

Alcohol and Drug Policy Council
Prevention Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date/Location:	Monday, March 15, 1:30PM-3:30PM, Microsoft Teams Meeting	
Participants in Attendance	<p>In Attendance: Carol Meredith, Judith Stonger, Allison Fulton, Carmen James, Deborah Lake, Ramona Anderson, Scott Newgass, Scott Szalkiewicz, Shobha Thangada, Kristi Olds, Tom Russo, Ingrid Gillespie, Robert Lawlor, Thomas Fulton, Anna Gasinski, Nate Rickles, Giovanna Mozzo, Surita Rao, Andrew Lyon, Jane Ungemack, Nancy Kingwood, Carleen Zambetti</p> <p>Guests: Dawn Grodzki, Stephanie Moran, Robin Tousey-Ayers, Lisa Gray</p>	
TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS / DECISIONS
1. Welcome /Review of Minutes	The meeting started at 1:32PM with a review of the minutes	Minutes were approved
2. Introduction of New Members	<p>The new members introduced were: Nancy Kingwood- she'll be representing the faith community. She is an ordained minister and now pastor for 15 years and have been doing prevention work for about 25 years.</p> <p>Jane Ungemack- UConn School of Medicine. She has been working in substance abuse research since the late 70s and in substance abuse prevention since the late 90s. She was also a member of the former ADPC.</p>	
3. Federal Grants Update	<p>SAMHSA-Partnership 2015</p> <p>Dawn Grodzki reported that the grant officially ended Sept 2020. An application was submitted to SAMHSA to utilize unspent dollars to conduct a survey and focus groups to review the impact of COVID on increased alcohol and substances consumption. It was approved but only given 90 days from Dec 2020. The Center for Prevention Evaluation and Statistics at UCONN was enlisted to conduct a survey and focus. There is a report on UCONN website with the result of the focus groups.</p> <p>There were 18 focus groups and ten parent focus groups in total we had 134 youth participating in those groups and 57 adults that covered about 16 different communities in the state or maybe a little bit more in terms of adults and the communities. The focus group discussed underage drinking, vaping, marijuana use and mental health due to reports about the stressors leading to anxiety and depression among youth.</p> <p>The findings around underage drinking were mixed. Some youths said that they felt that there was more drinking among their peers. They drank alone and out of boredom and accessed their parents liquor cabinets because they weren't able to party to the same extent they had before.</p>	

They reported very little vaping. The prevention measures that have been passed and implemented to restrict access to vaping have succeeded to a great extent and made it less popular.

Marijuana use has increased partly because there's much less perception of harm associated with marijuana.

The parents were asked about the same sorts of things. The parents were also mixed in terms of the alcohol use and in fact some parents reported to be drinking with their children. Parents were less forthcoming about smoking marijuana. The prevalence of anxiety, depression and sense of isolation were factors that were clearly problematic in the community. This is concerning because of their relationship to substance abuse.

The results of the CPES research informed the development of a new public awareness campaign specific to COVID-19 and alcohol use. The Clearinghouse worked with a marketing firm to design a wide variety of prevention and awareness materials that build on the #mentionprevention initiative. The campaign includes digital and print resources, billboards, PSAs, retailer materials, and more. All materials are now available on www.drugfreect.org. The funds also provided mini-grants to CT institutions of higher education for a variety of prevention, education, screening and awareness activities on their campuses.

Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs, SPFRX

Stephanie Moran reported that Academic Detailing visits by the funded health districts are continuing and are mostly virtual. Three modules have been developed and the fourth module on Resetting Pain Expectations is in development. Through SOR2 funding the Academic Detailing program will be expanded until 7/31/2022 to 13 total Health Districts/Departments (10 new).

Information on prescription drugs continues to be shared through Social Media and on Health District and Local Coalition websites. Materials, resource sheets, giveaways, lock boxes, Change the Script Masks, and Deterra bags are being handed out at vaccine clinics. The Change the Script Van has attended a couple clinics in towns within some health districts. The final evaluation report on the project is being pulled together and the Annual Implementation Instrument was submitted and approved.

In terms of the next steps, strategies will continue until the end of the grant period, 8/31/2021 and efforts will continue until then. SAMHSA has released an FOA for a new round of SPF-Rx funding. It is currently being reviewed by DMHAS and other partners to decide whether an application will be submitted.

State Opioid Response- SOR2

Dawn Grodzki reminded members of the grant period: 9-30-20 and ends 9-29-22. Many of the Prevention initiatives are extensions of the work from SOR 1 – Funding to the CT Clearinghouse for the Change the Script and college campus opioid education and awareness activities, Narcan distribution

and training resources to the RBHAO's and curriculum guidance to schools through SERC.

Newer activities include: The Prevention Training & Technical Assistance Service Center creating products and materials specifically for parents and guardians, education and awareness to law enforcement organizations through the Governors Prevention Partnership, increasing the number of local health districts who will implement the Academic Detailing for Opioid Safety (ADOPS), and funding to the Center for Prevention Evaluation & Statistics at UConn Health to evaluate each of the Prevention SOR funded programs.

Monthly calls are held with the SAMHSA grants project officer for CT's SOR initiative and updates are provided.

DPH – OD2A CDC Grant

Robin Tousey Ayers reported on this grant. The OD2A grant supports jurisdictions to collect data on non-fatal/fatal overdoses and using those data to inform prevention and response efforts. It focuses on understanding the complex and changing nature of the drug overdose epidemic and highlights the need for seamless integration of data into prevention strategies. It launched in September 2019 to implement surveillance strategies which include morbidity data, mortality data, innovative surveillance strategies and prevention strategies which include the prescription drug monitoring programs. The CDC believes that providers and health systems are crucial in promoting safer and more effective opioid prescribing for pain management. The CDC's guideline for prescribing opioids for chronic pain is available to providers and health systems.

Shobha Thangada reported that the final numbers for CY 2021 overdose deaths is 1,372 with 264 pending cases. This represents a 14.3% increase over the previous year. Xylazine is still a problem and new analogues are being seen in combination with fentanyl. She will send the recent report on this to the group.

Assert Grant

Continue with the adolescent and young adult substance use resource communications through the LiveLOUD Families website -- Connecticut's online connection to substance use information and resources for youth, young adults, and their families. Now included is a series of short videos on youth and family supports, treatment options, self-care and healing, and more. <https://liveloud.org/families/>

The website contains:

ASSERT Treatment Model brochure: youth/young adult opioid treatment

	<p>CT Connection booklet: to learn more about getting substance use help for teens and young adults</p> <p>Help is Here: virtual series to provide parents and caregivers with the skills and information needed to navigate Connecticut’s teen and young adult substance use resources.</p>	
<p>4. CT Illicit Narcotics Surveillance Group</p>	<p>Bobby Lawlor presented on the new workgroup whose purpose is to look at the gaps in the illegal drugs market and how to fill them. At HIDTA they focus on emerging substances and synthetic drugs and were able to secure a grant to add capacity to the lab by hiring an additional forensic science examiner who do the testing of a list of narcotics.</p> <p>The group comprise of representatives from DPH, DMHAS and doctors from Yale came together to start looking at bringing in some data points about the illicit drug market and looking at ways to recommend new policies and interventions. They will start by making surveillance buys in high need areas to test what are in substances and obtain GSM machines that will test client narcotics.</p>	
<p>5. Workgroups Update</p>	<p>SEI/FASD</p> <p>This group was created to look at policy recommendations and legislative proposals related to substance-exposed infants and FASD. Currently working on a virtual conference on April 12th from 12:00 to 5:00 called “From Stigma to Empowerment: Supporting Women and Families Impacted by Trauma and Addiction”. The conference will be focus on trauma, substance use, and the biology of addiction. I will also include information on why it's important to talk with women (especially pregnant women) about substance use and how to do so in a way that's not stigmatizing. There will be a panel of women talking about their experiences and a lot of resources available to healthcare professionals.</p> <p>Media & Stigma</p> <p>Since the forum, the group meets to look at ways to use the media presentation slides. They have reached out to university programs about presenting the forum to their students and faculty, and have received responses.</p>	
<p>6. Other/Members Update</p>	<p>Questions are being added to the naloxone survey and the skip logic is being reworked. Once completed, the survey will be distributed to members</p> <p>The CT Prevention Network is hosting a forum on April 29th targeted to prevention professionals. Dr. Stanton from Toxicology Experts will be the speaker.</p>	
<p>7. Wrap-up & Next Steps</p>	<p><u>Next Prevention Subcommittee Meeting:</u> Monday, April 19th 1:30 – 3:30pm</p> <p><u>Next Full ADPC Meeting:</u> Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:00am-12:00pm</p>	

