

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: Wisconsin Council on Mental Health: Nominating Committee			Attending: Kevin Florek, Christine Ullstrup, Jennifer Stegall, Autumn Lacy, Nichol Wienkes, Denise Johnson, Jessica Geschke, Michael Morgen, Paula Jolly, Faith Price, Ritu Bhatnagar, Sarah Barry, Staff to Senator Jesse James, John Achter, Marjean Griggs, Latisha Spence-Brookens, Jennifer Fahey, Paul Krupski, Chrissy Barnard, Elizabeth Salisbury-Afshar, Jan Grebel, Michael Morgen, Dave Considine, Jenny Fahey, Jeremy Gundlach Guests: Chris Wardlow, Hannah Huffman, Beth Collier, Njemeh Barrow, Emily Bourne, Kate Block, Jolee Buhr, Melissa Moore, Miah Olson, Sheila Weix, Daniel Duquette, Ashley Normington, Brian Dean, Danielle Long, Jodie Sorenson, Kathy Peterson, Kenna Arvold, Maria Castillo, Robyn Thibado, Meagan Barnett, Saima Chauhan, Maureen Busalacchi Department of Health Services Staff: Hannah Foley Jason Cram, Allison Weber, Michelle Haese, Alex Berg
Date: 12/6/2024	Time Started: 9:34 AM	Time Ended: 12:30 PM	
Location: Zoom			Presiding Officer: Kevin Florek
Minutes			

Meeting of the State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)

December 6, 2024

9:30 AM to 1:00 PM

<https://dhs.wi.zoomgov.com/j/1605250713>

1. **Call Meeting to Order-** K. Florek called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Review and approval of the minutes of September 6, 2024.

J. Stegall moved to accept the minutes. C. Ullstrup seconded the motion. Motion carried; minutes approved.

2. Updates from the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH)

Christine Barnard with the WCMH shared the following updates from the WCMH November 20th meeting:

Sheryl Smith shared an update regarding the Mental Health Action Partnership (MHAP). MHAP is a broad, sustainable mental health coalition gathered to advance service system improvement with the aim that every person in Wisconsin who wants or needs mental/behavioral health care will be able to easily access quality care in their community. A virtual summit will occur in [December](#).

Kimberlee Coronado shared that November is National Caregiver Month and recommended the documentary, *Unseen*, which showcases “the mental, physical and financial struggle of family caregivers costs us all” (caregiverdoc.com).

Trish Kilpin shared that the 3rd Annual Wisconsin Peer Support Conference will take place from March 17th-19th, 2025 at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. To learn more, please visit: <https://wisdoj.eventsair.com/statewide-peer-support-conference-2025>.

Karen Odegard shared an update regarding the Wisconsin State Budget and will be recommending a Medicaid expansion for the 2025 Budget. It is expected that Governor Evers may announce the Budget in January or February

2025. For more information, please visit: You can find the DHS budget request and cover letter [here](#). Odegaard shared an update regarding \$780 million in national opioid prescription settlements through 2038. 30% of these dollars will be allocated to DHS, the remaining 70% will be allocated to counties. DHS will be seeking public input via survey on how best to put these funds in Wisconsin. Odegaard also shared an update regarding the Legislative Council Study Committee on Emergency Detention and Civil Commitment of Minors as it pertains to minors. After these reviews, the committee will recommend youth appropriate measures regarding detention. Odegaard clarified that this Committee is not directly associated with DHS but DHS does provide information and feedback to this committee. You can review past meeting materials and recordings and see upcoming agendas here: <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2024/2698>.

3. Presentation on eRecovery and the Connections App: Catherine Connell, Director, Public Sector Partnerships at CHESS Health.

Catherine Connell with CHESS Health shared an in-depth presentation with SCAODA. CHESS Health is a digital health company with a mission to address the individual and societal crisis of substance use disorders (SUD) and provide evidence-based solutions to assist individuals who are in the SUD lifecycle. Through working with industry stakeholders, including SUD/MH providers, health plans, state/local governments, and community organization, Connell shared that CHESS aims to support individuals in need through automating community prevention efforts (ePrevention), connect individuals with vital services (eIntervention), and support recovery every minute of every day (eRecovery). Connell showcased eRecovery through the Connections App. Available in English and Spanish (Conexiones App), the app utilizes CHESS Certified Peers to provide services to users with the goal to reduce SUD rates and overdose deaths. With an aim to close gaps in treatment, sustain recovery between treatment visits and in aftercare with 24/7 support for family members/loved ones and individuals with SUD, the Connections App aims to remove barriers to care (transportation, language, stigma) while streamlining the linkage to care process. Connell highlighted various sections of the Connections App including its homepage which is tailored to each user. The homepage showcased days in recovery, options to check in daily for self-assessments and sobriety measures, celebrate/share milestones and achievements, and connect and interact with others in recovery through 24/7 moderated conversations. A demonstration for the daily check in was shown- if an app user says “yes, they are doing okay today,” they get a motivational message; if they answer “no,” the app automatically triggers an outreach from peers to help with care coordination and early warning signs.

Connell shared that specialized support groups for LGBTQIA+, veterans, ethnic and religious groups and more also exist for individuals who are searching for extra supports from peers. Digital Cognitive Behavioral Theory (CBT) modules from Yale University were created for the app assist in building recovery and coping skills for individuals using the app. Connell shared that a health screening initiative occurred in New Mexico where QR codes were installed at bus stops by state health officials. These QR codes, according to Connell, have led to hundreds of screenings and significant public health engagement as they are readily available for individuals. The system allows for customizable interventions, including primary prevention and harm reduction content, and offers a referral network tailored to the user’s needs. Metrics show that 93% of engaged individuals interacted with automated interventions, and 15% took immediate actions, such as connecting to care or local resources. Connell shared that the system also provides real-time data on referral success rates and public health campaign effectiveness, with examples of successful implementations in schools and community outreach.

4. Presentation on Annual SYNAR Report: Nancy Michaud, Youth Access Programs Coordinator, Tobacco Prevention & Control Program

Nancy Michaud shared an updated on the Annual SYNAR Report with the Council, highlighting that there is a common goal in the state to prevent the underage sale of tobacco to youth and young adults. Michaud shared that this is done

through programs such as Wisconsin Wins which checks compliance on state laws for tobacco sales to ensure that the state is in compliance with federal regulations.

5. SCAODA Committee Updates

Executive Committee

The Committee discussed the departure of Jennifer Stegall, Vice Chair to SCAODA Council. In the interim J. Stegall's Council role as a designee for the Commissioner of Insurance will be filled by Jill Kelly. The Vice Chair position will remain vacant and must be recruited for. The Committee discussed recruitment efforts that could be conducted within existing Committee and Council members or expanding to new members.

Diversity Committee

Denise Johnson shared that Christina Malone resigned as Committee Chair and the committee is discussing if they can continue to meet. At their most recent meeting on October 15th, the Committee had a presentation regarding harm reduction

Intervention and Treatment Committee

No updates.

Planning and Funding Committee

The committee discussed how they felt the SCAODA workshop went at the Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference, held October 17-18 at the Kalahari Conference Center. SCAODA's workshop hosted 80 - 100 attendees. The committee was pleased with the turnout and engagement of the audience. K. Dawson shared a summary of what questions were asked in the Question & Answer portion of the workshop. About 20 questions were asked, all of which are documented on the [Public Meeting & Notice site](#) for this meeting, under "Meeting Documents." Additionally, the PowerPoint slides from the workshop are stored under "Meeting Documents."

The Committee then transitioned to discussing other workshops of interest that they attended at the conference. B. Collier shared about an Intensive Outpatient benefit to be released in 2025. More information can be found here: [ForwardHealth Update 2024-38 - New Intensive Outpatient Program Benefit](#).

C. Ullstrup then shared about attending the DHS listening session. She shared that Act 122 set up Rule 72 for billing for recovery coaches. Pam Lano responded that in the new 72, there are a list of required trainings for recovery coaches and that those competencies mostly came from that of certified peer specialists. This means that certified peer specialists have met requirements and can be billed for too. J. Gamez clarified that in the code there is not just one pathway. So long as certified peer specialist have the documented training required, and a supervisor, they are qualified to be billed as a recovery coach. For more information, see: [dhs-72-105-and-107-act-122-proposed-rule-order \(wisconsin.gov\)](#), bottom of page 7 "DHS 72.05 Training, orientation, and continuing education requirements." Also visit, [Administrative Rules | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#), particularly for instructions for submitting [public comment](#) on DHS 72.

The Committee discussed that also in the DHS listening session, they encouraged DHS to advocate for 1115 waivers for serving individuals who are incarcerated, funding room and board services, and providing contingency management amounts that are evidenced-based. When asked at the listening session about the limit on contingency management, DHS responded that it's easier to do across the board policy change – as opposed to having different rules based on funding source. This as an issue the Planning and Funding Committee is interested in continuing to pursue.

Prevention Committee

C. Wardlow shared that the Px Committee discussed to what degree the Px Committee ought to be involved in helping to form a statewide network. It was pointed out, however, that doing so advances the Prevention Committee's targeted advocacy actions in its 2024-2027 Work Plan.

Wardlow shared that the committee discussed potential focus and purpose of a Statewide Network for Prevention Professionals with major wishes being:

- Connect all practitioners and advocates of substance use prevention (SUP) across the state to facilitate networking, advocacy, support, and enrichment. Enhance communication between the SUP field and Prevention Committee (SCAODA) in order to inform the priorities and work of the Committee but also to rally the SUP field on taking collective statewide action on the Committee's recommendations.
- Focus on key issues as defined at the state and local levels, advocacy, lobbying and mentorship. Discussed how other entities can support this. Mentoring to connect preventionist across the state and experience/skill levels. Capitalize on and connect the knowledge and experiences of preventionist that have been in the field for a long time with newer individuals.
- Discussed gaps in prevention work, staff turnover, knowledge, experience, skill levels, and funding. A network could support sharing best practices, what works in prevention, successes, collaborations, mentorship and more to help move the needle of prevention. Discussed the value of being able to align efforts and foster collaboration from state and local levels, reduce entities working in silos and enhance value and efforts of intersection and collaboration. This network could provide a backbone structure and support. Without it, it's hard to successfully do the work. Maureen is willing to be a liaison between entities, committees, and partners to help align efforts to take advocacy and prevention to the next level.

6. Agency Reports:

Department of Health Services

Paul Krupski shared a link to DHS' [Medicaid expansion and budget expansions for 2025 State Budget](#).

Other Agencies

Autumn Lacy with the Department of Corrections shared that the DOC is expanding Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in prison systems.

7. Updates from the Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery

Jason Cram shared the following updates with the council:

- [Current Grant Funding Opportunities | Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/conferences.htm>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/dcts/memos/info/202403infomemo.pdf>

8. Call for future SCAODA agenda items

- K. Florek requested members share which 2025 Conferences they plan on attending
- K. Florek requested DHS to present more on the Grant funding opportunities/State Opioid Response Grant

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the governmental business outlined in the above agenda. The Council's primary function is providing leadership in Wisconsin on substance use disorder (SUD) issues, advising Wisconsin state

agencies on SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery activities, and coordinating SUD planning and funding initiatives across state agencies. The Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery within DHS staffs the Council. DHS is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you need accommodations because of a disability, need an interpreter or translator, or need this material in another language or format, you may request assistance to participate by Hannah Foley at Hannah.Foley@wisconsin.gov or 608-261-0658.

Prepared by: Hannah Foley on 12/22/2024.

These minutes are in draft form. They will be presented for approval by the governmental body on: 3/6/2025