

MEETING MINUTES

Alcohol and Drug Policy Council: Treatment Subcommittee

Meeting Date: 10/24/2019

Present: Gabriella Krainer, Melissa Sienna, Charles Atkins, Kim Hogabook (Beacon SUPPORT ACT grant), Mark Vanacort, Paige Finolis, Heidi, Pastor Dana Smith, Lisa, Lauren Gomez, Erin Leavitt-Smith, Justin Mehl, Marcia DuFore, Shirley Bloth

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>4 GOALS</p>	<p><u>Toxicology Screening:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not discussed. <p><u>Harm Reduction:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data from conference: biggest response from attendees surveyed was the request for more training in harm reduction – how to incorporate into their work. <p><u>Access to SUD treatment:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that Sober Housing is not a treatment but rather a supportive non-clinical (albeit therapeutic) environment. There are other types of housing that may provide treatment. • Sober House presentation by Pastor Dana Smith (CCOR). CCOR came together when CCAR housing inspections ended, and during the time when recovery houses were getting a bad name. CCOR sets standards for recovery housing to create safe spaces for persons to live in recovery when they cannot go home. CCOR follows SAMHSA’s 4 pillars (wellness, purpose, structure and community) and is part of National Sober Living Association. For most houses, persons are referred as they are leaving detox or a program to ensure they are safe and can succeed. There are about 8 certified houses across the state, about equally distributed among male/female housing. The number changes periodically as houses are gained and lost. Certification covers basic safety: Narcan, landline telephone, not overcrowded, fire extinguisher, etc. There are House Managers with lived experience at each home– some are recovery coaches. Sober houses can opt to be on the DMHAS bed availability web site. Lengths of stay vary – but some residents have been housed for multiple years. • Certification is voluntary. It is unknown how many sober houses are operating without certification. Some houses choose not to get certified because it may involve responding to a state RFP, and there is some cost (few hundred). • Certified sober houses may be eligible for payment under DMHAS Basic Needs (up to 60 days in a 12-month period, with extensions possible). • DMHAS contracted sober houses must be accessible to public transportation, mobile employment specialists go to each house to help residents find a job within the 60-day period. • Self-pay sober house bed fees fall in a range (\$600 - \$1500/month) due to location, services provided, staffing, etc. • Medicare restrictions are problematic to obtaining access to treatment 	<p>Contact Justin if you are aware of businesses that are recovery friendly and interested in promoting it through the Recovery Friendly Community project</p> <p>Explore ways to help sober house groups to purchase additional property to expand beds</p> <p>Explore family recovery housing ideas</p> <p>Feedback on the Opioid FAQ is due to Justin.mehl@ct.gov by 10/31/19</p>

	<p><u>Regulatory Barriers: Clarification from DPH related to licensing/regulation on various issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Induction of MAT in hospital settings. Changing Pathways pilot is expanding to a third hospital. Induction is part of the conversation with hospitals. Desire to put together a conference on this issue, and effective alternatives to medication for treatment of pain. 	
OTHER	<p>SUPPORT ACT grant, Beacon Health was awarded on 10/1. Goal: comprehensive needs assessment of unmet need and gaps in CT focusing on general SUD, targeted subpopulations of women, pregnant moms, older adults, individuals with HIV, high-cost high-need population, adolescents and young adults 18-24, native americans, etc. Key informant focus groups, training, claims analysis, to be conducted during the 18 month grant period, with the end goal of submitting an 1115 Waiver to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) to expand access to SU services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holistic Expo, 10/27th in Bristol: www.holisticcommunityprofessionals.com • Older Adult Opioid Conference, AquaTurf, \$85, 11/1. • Benzo Opioids & Stimulants @ 11/1 in Wethersfield Community Center, contact Marcia DuFore 	
UPCOMING MEETINGS	<p>Next subcommittee meeting: 12/12/19; 1:00 – 3:00 @ TBD Next ADPC meeting: 12/17/19; 10:00-12:00 @ LOB</p>	