

Butler County Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

DATE: September 19, 2023
TIME: 7:30 a.m.
PLACE: Butler County Human Services Conference Room - and also via Zoom

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Kevin Boozel	Shawn Pugh
John Johnson	Kristan Semmler
Mark Lope	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kenneth Clowes, Butler County Community College
Ruthane Durso, Independence Health System
Jennifer DiFrischia O’Neal

Donna Jenereski, Tracey Hendrix, Tori Reagle, Anne Drissler, Lisa Gill, Elisha Coast,
Bill Kepple, Grace Abbruzzese, Butler County Human Services

Call to Order

Shawn Pugh called the meeting to order at 7:34 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes)

Mark Lope made a motion to approve the minutes as written. John Johnson seconded.

All in Favor	5
Opposed	0
Abstentions	0

Public Comment Regarding Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

Unfinished Business

There was none.

New Business

No new business was presented at this meeting.

Program

No program was scheduled for this meeting.

REPORTS

Director's Report

SCA: Case Management/Treatment/Prevention Updates:

- SRU Institute for Nonprofit Leadership: Recovering Life Initiatives update-
The heART for Sobriety art/craft activities continue to be offered at SUCCEED each Friday from 3:00pm to 4:30pm.

The Impacting Together recovery advocacy group continues to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. The meetings continue to be well attended by a core group of individuals in recovery. The group continues its focus on the development of a recovery community organization (RCO). We continue to explore potential locations for the recovery center and hope to locate/secure a site by the end of October.

- Drug Free Communities (DFC) update-

As discussed last month, our office had submitted an application for the Drug Free Communities Program through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Our office participated in a group call for all applicants that were being considered for funding. The purpose of the call was to provide general award information, review critical terms and conditions of an award, address roles and responsibilities, provide information on reporting requirements, and discuss other award requirements as appropriate.

We received our official award notice last week!

- County Overdose update-

As of last week, there have been 29 confirmed overdose deaths thus far for 2023 with 7 cases still pending.

For comparison purposes: at this time last year, there had been 35 confirmed overdose deaths and 7 cases were still pending.

Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) Updates:

- Recovery House Licensure update-

As of last week, there are now 4 licensed recovery houses within Butler County. Three houses are licensed for adult males and one house is licensed for adult males and females.

- Regional Recovery Hub update-

Armstrong/Indiana/Clarion D&A Commission facilitated a focus group in Butler last week. The focus group primarily consisted of individuals in recovery aside from myself and Tracey Hendrix. The group reviewed the information presented during the community listening session, identified and/or expanded upon current gaps, and identified top priorities that they would like the recovery hub to assist with moving forward.

Once the recovery hub compiles all of the information collected at the focus group, a follow-up meeting via zoom will be scheduled.

- Pennsylvania Overdose Prevention Program-

On August 30th, DDAP along with Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) announced the launch of the PA Overdose Prevention Program (POPP). This program

aims to build upon the progress and impacts made by the Naloxone for First Responders Program (NFRP) which was launched in 2017.

The POPP will:

- Serve as a one-stop shop for individuals and organizations seeking naloxone and related harm reduction supplies such as fentanyl and xylazine test strips;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for information, training, and technical assistance to help groups involved in harm reduction work;
- Continue emphasis on statewide and regional saturation and accessibility, with a focus on getting naloxone and harm reduction supplies into the hands of people who use drugs as well as those who provide services to them.

The benefits of transitioning from the NFRP to the POPP include:

- Accessibility of naloxone as well as fentanyl and Xylazine test strips
- Accessibility of multiple naloxone formulations (intranasal & intramuscular)
- Allocations will now be demand-based rather than formula-based
- There can potentially be multiple recognized entities within a county that will be able to receive and distribute naloxone and/or test strips within their communities rather than only having one identified centralized coordinating entity (CCE) within the county.

State Updates:

- None

Financial Report

Bill Kepple reviewed the allocations and expenditures through August 31, 2023.

Case Manager Report

Tracey Hendrix reviewed the statistics for the Monthly Assessment Services, the Information/Referral Services (IRS), and the Client Location graph for the month of August 2023.

Prevention Report

Lisa Gill gave an overview of upcoming Drug & Alcohol prevention events and trainings. She reviewed the Prevention Service Data: including the Prevention/Intervention: Number of Services, Number of Individuals Served, and the Prevention Demographic Data for the month of August 2023. She provided flyers for several events.

Nominating Committee

Board Appointment

New Member nomination:

A completed advisory board application from Damian Gurner was provided to the Board. After board review, Kristan Semmler made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Gurner as board member. John Johnson seconded the motion.

All in Favor	5
Opposed	0
Abstentions	0

PCCD Update

Kristan Semmler reported there are eleven (11) individuals currently in the program. All are in treatment and they will be transitioning out sometime in early October. By the end of October or early November two individuals should be graduating.

Drug Treatment Court Update

Donna reported that there are currently eighteen (18) individuals participating in the program. Three individuals are currently incarcerated, one is pending admission into treatment, and two are pending further order of the court. Four individuals will be graduating on September 21. The graduation will be held in Courtroom Four at 2:00 p.m.

Council Members’ Concerns/Comments/Announcements

Election of Officers

Nomination was made to elect Kristan Semmler as Board Vice Chair and John Johnson as Board Secretary. Mark Lope made a motion to approve the nomination, Shawn Pugh seconded.

All in Favor	5
Opposed	0
Abstentions	0

Providers’ Concerns/Comments/Announcements

Ken Clowes announced the Personal Empowerment Training will begin on October 16 and will be held at Butler County Community College’s main campus. The Hope is Dope Community Series classes will be held at Grace Wellness Center beginning on October 10.

Public Comment Regarding General Items

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

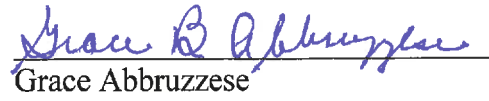
As there was no further business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 a.m.

APPROVED AS TO FORMAT:


Shawn Pugh, Chairperson


John Johnson, Secretary

SUBMITTED BY:


Grace Abbruzzese

Cc: Advisory Board Members