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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

## Final Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2021 via Zoom Conference Call

**Members Present:** Dr. Subhadeep Barman, Sen. Janet Bewley, Sen. Jeff Smith (replacing Sen. Bewley on Council), Rep. Jill Billings, Sen. Eric Wimberger, Brian Dean, Kevin Florek, Roger Frings, Mary Ann Gerrard, Jan Grebel, Sandy Hardie, Anthony Peterangelo, Christine Ullstrup, Tina Virgil, Sue Shemanski, Jessica Geschke, Nichol Grathen, Dr. Autumn Lacy, Terry Schemenauer.

**Members Excused:** Julie Willems Van Dijk, Mike Knetzger, Thai Vue.

**Ex Officio Members Present:** Ann DeGarmo, Mark Wegner, Fil Clissa, Carl Hampton, Kenyon Kies, Delora Newton, Colleen Rincken.

**Ex Officio Members Excused:** 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, Dan Bizjak, Saima Chauhan, Katie Behl, Paul Krupski, Mai Zong Vue, Lori Wiebold, Angie Moran.

**Guests Present:** Amy Anderson, Nancy Michaud, Derek Veitenheimer and Starr Moss (DOJ), Harold Gates, Chris Wardlow, Sheila Weix, David Macmaster, Lindsay Just, Chelsey Wasielewski, Norman Briggs, Robin Ryan, Rachel [last name unknown], Alyssa Neuser, Michael Kemp, Ramsey Lee, Sarah Smith, Denise Johnson, Mark Wakefield (?), Maria Kielma 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, and Council members and guests introduced themselves. Roger offered congratulations to Sue Shemanski on her retirement and thanked her for her many years of service on the Council. He welcomed Nichol Grathen as the new WCHSA representative on the Council. He also welcomed Sen. Eric Wimberger as the new Majority party representative, and Sen. Janet Bewley introduced Sen. Jeff Smith as her replacement as Minority party representative.

**Approval of December 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes:** Council members and staff noted a few changes needed for the minutes: (1) Terry Schemenauer did attend the Dec. meeting; (2) corrected clarification on

whether lab drug tests are separately reimbursable under the RSUD benefit. Mary Gerrard motioned to approve the minutes, Sandy Hardie seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously, with changes incorporated into final version.

**Public Comments:** Mark Wakefield (?) with Attic Community Corrections believed that the proposed DHS 75 rules time frames for clinical supervision and medical director approvals are too short.

**Provider Updates on Services during Covid-19 Pandemic:** Harold Gates noted the disparity in vaccination rates among person of color and marginalized populations. Issues still exist getting information out to these groups and providing vaccination sites that are easily accessible for those groups. David Macmaster noted that recovery communities have made good transitions into virtual settings and adapting to Zoom meetings. Wisconsin Voices for Recovery has increased its outreach during this period, a very positive development. Christine Ullstrup mentioned that overdose rates are higher than during prior, pre-Covid years. Residential treatment programs have had to adapt, decreasing the number of available beds. When they reopen to full capacity, they will be pushed to their limits.

### **Committee Updates:**

#### **Executive Committee**

Roger Frings provided the update, noting the Committee met in February to discuss a **motion from the Prevention Committee to act on behalf of the full Council in opposing SB 22/AB 32**, the “Cocktails to Go” bill. Chris Wardlow directed Council members to the Motion document in the Booklet and gave some background on the Prevention Committee’s concern. The bill would promote greater access to alcohol by minors, increase risk of drinking and driving, allow people to buy alcohol from restaurants, taverns, bars, etc., for offsite consumption, and overall increase access to alcohol. The bill was intended to help food service industry but there are other concerning issues created, especially that there is no expiration date or sunset law built in, making these changes permanent. In addition, there’s no requirements that food be purchased, no limit on size of container or limit of number of beverages purchased by one person. Anne DeGarmo clarified how the bill impacts how sellers would use “sealed container” to convey sold alcohol. In addition, the Prevention Committee is asking the Council to oppose SB 56/AB 70 (Click N’ Collect bill) and SB 57/AB 71 (Alcohol Delivery bill), as both would promote more unfettered access to alcohol, particularly by underage persons.

Sue Shemanski suggested that all three bills should be combined into the motion opposing legislation, Christine Ullstrup and Dr. Subhadeep Barman agreed. **Sandy Hardie moved to amend the Prevention Committee original motion to also include opposition to SB 56/AB 70 and SB 57/AB 71. Dr. Barman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, with four abstentions** (Jan Grebel, Tina Virgil, Carl Hampton, Roger Frings, and Tony Peterangelo).

**Sue Shemanski then moved that the Council approved the amended motion to voice its opposition to all three bills to the Governor’s Office and legislators, and Mary Ann Gerrard seconded. The motion carried unanimously, with five abstentions** (Jan Grebel, Tina Virgil, Roger Frings, Sen. Wimberger, and Carl Hampton).

In addition, Roger noted that Council passed a motion in the Dec. 2020 meeting to support to the Room and Board coverage in Gov. Evers' proposed budget. His signed memo expressing that support on behalf of the Council was recently sent to legislators.

### **Diversity Committee**

Harold Gates provided the update, and welcomed Jamelia Hand to the Committee. Harold went over committee ideas for the past year and the plan to continue to move with strategic planning goals. The Committee received an update from Mike Derr on the SABG two-year planning process, and is looking at its 2021 goals, and CLAS standard implementation ideas. In addition, the Committee has explored funding to promote diversity expansion efforts. Members are involved in ongoing advocacy and education for CLAS and workforce development. The Committee presented its proposal for upcoming Fall MHSUR Conference. The Committee decided to meet four times per year, along with ad hoc meetings as needed.

Harold also gave an update on the Equity & Inclusion Ad Hoc Workgroup activities, starting with the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> kickoff meeting. The Workgroup is looking for equity on policies and procedures across the state, and to develop recommendations that align with Governor's Executive Order #59, and Governor's Advisory Council on Equity and Inclusion. The Workgroup is looking how its mission, goals and objectives relate to the SCAODA strategic plan and standing committees' plans. Members are asking: Who, what and where are the needs and how do we address them? Other associations nationally have put out statements on equity and inclusion. He is seeking participation from every standing committee. The ultimate goal is to help make life better for everyone in the state.

Initially, the Workgroup was to issue a final report and set of recommendations by the June SCAODA meeting. Roger Frings noted that over the last few weeks the WI Mental Health Council also wants to play a role in this. Both are Councils are working together on these issues. Roger clarified that the Workgroup will need additional time throughout the year to do its work and formulate a series of recommendations for addressing equity and inclusion needs and issues. At the June 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the Workgroup will provide an overview on work achieved to date. He thanked Thai and Harold for taking the lead on this.

### **Intervention & Treatment Committee**

Roger Frings and Saima Chauhan provided the update. Carl Hampton of DSPS is working with ITC on resolving worker credentialing and certification issues. Roger thanked him for his involvement and helping work through challenges. David Macmaster anticipated that DHS 75 rule changes will be well received, and that an ad hoc workgroup looking at strategies for promoting tobacco treatment as equivalent and similar in priority and importance with other forms of alcohol and drug use treatment. Saima mentioned that Amanda Lake Cismesia is now the Bureau's Substance Abuse Services Section chief, and that Andrea Jacobsen is the assistant Bureau director. Saima also noted the benefits of telehealth service delivery as recounted by ITC members.

### **Planning and Funding Committee**

Christine Ullstrup gave the update. Committee members devoted time discussing the new Medicaid RSUD coverage benefit. Members expressed several concerns: Many providers opted out. The reimbursement rate does not cover costs. Room and board costs are not covered by MA; counties have varied with their policies on whether to cover room and board, and may have expressed lack of clarity on whether they can use SABG funds. Also, the DHS Medicaid team has been very helpful. Also, the Committee

survey is almost finalized to ascertaining from residential treatment providers on why they participated or opted out of MA. The Committee will share survey results with the full Council.

Also, the P&F Committee reviewed the Governor's Budget proposals, looking at areas that would be helpful for SUD and mental health services. The Committee strongly supports BadgerCare expansion as proposed by Gov. Evers. In addition, the Committee submitted a workshop session proposal to the MHSUR Conference planners, very similar to last year's proposal that focused on providing participants with information on advocacy and effective use of SCAODA resources. Finally, the Committee continues to seek new members. Ramsey Lee offered a suggestion for seeking members who can speak to services meeting the needs of persons with disabilities.

## **Prevention Committee**

Chris Wardlow provided the update. He thanked the full council for approving the motions to oppose the three alcohol related bills. At the Jan. 2021 meeting, Maggie Northrup presented several Healthy Wisconsin alcohol strategies. The Committee will infuse CLAS language into all of its policies and projects. Also, the Committee has recently focused on availability of more harm reduction resources. Mai Zong Vue presented to the Committee on CLAS standards. Chris also referenced in the meeting booklet the WI Alcohol Prevention Ad hoc Workgroup efforts and reports. Seven discussion groups have been formed for the ad hoc Workgroup and are meeting currently to gather information. Chris offered thanks to Raina Haralampopoulos for her great work and assistance.

## **FY 2021 Synar Report and Update:**

Nancy Michaud with the DHS Division of Public Health presented on the Synar Report. In the 1990s, federal regulations were developed to decrease access to tobacco products for minors. The legislation directed states to keep retail sales to youth below 20% or lose 10% of SABG funding. This is done by conducting year-round compliance checks, which are completed through the WI WINS campaign. Retailer violation rates are compiled by conducting random, unannounced inspections of licensed retailers. Typically, the survey is conducted in June of each calendar year but due to COVID-19 and the inability to conduct compliance checks, no survey was conducted last year. There are no concerns about loss of funding as states were provided a three-year transition period to update Synar regulation compliance. Currently, funding is being used to conduct community outreach and education/resources for retailers. The hope is that the increased education will continue promoting low retailer violation rates.

There is confusion among retailers and municipal officials related to the discrepancies between the state law allowing for tobacco sales at age 18 but the federal law being age 21. A campaign was launched to educate retailers and consumers on the federal law and to provide resources for consumers aged 18-21 who may previously have been allowed to purchase tobacco products and are in need of cessation assistance. Projects overseen by the Tobacco Prevention & Control Program within DPH target parents of middle school age youth to bring awareness to the changing dynamics surrounding tobacco use, including the ease of youths ability to hide vaping. There is an additional emphasis being placed on education regarding menthol cigarettes targeting the African American community.

## **Update on the DOJ's Overdose Fatality Review Project:**

Derek Veitenheimer and Starr Moss provided information on the WI Department of Justice's Overdose Fatality Review Teams (OFR) data collection efforts. The goals of OFR is to better understand the nature of overdose fatalities through comprehensive information sharing, to develop innovative, proactive

responses and to strategically focus limited enforcement and intervention activities on identifiable risks. There are 17 teams representing 20 counties currently completing overdose fatality reviews. The OFR team members shared information related to circumstances and risk factors to build a shared understanding of gaps in service that may increase overdose risk. Data is collected thru REDCAP and allows for comparisons of risk factors and identifies themes that can lead to recommendations for prevention of future deaths. DHS has recently provided teams with 2 years of prescription drug monitoring and hospital discharge data to help cross reference data and identify additional prevention opportunities.

In response to David Macmaster's question, Derek responded that tobacco use is currently not being tracked as part of this project; however, there is a cross reference to fatal drug combinations being looked at. It is OFR's hope that this will be an ongoing project, which continues to grow with a statewide advisory council being created to adopt statewide and localized approaches to overdose deaths in WI.

### **State Agency Updates:**

**DVD:** Delora Newton, the DVR Administrator with the Department of Workforce Development (DVD), clarified that substance use disorders are considered a disability and that DVR can assist individuals who feel their SUD prevents them from getting or keeping a job. Last year, 306 individuals who identified SUD as their primary disability were served. An array of services can be offered to individuals, including career counseling, education, skills development, and other individualized services.

**DHS:** Paul Krupski updated the council on the statewide COVID response noting that Wisconsin has hit a plateau with new cases. The rates of vaccination are outpacing rates of infection. Wisconsin has administered over 1.5 million first doses of COVID vaccines (approximately 16% of the population). The goal is for 80% of the state population to be given vaccines. Wisconsin has administered 94% of the vaccines it has been allotted and ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in doses administered. The demand for vaccine outpaces the supply.

Paul provided an overview of the Governor's budget with a reminder that the budget is a ways off from finalization. It was noted that the proposed budget makes substantial effort to address behavioral health, mental health and equity and disparity issues. These include such resources as Medicaid expansion and specific line items related to substance use disorders and harm reduction initiatives. The Governor has also proposed the legalization of the sale of marijuana for recreational use. Sixty percent of the excise tax collected would support community reinvestment efforts and allow additional staff to regulate marijuana sales and production.

The RSUD benefit through Medicaid was rolled out on February 1, 2021 and although there have been some implementation struggles, the roll out has gone well. Over 36 providers (60% of DQA certified residential providers) have enrolled thus far. Over 250 prior authorizations approvals have been completed and a variety of DHS offices continue to provide ongoing technical assistance to providers. The Hub and Spoke Model initiative continues to progress with anticipated roll out on June 1, 2021. Three pilot sites have been selected and work continues with the sites in order to ensure a smooth transition.

Act 120 called for DHS to develop a Recovery Residence Registry. Last month, information was posted to the DHS website to provide information on how to submit a registry application. In order to receive state funding or receive referrals from state funded sites, the recovery residence program must be on the registry. Although these programs are not *certified* through the state, complaints regarding the residences will be handled by Division of Quality Assurance (DQA). Beginning in April 2022, sites will be required to provide for individuals who receive MAT services.

**DVA:** Colleen Rinken spoke on the Veterans Outreach and Recovery program, which is again back out on the streets providing 1:1 services as well as taking new enrollments. The ability to provide these services was limited during COVID. Services are also provided to veterans who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of becoming homeless. The Veterans Housing Recovery program is posted on their website information to ease concerns of those who are concerned about living in congregate settings during the COVID pandemic.

**DPI:** Brian Dean highlighted three current grant opportunities, which are due April 19. Money has been distributed to provide peer to peer student suicide prevention, and additional opportunities are available for the school based mental health program and AODA grants.

**DOC:** Dr. Autumn Lacy reported that DOC has joined OFR committees and these partnerships allowed DOC to increase services related to an increase in overdose deaths that were experienced among the corrections population during the pandemic. DOC is currently working with Medical College of Wisconsin and has developed an Overdose Response Team within DOC with a cross section of divisions. The plan is to review two clients each month with a cross section of data to see who is most vulnerable to overdose death within their population with the goal being to identify trends and provide policy changes. A decision has been made to not reopen MSDF so community options for treatment are being looked at. There have been recent policy changes including language around requiring treatment interventions rather than incarceration as a response to substance use violations and the addition of contract language to provide additional telehealth services, as this allows for additional treatment options for clients.

**Office of Commissioner of Insurance (OCI):** Sara Smith discussed budget items that the agency is prioritizing and advocating for. These are represented in the belief that every Wisconsinite deserves access to quality health care and prescription medication affordability and increased access to telehealth services. OCI has been charged with developing a state-based exchange marketplace to increase Wisconsinites' access to health care, reducing the costs of prescription drugs and providing for less out of pocket costs for individuals and families.

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

Mike Derr reported that Wisconsin would be receiving approximately \$25.5 million dollars in additional SABG funds and \$28.4 million in MHBG funds, which must be used between March 2021 and March 2023. The majority of this funding will likely go to counties and tribes to address gaps that were identified due to COVID. DHS is seeking approval from SAMHSA for increased flexibility with the use of this funding. The SABG/MHBG 2022-23 Application Plan is due to SAMHSA by September 2021; the Plan identifies and strategizes prevention, treatment and recovery programs for the next funding cycle.

Upcoming trainings and conferences were listed in the Booklet, and the Bureau expects that trainings and conference will continue to be held in a virtual format throughout 2021. Amanda Lake provided an update on DHS 75. The proposed rule is now with the Legislative Committee for Review and clarification. It is expected the rule will be approved in mid to late 2021. Allison Weber provided an update on the Small Talks Campaign, which launched last year encouraging adult to begin talking to youth about the dangers of alcohol use beginning at age 8. April is Alcohol Awareness Month and there will be another push for Small Talks.

**Report from Wisconsin Council on Mental Health:** No report was provided.

**Agenda Items for June 4, 2021 Meeting:**

Roger clarified that this will be a virtual meeting. Dr Barman requested to do a presentation on digital therapeutics. Mike Derr will provide the SABG update on the grant application and needs assessment. An update will be provided from the Equity and Inclusion ad hoc Workgroup. Ramsey Lee requested that SCAODA provide member support for the Governor's Disability Council. Additional items or suggestions should be emailed to Mike or Roger.

**Meeting Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made by Tina Virgil. Seconded by Terry Schemenauer. No discussion or objections, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM.