

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)			Attending: See below
Date: 6/5/2020	Time Started: 9:34 am	Time Ended: 12:42 pm	
Location: via Zoom conference call			Presiding Officer: Roger Frings, SCAODA Chairperson
<b>Minutes</b>			

Members Present: Roger Frings, Subhadeep Barman, Christine Ullstrup, Kevin Florek, Thai Vue, Autumn Lacy, Jessica Geschke, Tina Virgil, Brian Dean, Paul Krupski (for DHS), Mary Ann Gerrard, Terry Schemenauer, Sue Shemanski, Representative Jill Billings, Natalie Aicher (for Senator Patrick Testin), Senator Janet Bewley, Jan Grebel, John Weitekamp, Mark Wegner

Members Excused: Julie Willems Van Dijk, Sandy Hardie, Michael Knetzger

Ex Officio Members Present: Ann DeGarmo, Delora Newton, Carl Hampton, Andrew Putney, Fil Clissa

Ex Officio Members Excused: Kenyon Kies, Timothy Weir, Colleen Rinken, Jennifer Wickman

Staff: Mike Derr, Joyce Allen, Teresa Steinmetz, Ryan Stachoviak, Andrea Jacobson, Allison Weber, Christine Niemuth, Dennis Radloff, Gary Roth, Amanda Lake Cismesia, Sarah Coyle, Bernestine Jeffers, Tabitha Beckwith, Beth Collier, Kenneth Ginlack, Lori Wiebold, Anne Larson, Rebecca Main, Joann Stephens, Mai Zong Vue, Kimberly Wild, Cindy Matz

Guests: Amy Anderson, Michelle Devine Giese, Harold Gates, Raeanna Johnson, Sheila Weix, Saima Chauhan, David Macmaster, Jill Gamez, Chris Wardlow, Nicole Keeler and Amy Simonsen (2 ASL interpreters), Denise Johnson, Nancy Michaud, Lynn Harrigan, Sandra Westerman, Kathy Markeland, Eugenia Sousa

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**Call to Order:** Roger Frings called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

**Introductions:** Members introduced themselves, via the Zoom videoconference.

**Announcements:** Chairperson Roger Frings welcomed everyone to the very first SCAODA Zoom meeting and expressed his appreciation for everyone's patience. He gave out reminders on using the mute and chat functions, and confirmed that the meeting was not recorded. Frings introduced the newest Council members: Jessica Geschke, Dr. Andrew Putney, Terry Schemenauer, and Carl Hampton.

**Approval of December 13, 2019 meeting minutes:** Tina Virgil moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Christine Ullstrup. Motion carried. (The March 13, 2020 meeting was cancelled.)

**Public input:** No public input was provided.

**Provider updates on services & challenges during Covid-19:** Thai Vue expanded on the many difficulties that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused society, and expressed frustration with the lack of resources available to treat Covid-19 for the Hmong population. Vue stated that leaders had expressed preparedness falsely, and hopes that the country is better prepared in the near future. Kevin Florek shared that Tellurian remained open since the

beginning of the pandemic, explaining that these essential services are needed by community. Staff at Tellurian made efforts to comply with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, and assured that everyone used safe health practices in many forms. Despite a notable hit to revenue, Tellurian has remained open. Senator Janet Bewley touched on the topic of access to critical services at hospitals. Specifically, Bewley spoke of Ashland Memorial Medical Center, a hospital that expected \$4 million in losses and closed down childcare treatment in view of the pandemic. In addition, the many individuals who are seeking medical services during the pandemic are also struggling with the availability of Telemedicine access, particularly regarding the usage of and access to phone minutes. Council members and guests also discussed statistics on multiple topics ranging from how Covid-19 has impacted those struggling with mental health or substance use disorders, financial losses, and the limitations and communication barriers that the deaf and hard of hearing population faces due to the usage of face masks and coverings.

Sheila Weix with the Marshfield Clinic spoke about the ability to make a seamless transition into telehealth and thanked the Department of Health Services for their rapid response. Weix expanded on the lack of inpatient services, as well the challenges of connectivity in rural areas that may provide different levels of access to Wi-Fi and telephone use, especially with the arrival of tourists. Council members discussed statistics regarding the lack of personal protection and equipment (PPE) gear, the difficulties of losing in-person services, and the sheer need for more resources altogether. One positive result has been the success and accessibility of funding and waivers permitting telehealth use. Some consumers prefer phone calls over telehealth conferencing. Jill Gamez discussed the differences of working from home with Zoom in comparison to in-person communication and how those differences impact prevention and treatment. Gamez described the challenges for adults working from home, as well as for persons who are experiencing ‘virtual fatigue’ from engaging online instead of in person. Although many programs have been able to transition to telehealth quickly, a common concern involved being able to successfully protect confidentiality.

### **Committee Reports:**

*Executive Committee* – Roger Frings reminded members of the upcoming election for the SCAODA chairperson, vice chair-person and secretary positions. The secretary slot has been vacant since Norman Briggs left the Council. The Nomination committee consists of Sandy Hardie and Sue Shemanski. Any council members who are interested in a leadership role are encouraged to contact either Committee member or Mike Derr. Also, the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will not be held at American Family. Frings will look into whether his agency can host the meeting, if in-person meetings can be held by then.

*Diversity Committee* – Thai Vue reported that at the last Diversity Committee meeting on January 4th, committee members requested a professional facilitator to assist with planning. However, these plans have been postponed in view of the pandemic. The diversity presentation for the upcoming Fall Recovery conference has been postponed as well, and the future conference date is to be determined. The Diversity Committee is also looking for someone to serve as the co-chair.

*Intervention and Treatment Committee (ITC)* – Roger Frings reported a summary of the Committee discussion at its April and May meetings. The Committee brought before the Council its motion that was originally raised but tabled at the December 13, 2019 meeting.

**Motion: The ITC encourages the Department of Health Services to recognize Tobacco Use Disorder (TUD) and encourages Wisconsin SUD professionals to assess and treat TUDs with evidence-based treatment practices including interventions proven to motivate individuals to try to quit. Further, ITC requests that State regulatory and credentialing bodies establish this as the standard of care in Wisconsin.**

Subhadeep Barman moved to approve and Thai Vue seconded. All Council members approved motion except Natalie Aicher, who abstained on behalf of Senator Testin. Motion carried.

*Planning and Funding Committee* – Christine Ullstrup mentioned that the Fall Mental Health and Substance Use Recovery Conference has been switched to a remote conference for three days – Oct. 28-30<sup>th</sup>. She and DHS just learned that the Committee’s proposed open forum and advocacy session was accepted, so the Council’s listening session will occur during the main portion of the conference. The Committee brought a motion before the Council to consider.

**Motion:** SCAODA encourages Department of Health Services to consider policies and practices ensuring that existing non-profit grant recipients who receive a new grant award continue receiving payments in the new year during the period when the new contract is not yet fully executed.

Christine Ullstrup moved for the council to approve motion, and Senator Janet Bewley seconded. Teresa Steinmetz, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery Deputy Director, expanded on some of DHS’s history with contracting and its current payment structure in relation to the motion. Several years ago, advance payments to non-profit grantees was discontinued department-wide to align with Medicaid rules prohibiting the use of advance payments. Also, department-wide changes to the contracting process and the associated learning curve has contributed to delays. Furthermore, the number of contracts administered annually by the Bureau has dramatically increased (now more than 700) due to the launching of several new grant programs, without corresponding increases in contract specialists. Last winter, the Bureau hired a new full-time contract specialist, Cindy Matz. Having an additional specialist has noticeably reduced time for processing contracts, cutting the overtime lapse by half. Thirteen Council members Grebel, Lacy, Barman, Dean, Schemenauer, Florek, Rep. Billings, Weitekamp, Vue, Shemanski, Gerrard, Ullstrup and Sen. Bewley approved the motion. One member (Tina Virgil) opposed the motion. Four members -- Natalie Aicher (for Sen. Testin), Paul Krupski (for Julie Willems Van Dijk), Jessica Geschke and Roger Frings abstained. Motion approved.

*Prevention Committee* – Chris Wardlow provided a committee update and expanded on the Small Talks campaign, which launched during the spring. The Committee brought two motions for Council consideration.

**Motion #1:** SCAODA will write a letter requesting the Governor and Legislature to clarify and/or revise for public health and health and human service agencies the statutes regarding the prescribing, dispensing and delivery of an opioid antagonist. Furthermore, the Prevention Committee asks SCAODA request clarification of the intent of the Governor and Legislature to include public organizations under the Good Samaritan Law (Wis. Stat. §450.11 par. c).

Frings moved to approve motion and Barman seconded. After a brief discussion, the vote was taken. All present Council members approved the motion, except Natalie Aicher (for Sen. Testin), who abstained. Motion approved.

**Motion #2:** Form an alcohol prevention ad hoc workgroup that would develop a recommendation report and a public health response to issues related to alcohol use.

Frings moved to approve the motion and Thai Vue seconded. After no further discussion took place a vote ensued on the motion. All present Council members approved the motion. Motion approved. Thai Vue encouraged the prevention committee to include a representative from a non-traditional or under-represented group on the new ad hoc workgroup.

**Presentations:**

Nancy Michaud provided an update on the FFY 2020 Synar report. In 2019, the state’s violation rate was down to 5.5%. She reminded Council members of the initial Synar amendment limiting tobacco sales at the legal age of 18, and the requirement that states maintain a violation rate under 20%. Recent federal legislation raised the legal age limit to 21. Michaud also discussed the tentative plan to continue compliance checks including random and unannounced with retail distributors, as well as outreach details for businesses and schools, and the

usage of flavored and non-flavored tobacco products by youth. Given Covid-19, it may be unfeasible to conduct in-person compliance checks, and DHS will seek guidance from SAMHSA on variances to requirements.

Paul Krupski spoke on behalf of Julie Willems Van Dijk to thank everyone for their support and ongoing work with the State Emergency Operations Response team to provide COVID-19 support. Regarding the Hub & Spoke Initiative, Krupski stated that more information will be shared next week with stakeholders. The DHS Secretary's Office will provide a COVID-19 overview on moving forward, staying safe, containing, testing, isolating those that are ill, and boxing in the virus as best as possible, plus vigilance and prep for a potential surge this fall.

**Agency reports:**

*Governor's Office* – no report.

*Department of Health Services* – no report.

*Department of Safety & Professional Services* – no report.

*Department of Revenue* – no report.

*Department of Public Instruction* - no report.

*Department of Veterans Affairs* - no report.

*Department of Justice* - Tina Virgil shared that services, resources and funds that are available specifically to tribes on effective Covid-19 services. The intoximeter pilot program was supposed to end in 2016, but was extended and as of 2019 the final report was submitted. The program itself is no longer available. The spring Drug Take Back Day was cancelled, however, drug take back boxes are available to people in their communities. More information is available on the agency's website. She will share the Treatment Alternatives and Diversion (TAD) Program 2020 report with the Council.

**Bureau of Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Update:** Joyce Allen provided a general BPTR update, explaining that trainings and conferences that have changed to virtual meetings have been listed in the booklet on pages 109-111 of the booklet. Allen also expanded on the emergency order in relation to Covid-19, the overview of responses and activities and some staff transitions. Bernestine Jeffers and Cecie Culp have moved on to new positions, and hired Andrea Jacobson as the Substance Abuse Section Chief, and Kenneth Ginlack as the AODA treatment coordinator. Allen also shared that she will be retiring from her position in early August, and that Teresa Steinmetz will meanwhile update the Council of bureau activities. Additionally, Amanda Lake Cismesia provided a brief update on the DHS 75 rulemaking project, explaining that the rule is back from Office of Legal Counsel with comments and recommended edits. The next formal steps will involve public posting and a comment period. Roger Frings thanks Allen for all of her work and many years of service.

**Report from Wisconsin Council on Mental Health:** Mike Derr shared that the Mental Health Council's March meeting was cancelled, then met in May. As the council continues to work on budget priorities, more information on mental health priorities will come with future meetings.

**Agenda Items for Future Meetings:** Roger Frings shared potential details for the following future meetings: A shorter Council meeting in July or early August focusing on the Behavioral Health System Gaps Analysis findings; the September Council, if in person, could be held at the Office of Commissioner of Insurance; a future Council meeting should be held out of Madison in a rural setting. Other upcoming meeting topics included recovery housing presentations by Christine Ullstrup and Michelle Devine Giese, the Wisconsin

Voices for Recovery and the Safe Harbor programs, and the September meeting election of the Council chair, vice chair and secretary positions.

**Meeting Adjournment:** Roger thanks all in attendance and wished everyone well, to stay healthy, to be kind, and to take care until the next meeting. Frings moved to adjourn, Christine Ullstrup seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed. Meeting adjourned at 12:42p.m.

Prepared by: Michael Derr on 7/31/2020.

Council approved minutes on: 8/7/2020