

THE PENNSYLVANIA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

DATE: July 29, 2004

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance:

Calvin B. Johnson, M. D., M.P.H., Secretary of Health;
Joanne Corte Grossi, Deputy Secretary for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; Gene R. Boyle, Director, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs; Jeffrey D. Geibel; Joseph W. Powell; C. Thomas Brown; Maureen A. Cleaver; Terry W. Matulevich; Hector Gonzalez; Ronald Kauffman.

Members Present:

George W. Dowdall, Ph.D.; Kenneth S. Ramsey, Ph.D.; Peter Wambach; Marlene E. Burks; Guy Diamond, Ph.D.; Trusandra Taylor, M. D.

Absent:

Carlos E. Graupera; A. Thomas McLellan, Ph.D.

Guests in Attendance:

Keith Fickle, Department of Health, Office of General Counsel; and Mary Quinn of the Pennsylvania Association of County Drug and Alcohol Administrators.

Welcome and Introductions:

Dr. Johnson opened the meeting with a welcome and introductions. His opening remarks included that this was the first meeting of the newly formed Drug and Alcohol Council after a 10-year hiatus. Given the expertise of the Council members appointed by the Governor, he was excited and looking forward to their feedback and involvement in moving the field forward. He explained that the Council would be used to address issues brought by the Department of Health; however, he made it clear that he was also looking for them to bring concerns or problems for discussion and resolution. He asked everyone present to provide a brief introduction of themselves. Once introductions were complete, Secretary Johnson introduced Joanne Grossi, Deputy Secretary for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Gene R. Boyle, Director of Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Mr. Boyle also welcomed the members of the Council and expressed his pleasure at the Council being re-established. He outlined the agenda for the day and explained the statutory responsibilities of the Council. He then moved to share the BDAP's mission statement and vision for substance abuse services in the future.

Bureau Updates:

Mr. Geibel spoke about addiction as public health issue and provided background on the cause and effects of addiction. He outlined the most commonly abused drugs and provided statistics that demonstrate the pervasive use of drugs and alcohol, particularly by youth age 12 and older in Pennsylvania. It is clear that addiction negatively impacts on all areas of a person's life and that without appropriate treatment, their life problems will continue to worsen. Research shows that treatment works and for every dollar spent on treatment, 7-12 dollars is saved related crime, adverse health, unemployment, and social dysfunction.

After completing his presentation on addiction and its effects, Mr. Geibel then gave a presentation on the Commonwealth drug and alcohol treatment system. He explained that the Division of Treatment is responsible for program planning and the development of standards, guidelines, service descriptions and outcome data for the clinical functions of our case management and treatment systems, and for providing training resources to treatment professionals. The Division of Treatment works in collaboration with the drug and alcohol field and other state offices to develop programs, policies and guidelines that will positively impact service delivery for those persons afflicted with substance abuse problems.

Mr. Powell discussed how the current Prevention system has moved to developing strategies and evidence-based programs directed at reducing the risk of addiction and increasing the protective factors that prevent addiction. He described the needs assessment process, the resulting Prevention Plan and use of the Performance-Based Prevention System software, which captures the data and when evaluated can show how the prevention plan is impacting the community. Mr. Powell also briefly explained the Bureau's State Incentive Grant that is designed to reduce duplication of effort among state and local agencies, develop efforts that sustain proven practice and effectively evaluate what works. He closed by explaining our successful partnership with the Pennsylvania National Guard Counterdrug Program.

Mr. Brown gave an overview of the Commonwealth's Drug and Alcohol Training system. The current system includes six one-day Mini-Regional Trainings that

rotate through each Public Health District within one year; four 3-day Regional Institutes coordinated by the Institute for Research, Education and Training in Addictions (IRETA) which, rotate around the Commonwealth; and, access to On-Site Training available by request through the Single County Authority system. In addition, specialized training can be sponsored by the Bureau when new or updated initiatives are identified in the drug and alcohol field. Mr. Brown also informed those present of our web page and how to gain access.

Ms. Cleaver provided an overview of the Bureau's responsibility in planning of and the provision for the delivery of treatment, intervention, prevention and case management services to the citizens of the Commonwealth. She explained that as the Single State Authority for substance abuse services, the Bureau cannot adequately plan for all 67 counties. Consequently, BDAP has grant agreements with 49 Single County Authorities to locally plan and provide substance abuse services, which address the needs in all 67 counties. BDAP's grant agreement with the SCA's outline requirements pertaining to administration, fiscal oversight, planning, and the service delivery of prevention, intervention, treatment, and case management, which are monitored by the Bureau's Division of Program Monitoring.

Mr. Matulevich discussed the financial operations of the Bureau. His brief overview included a presentation on both federal and state funding as well as information pertaining to the allocation of such funds to the 49 Single County Authorities.

Mr. Gonzalez went through the orientation manual provided to the members. More specifically, he described the history and structure of the drug and alcohol system in Pennsylvania. In addition, he explained the Drug and Alcohol Program reports, which include 3 statutorily, required reports. It was clarified that any questions regarding from the Council can be directed to Ms. Maureen Cleaver or Mr. Hector Gonzalez, staff assigned from the Bureau to support the Council.

Mr. Kauffman took time to explain what Council members need to do to be reimbursed for travel.

Mr. Boyle again thanked the Council for their commitment to the issue of substance abuse and explained that the next Council meeting will be scheduled for October/November and members would be notified in writing and email.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodee Turner

