

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Instructions: [F-01922A](#)

Name of Governmental Body: State Council on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (SCAODA)			Attending: See below
Date: 12/4/2020	Time Started: 9:33 am	Time Ended: 12:58 pm	
Location: via Zoom conference call			Presiding Officer: Roger Frings, Chairperson
Minutes			

Members Present: Roger Frings, Christine Ullstrup, Sandy Hardie, Sen. Janet Bewley, Sue Shemanski, Mary Ann Gerrard, Natalie Aicher (for Sen. Patrick Testin), Rep. Jill Billings, Jan Grebel, Kevin Florek, Tina Virgil, Terry Schemenauer, Brian Dean, Julie Willems Van Dijk, Dr. Subhadeep Barman, Thai Vue, John Weitekamp, Autumn Lacy

Members Excused: Jessica Geschke, Mike Knetzger

Ex Officio Members Present: Colleen Rincken, Carl Hampton, Ann DeGarmo, Mark Wegner

Ex Officio Members Excused: Kenyon Kies, Delora Newton, Dr. Andrew Putney, Timothy Weir, Jennifer Wickman, Fil Clissa

Staff: Mike Derr, Mai Zong Vue, Sarah Coyle, Teresa Steinmetz, Joann Stephens, Andrea Jacobson, Anne Larson, Madeline Johnson, Allison Weber, Ryan Stachoviak, Dennis Radloff, Rebecca Main, Michelle Lund, Beth Collier, Tim Connor, Raina Haralampopoulos, Amanda Lake Cismesia, Dennis Radloff, Kate Rifken, Gary Roth, Lori Wiebold

Guests: Harold Gates, David Macmaster, Chris Wardlow, Denise Johnson, Michael Basford, Dan Nordstrom, Michelle Devine Giese, Michael Kemp, Sandra Westerman, Raeanna Johnson, Amy Simonsen and Nicole Keeler (ASL interpreters), Kathy Markeland, Abra Vigna, Saima Chauhan, Michael Kemp, James Ahern, Amy Miles, Eugenia Sousa

Call to Order: Meeting began at 9:33am. Chairperson Roger Frings welcomed members and guests. Frings noted that he attended the 8.19.20 meeting of the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities and gave reminder that a member of the Council needs to be selected for the Committee. Introductions began, Zoom meeting protocols and rules were reviewed, and attendance was recorded.

Approval of August 7, 2020 meeting minutes: Tina Virgil moved to approve the August 7th meeting minutes; Mary Ann Gerrard seconded, the motion. No discussion occurred. August 7th meeting minutes were approved without opposition.

Public input: No public comments were offered.

Officer Elections, Nomination Committee: Sue Shemanski facilitated the Officer Election discussion, explaining that the slate of candidates for 2019-20 officers includes: Roger Frings for Chairperson; Sandy Hardie for Vice Chairperson; and Kevin Florek for Secretary. Natalie Aicher stated that Senator Testin abstains from the voting process with no issues or concerns. Tina Virgil moved to approve the slate of candidates, Thai

Vue seconded. All members, other than Sen. Testin, voted in favor of the slate of candidates. All three elected officers expressed their gratitude to serve the Council. Kevin Florek expressed his appreciation for Norman Briggs and his service to the Council and as the past Secretary.

Latest Provider Updates on Services during COVID-19:

Kevin Florek from Tellurian, LLC explained that the program has seen positive COVID-19 tests from employees and clients. Florek noted that all PPE precautions are available and being taken. With university classes back in session, there have been record-high positive tests, resulting in students coming through the detox center for monitoring with public health and the medical director. Suicide attempts and drug overdose rates have also been higher due to the pandemic and people not receiving services.

Sue Shemanski mentioned that the Waushara County outpatient clinic has remained open since the beginning of the epidemic, and currently utilizes both in-person and Web X based services. While these methods work well, a number of clients do not have the necessary Internet access in order to use online services. One struggle resulted from one staff member testing positive, then half of the staff having to avoid thereafter for quarantining.

Thai Vue discussed encouraging agencies and providers to work with Hmong political and social leaders by including them in this process. He was pleased to see the Department of Health Services' expanded COVID-19 website to include Hispanic and Hmong languages. Vue also shared that a Milwaukee television station is providing information on COVID-19 to the Hmong community, and that the program is reaching a great number of people in the Milwaukee area. Hmong organizations are now talking about COVID-19, and the information being provided is also being updated.

Senator Janet Bewley noted that access to the Internet and telehealth services continues to be a major concern, as well as the increase in the number of homeless persons who need services. She also noted the lack of money many Wisconsin communities and agencies face, even despite the availability of CARES Act funds. She's very concerned that these are very despite circumstances.

Roger Frings introduced Michael Basford of the Department of Administrative (DOA) to further highlight problems faced by the homeless and possible resources. One of the first issues in urban and rural areas is a dramatic increase in numbers of unsheltered homeless people who reside outside. Emergency shelters had to address their operations in regards to CDC guidelines for social distancing. Capacity issues have always been a challenge for emergency sheltering. Often they are very cramped spaces where many people are close together. During the pandemic, shelters had to limit the number of people served. Some communities have invested in hotels or other non-congregating locations. Madison used a community center to create a men's socially distant shelter, and Eau Claire is moving its sheltering services to a local ice arena. Other communities, because of reduced capacity, leave many people with no other choice but to go outside.

There are also a number of homeless people that are doubling up in houses with friends and families. Issues arise with lease agreement evictions for those are asked to leave. In community settings where best non congregated settings are available, an active number of people are not going to shelters in fear of becoming infected. There has also been a dramatic increase in encampments with alcohol and drug abuse of all varieties, and outreach workers are having to struggle with that. Currently, the outreach system is overwhelmed and growing. One major concern is the onset of winter. Agencies and communities are planning how to get more people inside during winter months. Funds are also being provided though the CARES act, as well as through

the Department of Housing and Urban Development via emergency solutions such as rapid housing. A first round of funding of almost \$13 million was awarded through the DOA. During the next few months a second round of funding of \$20 million will also be released.

Harold Gates informed participants that the National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs Initiative of New Jersey looks at how to help through the Covid-19 lenses. The Great Lakes Addiction Technical Center Assistance (GLATTC) also provides mental health, prevention and other resources that can be extended to various populations.

Julie Willems Van Dijk shared that DHS continues to have a very active COVID-19 response. The objective is to know the disease, and that the best thing to do is change individual behavior. A mass media campaign continues promoting and emphasizing important actions including masking, physical distancing, hand washing, and staying home if any illness symptoms are present. DHS has also focused on dramatically increasing access to testing. It is too early to predict when a vaccine will be available across the nation as of yet. However, the uptick in disease incidents right now can be linked back to people coming together in congregate settings. It was also discussed that students are coming back to dorms, and some outbreaks have occurred in K-12 schools. Education organizations are currently working to balance the needs of education and controlling disease. Willems Van Dijk also reminded participants that state agencies are developing their proposals for the next state 2021-23 biennium budget.

Mary Ann Gerrard mentioned that the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) provides licenses to substance use disorder and other workers, but the process has been very slow. She encourages the Council working with DSPS to help speed up that process.

Guest Presentations on Housing Recovery:

Meta House: Christine Ullstrup gave a presentation and highlighted slides on Meta House's housing recovery programs. Meta House is located in Milwaukee and currently has 3 different programs. There is a full continuum of care starting with residential treatment. There are 43 beds for women and 15 beds for children under the age of 12. Women are able to bring kids into treatment with them. The recovery housing consists of 16 apartments for families led by women in early recovery. One location holds up to 20 people and the other about 15 women and children. An overview of those who were served in 2019 consists of 34% being in high school, 71% are unemployed, 97% have annual income of less than 20,000, 63% are homeless yet housed and 86% have experienced abuse. About 80% of those who come into Meta House have been to treatment at least once before, and 86% have had criminal justice involvement in their life time. Meta House has been around for 50 years, applying gender specific treatments. 80% of women are survivors of abuse, and receive trauma informed services related to their PTSD symptoms. 80% of women treated are mothers. Many services center on helping women become better mothers, allowing them to feel better about their parenting skills, ability to parent, and their ability to provide. The ability to help children correlates with ability to stay sober.

In 1983, Meta House started looking at bringing children into the facility, considering what happens when residents leave residential care and what kind of challenges they must face in the community. In, 1999, Meta House started housing programs, and from 2000-2003, it constructed its own buildings on 1st street and worked closely with HUD funding to get the programming up and running. (HUD no longer funded recovery housing as of 2015, so funding is a continuous challenge.) Housing that was built had two to three bedrooms for women with children or close to reunification, and obtained a total of 25 units. All apartments are furnished everywhere from dishes, pots and pan to towels and paper products. Lengths of stay range from 6-9 months. However, families can in some instances stay up to one year. Regarding eligibility, woman needs to be at least 18 years of age, identify as female, cannot be a sex offenders, and must have had 45 consecutive days of sobriety. If relapse occurs, then the person must go two weeks

sober in order to be eligible again. Those at Meta House must also engage in activities for at least 20 hours per week; those activities are also documented. Other outcomes include parenting coaches, ensured technology, financial/literacy courses, onsite peer support, maintenance teams and more. For people that stayed at least 90 days in 2019, 93 percent went to a drug free location. 92 % were employed, in school, had an income or were moving toward and income. 97% had no return to criminal justice and 53% moved into permanent housing.

Sue Shemanski mentioned that even though Meta House primarily serves Milwaukee residents, potential clients do not have to be from the Milwaukee area. David Macmaster asked if it could be franchised to other communities. Saima Chauhan also asked if there are services for Spanish speaking mothers, and if Meta House keeps statistics of African American mothers with children. Council members discussed the possibility of having recovery coaches that can support people on any level of recovery, to focus on harm reduction and help them get into treatment. Ullstrup and others noted that after treatment is completed or during treatment for individuals, it is an additional goal to work with employers on education around polices and what it means to have someone with an addiction in your facility. A state chapter of the National Association of Recovery Residences (NARR) was created in 2018, and is called the WI Association of Sober housing, or WASH. Council members also discussed how COVID-19 is affecting this industry

Apricity: Michelle Devine Giese shared slides and gave a presentation on Apricity's recovery housing programs as well as recovery housing across the state. On 1/1/2018, her agency was officially named Apricity. She talked about visiting a program in Prescott, AZ to help inform the development of their programs. She noted that there are four levels of housing certifications; her programs have the first three levels. Devine Giese walked through some of the highlights and priorities of the NARR and WASH organizations, and how they can be helpful for providers and counties seeking to start and operate recovery housing programs.

Behavioral Health Gaps Study Report Follow-up: The full Council then engaged in a follow-up discussion on the Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis Report presentation at the Aug. 7th Council meeting. Abra Vigna and Tim Connor were available answer questions. Harold Gates and other participants touched on issues for death and hard of hearing, that they could use more input and the main areas such as inequities. Gates also spoke about how to improve access to crisis services, improving the workforce and mutually adapt.

Committee Updates:

Executive Committee: Roger Frings reported out that the Committee met on August 26th to develop an agenda for today's meeting and approved April meeting minutes. The Committee also discussed the council and committee member status, and on August 19th Roger Frings joined as a guest for the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. There is a vacant seat for a member of SCAODA, and it is encouraged to anyone interested or whom wants to know, to reach out and get more information from Mike Derr or Roger.

Diversity Committee: Thai Vue updated the group that the last meeting for the Diversity Committee was on July 24th, where the proposed DHS rule 75 rewrite was discussed. He and Harold Gates noted that the federal government has been working hard on health equity and disparity issues. They believe that feel that in order to address disparity issues more effectively, specific language needs to be added to proposed rule DHS 75 in order to promote culturally-inclusive services. Adding specific language would help ensure cultural competence of individuals providing language services. Gates and Vue also addressed the Behavioral Health Systems Gaps report discussed by Abra Vigna and Tim Connor, their belief that equity and disparity issues were not sufficiently addressed in the report, and discussed ideas for how to assess and address healthy equity and disparity needs moving forward in strategic plans, block grant plans and other blue prints.

Intervention & Treatment Committee: Roger Frings noted that the 2019-20 Progress Report language is in draft form, and will be finalized at the Committee's October meeting. The Committee did not meet in August, but did meet in July, and asked for updates from participants regarding provider challenges during the pandemic. Carl Hampton of DSPS joined the meeting and addressed efforts by his agency to address licensure and certification issues.

Planning & Funding Committee: Christine Ullstrup asked Mike Derr to provide the update, as she missed the last Committee meeting. Derr shared that the Committee met in both July and August to cover topics in the 2019-20 Committee Progress Report, starting on page 37 of the booklet. Committee members will continue studying existing reports, and needs assessments to identify the different substance use disorder needs across the state and regions. Identifying funding streams is crucial to identify types of funds, amounts, and who has been receiving those amounts in order to verify the correct types of programs that are being funded. The Committee has been very involved with study teams for Division of Medicaid Services' expansion of Medicaid coverage into residential treatment. Derr explains that the committee will continue to review legislation, in conjunction with Bureau staff, when the new session begins in January. The fourth priority involves studying and developing a report that focuses on challenging the barrier that providers face when billing out for services. The Committee will also continue working with the Bureau and DHS to search for ways that providers who are receiving renewed grant awards can continue to receive funding while contracts are updated and executed. At the Fall Mental Health & Substance Use Recovery Conference on Oct. 30th, this committee will host the annual SCAODA public listening session, which will also include tips on advocacy efforts.

Prevention Committee: Chris Wardlow discussed the Committee's 2019-20 Progress Report, found on pages 47 and 48 of the booklet. The finalized Ad Hoc Workplace Prevention Committee Report has been posted on SCAODA website and distributed electronically. The report has already been used by local coalitions as a center piece for some training. While 1,500 hard copies have been printed, they can't be mailed at this time due to Covid-19. Wardlow noted a new data dashboard on stimulant drugs data has been posted on the DHS website. Another former workgroup, which issued the 2010 Alcohol Culture and Environment report, will be reconvened to form a new ad hoc workgroup to update that report. The Committee has worked hard to get representatives from a number of sectors, and is trying to reach out to the Latino and Hmong communities. Chris also expressed appreciation to Allison Weber and DHS staff for the roll out of the Small Talks underage drinking prevention campaign.

Agency Reports: Jessica Geschke was unavailable to provide a Governor's Report Update.

Department of Health Services: Julie Willems Van Dijk provided a COVID-19 update, as well as a budget process update. Additionally, with Paul Krupski absent, Teresa Steinmetz shared other DHS updates. Steinmetz touched on the Hub & Spoke model update, noting that the grant funding opportunity closed on Aug. 24th, and that grant awards will be made in October. She also noted International Overdose Awareness Day occurred on Aug. 31st, and that September is Recovery Month and Suicide Prevention Month, and the Voices for Recovery Rally will occur on Sept. 26th. In addition, Division of Medicaid Services has provided several updates on the expanded SUD residential treatment coverage benefit. Steinmetz shared that the Hub and Spoke model is also working toward piloting expanded Medicaid health benefits, and it will be a comprehensive model for care management.

Department of Safety and Professional Services: Carl Hampton shared that DSPS has and will continue providing information to the Intervention and Treatment Committee and other provider on licensure and certification issues. We are aware of issues with delayed or improvements that need to be made as far as professional certifications. He will reach out to Mary Ann Gerrard regarding her concerns that she expressed earlier in the meeting.

Department of Justice: Tina Virgil updated the Committee on Drug Take Back Day and that she is working through

the budget process. The drug take back program will still be held this year on October 24th, and is going to launch and ask communities to participate in dropping off prescriptions drugs to local coordinated areas.

Department of Corrections: Autumn Lacy mentioned difficult policy changes, and that community corrections changes will also go into place on October 1st. DOC is focusing on substance use violations, to have them be added to by treatment options instead of incarceration. DOC is facing challenges with resources in the community, as funding is an issue. However, there has been an increased ability to do telehealth services throughout the state. Due to this breaking down of barriers, it was also decided to create an overdose review team, and DHS is helping with this through the medical college of Wisconsin. A new grant cycle will also start for transitional living sites for veterans on October 1st.

Department of Revenue: Ann DeGarmo informed participants that research and policy division interactive data has been loaded and will be distributed regarding cigarettes, tobacco and alcohol tax numbers. Information regarding Supreme Court case is also available.

Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery Update:

Teresa Steinmetz provided a bureau staff update. BPTR will be hiring a new deputy director, and is hoping to have position filled within next month. Andrea Jacobson is new SU section chief. Updates from Andrea: Shared work history came from DMS as supervisor program improvement and quality outcomes with children with disabilities. Andrea comes to BPTR with over thirty years of experience in the field and started in 1989 in residential treatment. Regarding new staff in our section, Saima is our new substance use disorder treatment coordinator. Sandra Hendricks is also a new treatment coordinator and intoxicated driver coordinator. Recently, our section learned that we received the award for the state opioid response grant. This is a second grant 16.7 million dollars per year for the next two years. There will also be a prevention campaign, promote safe storage and Narcan training, and the DHS 75 rule also closed from public impact. Additionally, BPTR also received the SOR II award from SAMHSA, and in 2021, the SABG Application to SAMHSA will be sent as well. The application itself is in its 2nd year of its two year plan. BPTR is also working on 2021 funds, and plans to receive the same amount of money (27 million), however this still could still change.

Report from Wisconsin Council on Mental Health: No update was given.

Agenda Items for December 4, 2020 Meeting: Roger Frings reminded participants that the meeting will be held via Zoom. Please email Mike Derr with suggestions for meeting topics.

Motion to adjourn Meeting: Motion made by Tina Virgil. Motion seconded by Brian Dean, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm

Prepared by: Michael Derr on 12/6/2020.

These minutes were approved by the governmental body on: 12/4/2020