosed. Dr. Lano will take this feedback back to the team for discussion, and stated that a therapist can clarify that there is a further services need, in order to qualify someone for the extended rate. Lastly, Janet Bewley brought up the issue that not all populations are covered, specifically those in rural areas. Dr. Lano mentioned they are aware of this deficit and efforts are in place to correct this.

**Public Input #2 (relating to new Medicaid Benefit proposal):**

Following Dr. Lano's presentation, several persons from the Milwaukee area community and Matt Talbot Recovery Services agency provided comment and feedback. Dr. Neville Duncan mentioned concerns regarding the small window of opportunity to provide input; however, he added that more time was given and discussion with the state ensued. Dr. Duncan also mentioned residential treatment operational issues

caused by Covid-19 and opioid addiction. He and colleagues are now satisfied they can participate in Medicaid without diverting resources for Covid-19.

Pastor Darwin Barry commended DHS for being accessible and responsive to the needs of the Milwaukee area community and treatment providers. Pastor Berry was pleased that DMS's reimbursement rates were increased over the initial proposed rates. This new benefit will impact the community's fight against the opioid epidemic. The residential treatment community will monitor DHS to make sure follow through is taking place.

Freddie Smith expressed gratitude for the extra funding and additional resources. Antonio DeShazor expressed support for new SUD benefit. Tiffany Sanchez summarized issues that still need to be resolved before the new benefit program commences next February 1<sup>st</sup>. These included room and board costs, clients who are not eligible for Medicaid, and more specifics about prior authorization and eligibility.

Sara Aranda expressed concerns about the proposed administrative rule DHS 75 revisions, and referenced other issues including contracting with counties to cover room and board costs, and client access to treatment services. Aranda would like to see these issues worked out before February 1<sup>st</sup>. She also expressed appreciation for extending the modification for high intensity residential treatment services. In addition, James Nelson expressed hopes that DHS will deliver on everything being promised.

In response, Dr. Lano responded that DMS is very aware that when launching a new benefit some things don't unfold as predicted, and that the division is prepared to make policy adjustments to ensure everything is functioning the way it was intended. Dr. Lano encourages everyone to keep talking and providing feedback to better understand the problems and issues so solutions can be found.

Julie Willems Van Dijk expressed her gratitude and that of the DHS Secretary's Office for treatment workers on the front lines as well as DMS staff. Roger Frings expressed appreciation for Dr. Lano and Chris Thomas' presentations and mentioned that the extended RSUD treatment benefit program has come a long way since the initial unveiling.

### **Latest Provider Updates on Services during COVID-19:**

Thai Vue mentioned that COVID-19 was spreading within the Hmong community. There are concerns within that community that the Governor is not involved with leadership of the Hmong community to address COVID concerns. Vue believes it is important for the Governor to work with this community through social and political means. Hmong citizens are still gathering information; if there were more outreach to them, perhaps they would better understand and follow safe practices. Julie Willems Van Dijk responded that a member of her team will reach out to Hmong leadership to share information and ensure materials are available.

Willems Van Dijk gave an update on the state's response to COVID-19. Testing continues to expand across the state; more than half of testing is conducted through health care facilities. DHS is working to ensure all these facilities have received supplies to test staff. She mentioned that nursing home staff are being tested twice per week. The Wisconsin National Guard is working to expand regular community testing to 74 areas across the state. Wisconsin has seen an incredible surge affecting everyone across the state, and has been the second or third highest state in new cases nationally. Preventative measures such as masks, social distancing, and decreasing social interactions must continue to be followed.

Willems Van Dijk also discussed vaccinations, and how hospitals are being affected. Twenty percent of beds are allocated to treat COVID-19, creating a lack of beds for other needs. Pfizer and Moderna have applied for emergency approval by the Food and Drug Administration, and anticipate there will be an available vaccine by the end of the month. The first groups to receive vaccines will be healthcare workers and those living in long-term care facilities. The first batch of vaccines will only cover 10% of the healthcare worker population. As supplies increase, further groups will be added. It is estimated that a minimum of six months is needed to get the entire population vaccinated. Willems Van Dijk also addressed how vaccines will be distributed, as well as vaccine shelf life, dosage and effectiveness.

## **Committee Updates**

### **Executive Committee:**

Roger Frings provided the Committee update and reviewed the schedule of Council meetings for 2021, mentioning that they will continue to be virtual for the time being. Frings mentioned that in previous meetings, proposed medicated residential treatment was discussed, along with the Diversity Committee's proposal of forming an equity and inclusions ad hoc workgroup.

### **Cultural Diversity Committee:**

Thai Vue provided Committee updates, and also summarized the Committee's final 2019-2020 work plan progress report. He suggested that the Council review overall goals of SCAODA, reflecting on goals and objectives under the 2018-22 Strategic Plan. Vue mentioned that Goal No. 1 is to change Wisconsin's cultural norms. He also discussed the Committee priorities for 2020-2021.

Harold Gates presented information on the proposed equity and inclusion ad hoc workgroup. The Committee believes that the Council as a whole should be more aligned with equity and inclusion. He suggested this be viewed from a government and state department level to develop equity and inclusion strategies and recommendations. This workgroup would seek to raise awareness of systemic racism, especially within the State of Wisconsin. COVID-19 has helped expose the disparities that exist. Gates then reviewed the proposed workgroup's fact and mission statement, discussed how group would be formed, and who would participate. Council supported the creation of this workgroup.

### **Intervention & Treatment Committee:**

Roger Frings summarized the Committee's 2019-2020 work plan progress report, and Saima Chauhan then shared the strategic plan and priorities from that progress report. The Committee will continue emphasizing elimination of public stigma for seeking services, along with increasing focus on resources for youth and adolescent preventions. Frings discussed increasing membership due to the lack of voice in regard to youth within this community. He also addressing rising needs of substance abuse among the senior population.

Saima discussed continued Committee communication and collaboration with DSPS through Carl Hampton, keeping that department updated as to what is going on. DSPS has been very open to feedback. The current goal is to work with them regarding licensures and certifications for substance use counselors. The Committee continues to look at workforce issues, especially policies and reporting to legislators. Lastly, the Committee discussed tobacco and nicotine use and its large impact on public health, along with

effects of COVID-19. The Committee is exploring how treatment of tobacco use disorders can be incorporated into treatment of alcohol and other substance abuses.

### **Planning and Funding Committee:**

Christine Ullstrup updated the Council on what the Committee has been working on. Several Committee members and Mike Derr presented at the fall MH and SU Recovery Conference. Its breakout session featured an introduction of SCAODA and its current members, and encouraged others to join meetings and committees. Representatives from each committee were in attendance. Ullstrup also summarized discussion on the continued impact of COVID-19 on treatment providers.

Ullstrup proposed a motion calling for the full Council to urge the Governor and Legislature to include room and board funding for residential treatment providers covered under Medicaid, since Medicaid cannot reimburse for room and board costs. Council members discussed the highlights of the motion and background information. The motion was put forward made by Christine Ullstrup, and seconded by Rep. Jill Billings. All Council voting members voted in favor of the motion, except for Roger Frings and Tina Virgil, who abstained.

### **Prevention Committee:**

Chris Wardlow provided Committee updates, including highlights from the University of Wisconsin's recently-completed Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis Report. He provided updates on grants focusing on opioid overdose surveillance and prevention strategies, which have provided several million dollars in funding over three years. Wardlow also discussed future meeting agenda items including a presentation on CLAS standards, and a revision of the substance use prevention skills training and curriculum. The Committee's January meeting will focus on the new and charges for the Committee and internal workgroups, along with the review of the original SCAODA Alcohol Report released in 2010, and compare those findings with the current alcohol landscape in Wisconsin.

### **DHS Agency Report:**

Julie Willem Van Dijk gave a brief COVID-19 update. She also provided a hub and spoke project update, noting that awards were made last October. She also highlight the department's proposals to be included in the Governor's 2021-2023 biennium budget, including a line item providing room and board cost reimbursement for Medicaid funded residential treatment providers. Willems Van Dijk discussed the effects on people making specific levels of income who cannot work more hours without losing their health care benefits. This will also be addressed in budget proposal.

Paul Krupski gave an update on the progress being made in the opioid treatment Hub and Spoke model project. The Department is working to increase level of access to needed care and services. The project will be providing services once DHS receives approval from SAMSHA and CMS. The timeline for implementation is early 2021.

Gina Bartoszewicz gave a brief update on activities within the Department of Veteran Affairs. The Veteran's Outreach and Recovery Program (VORP) is now conducting face to face intakes while taking all COVID-19 precautions, and has been given permission to do meetings once per month as need. Grants for the Veterans Housing and Recovery program (VHRP) grant cycle started in October. Bed capacity has been increased back up to 48 in Chippewa Falls, 17 at Green Bay, and 40 at Union Grove (including three female beds). All sites are now at full service levels.

**Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery Updates:**

Andrea Jacobson announced several staff changes. Sandra Hendrix is now the Women's Treatment Coordinator in place of Bernistein Jeffers. Saima Chauhan has replaced Ken Ginlack as the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Coordinator. Katie Behl is now the Impaired Driver Coordinator, replacing Leann Mueller, who retired last winter. Two staff were hired to serve as the coordinators for the State Opioid Response grant program: Michelle Lund, and Dan Bizjak, who specializes in medication assisted treatment.

Amanda Lake Cismesia gave updates on the proposed new chapter DHS 75 administrative rule, which has been worked on for many years and is now nearing the final phases. Bureau staff continue to work with stakeholders and the Office of Legal Counsel to receive feedback. The proposed new chapter is now in the final approval process and will soon the go to Governor's Office and the Legislator for final review.

Andrea Jacobson provided updates on grant funding opportunities recently posted for injection drug use prevention and treatment grants. Funding will support staff development, and naloxone training and distribution, along with treatment. Within the Urban and Rural Women's Treatment program, proposals were received focusing on SUD services geared toward providing comprehensive array of services for pregnant and post-partum women. The Bureau received 16 applications from urban and rural counties and Native American tribes that are currently in review.

Mike Derr gave an update on the new SCAODA website. The content remains much the same, however the URL address has changed. Council website are now housed in within the DHS online environment, and the new link has been sent out to SCAODA members. Also, the FFY 2021 SABG Annual Report was completed and submitted to SAMHSA on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Mike also mentioned noncompliance rate from tobacco sales decreased to 5.5% during 2020, according to the FFY 2021 Synar Report submitted to SAMHSA. He mentioned that the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program within Division of Public Health continues taking steps to promote retailer compliance with the new 21 year old federal tobacco law. Nancy Michaud will appear at next March's Council meeting to summarize the Synar Report.

**Report from Wisconsin Council on Mental Health:**

Lynn Harrigan reported on persons and groups brought in to discuss access and equity for underserved populations. The goal of this fall 2020 "speaker tour" initiative was to create an education forum to discover what is taking place within communities of color. Persons and groups from different backgrounds were invited to talk about the way they are handling systemic racism. The Mental Health Council will keep the conversation going to also discuss action steps. Discussion and feedback will culminate in a summary report on themes from access and equity presentations and potential opportunities.

**Agenda Items for March 5, 2021 Meeting:**

Items and suggestions should be emailed to Mike Derr or Roger Frings.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made by Thai Vue. Seconded by Tina Virgil. No discussion or objections, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.