

Alcohol and Drug Policy Council Prevention Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date / Location:		March 20, 2023 1:30PM-3:30PM, Microsoft Teams Meeting			
Committee Members					
x	Alison Karimi (DCF Agency Support)		Giovanna Mozzo	x	Robert Kanehl
x	Allison Fulton	x	Ingrid Gillespie	x	Robert Lawlor
x	Andrew Lyon	x	Jennifer Sussman	x	Sarju Shah (DMHAS Agency Support)
x	Anna Gasinski	x	Judith Stonger	x	Scott Szalkiewicz
x	Carleen Zambetti	x	Kristi Olds	x	Shobha Thangada
x	Colleen Violette		Nancy Kingwood	x	Surita Rao
	Daniel Tobin		Nathaniel Rickles		Tom Fulton
x	Deborah Lake		Rebecca Allen	x	Tom Russo
	Don Maletto		Rodrick Marriott		
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
x	Diana Shaw (DCP)		Stephanie Welch (DMHAS)	x	Wendy Mill
	Samantha Allard (DCP)	x	Kelly Edwards (DMHAS)	x	Cynthia Petronia-Vazquez
x	Ramona Anderson (DCP)	x	Kelly Leppard (DMHAS)	x	Allyson Nadeau
x	Karonesa Logan (DCP)	x	Kris Robles (DCF)		
x	Robin-Tousey Ayers (DPH)	x	Jeremy Wampler (DMHAS)		
	Allison Sullivan (DPH)	x	Haley Brown (DMHAS)		
x	Seth Baker (DPH)	x	Steven Wolf		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS / DECISIONS
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Review of Minutes</p>	<p>The meeting began at 1:33p.m.</p> <p>Approval of meeting minutes from last meeting. Bob Kanehl motioned to approve the minutes; Tom Russo seconded.</p>	<p>Minutes Approved</p>
<p>New Initiatives in Problem Gambling</p>	<p>Jeremy Wampler and Haley Brown of the Problem Gambling Services provided an overview of problem gambling services and some initiatives that may impact work being done within the state. In October 2021 gambling was expanded to include sports wagering, both online and in-person, as well as online lottery and casino which will be rolling out this year.</p> <p>DMHAS commissioned a Gambling Impact Study this year being conducted by Gemini Research. Legislation mandated that a Gambling Impact Study to be completed every ten years or before an expansion was done. The original Gambling Impact Study was done in 2008.</p> <p>With the new expansion, a new study was approved by Legislation with funding of \$1.2 million dollars. This began in early February 2023 with data collection to begin late spring/early summer with a report due to state legislation by 08/25/23. The study will look at data from 2009 and how gambling has changed until now – it will look at look at social, economics, crime rate and other factors.</p> <p>DMHAS/ UConn Gambling Prevalence Study of CT Colleges: This study being done to better understand prevalence of gambling behaviors amongst college population in CT. This study includes a</p>	<p>Contact: Jeremy Wampler Jeremy.Wampler@ct.gov</p> <p>Haley Brown: Haley.Brown@ct.gov</p> <p>Request Van: https://responsibleplayct.org/request-the-resource-van/</p> <p>Resources Van: https://gamblingawarenesst.org/</p>

needs assessment of gambling services and programs for students as well. The study looks to survey and interview staff and students at six varied CT campuses including two state colleges, two community colleges and two private colleges.

Think Argus Gambling Campaign: ThinkArgus is developing a campaign and platform to raise awareness about problem gambling throughout the state for the general population and priority populations including Black Indigenous People of Color(BIPOC), LGBTQI+, Latina and Bilingual Spanish Speakers. ThinkArgus is working to connect with underserved populations to understand their experiences and perceptions of problem gambling. Currently they are in the research phase from until May 2023, then will strategize, develop messages and test them until November with implementation starting in December.

AAPI Ambassador Initiative: This initiative is to reach underserved communities by having Ambassador representatives of communities. This initiative supports Asian American/Pacific Islander Population who may be experiencing unique risk factors and challenges related to problem gambling.

The Ambassadors are trained in a variety of gambling awareness topics, to facilitate community conversations following an evidenced based model, distributing pamphlets and materials to create awareness and engage further with community members. Planning to expand the Ambassador Initiative Program to reach other underserved populations. New connection made with the Office of Arts and Cultural Coalition which has an Arts and Health Collaborative. They are interested in collaborating further on some mini grant opportunities to raise awareness on problem gambling. They have also partnered with the Office of Multicultural Health Equity for a diversity equity and inclusion training series. They also partnered to offer trainings to the LGBTQI+ community looking at the intersection with problem gambling.

“Responsible Play, The CT Way” Van: PGS has purchased a van , similar to the Change the Script van, to provide mobile resources on problem gambling. CT has a statewide voluntary self-exclusion process through the Dept. of Consumer Protection. A person can go through an online process and exclude themselves from access to gambling sites. The van is equipped for people to come to the van and register to exclude themselves. You can request the van here: <https://responsibleplayct.org/request-the-resource-van/>

Online lottery does not exist in CT yet, but they are paying attention to when it rolls out and what will happen.

- Discussion was had around the need for better outreach to underserved populations. Jeremy asked that we help promote problem gambling trainings that are available and to initiate problem gambling in prevention conversations.
- Question was asked about problem gambling amongst senior citizens and individuals with cognitive decline and it was reported that the data has the highest risk group as young adults. The DHMAS system is for age 18 and over,

	<p>but they are considering reaching out to partner agencies to reach younger population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cynthia Petronio-Vazquez asked about collegiate recovery schools, where they're essentially the colleges that have recovery programs embedded to promote and support students that are in recovery. Judith Stonger shared that Connecticut Healthy Campus initiative is through Wheeler Clinic and it includes all of the colleges and universities around the state. They provide professional development, and we provide funding and training and technical assistance for Underage drinking and other kinds of mental health promotion, suicide prevention and many other things. Also, through the Alcohol and Drug Policy Councils Recovery Subcommittee, there's recovery friendly campuses. 	
<p>The NE HIDTA Fentanyl and Drug Trends in CT</p>	<p>The presentation focused on the high level overdose data. From January to the 1st week of December 2022, there were 1,284 confirmed fatal overdoses, with 85.4% of the cases involving Fentanyl, and 24.3% of the cases involving Xylazine containing Fentanyl; Gabapentin was involved in 11.3% of the cases. CT DPH modeling estimate a decrease in fatal overdoses in 2022 from 2021 by 4%.</p> <p>In 2021, the overdose mortality rate substantially increased in the non-Hispanic Black and Hispanic populations compared to the previous years.</p> <p>Illicitly Manufactured Fentanyl (IMF) is the number one threat in CT and fake pills are also a major issue examples are Blue M30, White 2mg Xanax bars; Cocaine is also the number one drug seized in CT and about 10-15% of the cocaine/crack supply are contaminated with IMF.</p> <p>Connecticut has become a source state for cocaine on the east coast. Emerging concerns for drug use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulants - Cocaine • Methamphetamines • Adderall shortage (so individuals are turning to illicit market) • Danger of fake pills • High Potency Marijuana (Linkage to mental health issues and increased THC Intoxications and the Normalization of drugs) • They are keeping a watch on emerging concerns in the illicit market for overdose rates for xylazine, nitazenes and designer benzodiazepines. • Lastly, Etizolam was discussed by Surita Rao. Etizolam is a benzodiazepine being used in clinical research study in Canada but not in the U.S.A. It was reported that there was an individual in CT that was taking it for 1.5 years and it was not showing up in urine screenings. It is something to be aware of. 	<p>Contact: Bobby Lawlor rlawlor@nehidta.org</p> <p>Anna Gasinski agasinski@nehidta.org</p>

Workgroup Updates	Waiting for Naloxone workgroup to complete recommendations. Will have something this summer. Next meeting 4/6/23. 3/29/23 - we will find out if over the counter Naloxone is approved by the FDA.	Naloxone Workgroup Contact: Judith Stronger
Future topics presentation	How to Eliminate Barriers for People to Get Naloxone. Reducing the Stigma around Naloxone	
Other / Member updates	<p>The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.</p> <p>Kelly Leppard shared this Wednesday at 3:00 PM, Our Youth Media Showcase event is happening. They have nine groups of youth that participated this year that develop public service announcements on the risks associated with gambling. They are hoping to boost up that registration so if anyone is available and you can log in and support the youth and their projects, we would so greatly appreciate it.</p> <p>National Prevention Week Event: May 13, 2023 @ The CT Science Center.</p> <p><u>Next Prevention Subcommittee Meeting:</u> Monday, April 17, 2023, 1:30 – 3:30pm</p> <p><u>Next Full ADPC Meeting:</u> Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 10:00 – 12:00pm</p>	