



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DRUG POLICY

Dr. Shayla Polk, LCSW
Executive Director

Cortalya Muse
Prevention Systems Manager

DRUG POLICY BOARD February 15, 2024; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Shayla Polk, Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Drug Policy and Chair of the Drug Policy Board, called the meeting to order at 10:10AM

Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Polk welcomed everyone to the first quarterly meeting of the Drug Policy Board. She also introduced Governor Jeff Landry's Deputy Chief of Staff, Andreé Miller. During her introduction, Andreé expressed her excitement about attending the drug policy board meeting and her anticipation of working closely with Dr. Polk. She emphasized that she and Team Landry were confident in Dr. Polk's ability to excel as the new executive director of the Office of Drug Policy. Following her introduction, Dr. Polk conducted a roll call for Voting and Of-Counsel members seated at the table. Dr. Polk invited Voting and Of-Counsel members to introduce themselves as well as, stakeholders, and members of the public. After completing introductions, Dr. Polk announced that quorum was. A list of all attending members and stakeholders is provided at the end of this document.

Old Business

- *Review and approve minutes from previous meeting*

Dr. Polk asked everyone to refer to the minutes that were emailed prior to the meeting. While doing that, she reminded everyone that a copy of the minutes were in their packets. After a moment of silence to review, Dr. Polk asked if there were any edits or amendments to be made. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Linda Gautier, the motion was seconded by Ed Carlson. All who were present agreed with the motion. None disagreed. None abstained.

New Business

A. Update on Drug Policy Board membership - Dr. Shayla Polk, Director, Office of Drug Policy

Dr. Polk then gave a brief update on the Drug Policy Board membership. She mentioned that some positions would be up for renewal soon and encouraged anyone interested in staying on the board to please email her. Dr. Polk also mentioned that she was still waiting on the Governor to announce his appointment to the Drug Policy Board.

B. Legislative Update- Dr. Shayla Polk, Director, Office of Drug Policy

Here's a summary of the legislative updates provided by Dr. Polk:

- HB3 - COURTS: Provides relative to mandatory drug testing, screening, and assessment for drug and specialty court participation for certain offenders.

- SB7 - DWI: Provides relative to penalties for the crime of operating a vehicle while intoxicated.
- HB11 - Provides relative to sanctions for violation of probation or parole conditions.
- HB53 - Provides a limitation of actions by passengers of motor vehicles.
- HB54 - CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES: Provides relative to the regulation of cannabis.
- HB64 - DRUGS/CONTROLLED: Prohibits the retail sale of nitrous oxide.
- HB165 - Provides relative to marijuana paraphernalia.
- HB204 - Adds substances to the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law.
- SB17 - Adds Tianeptine to Schedule I of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substance Law.
- SB21 - Prohibits speeding cameras and red light cameras.

C. *Presentation with Open Discussion: From Despair to Hope: Addressing Substance-Linked Suicidal Ideation - Dr. Shayla Polk, Director, Office of Drug Policy*

Dr. Polk shared insights into the alarming public health issue of suicide in the US. He emphasized the association between alcohol and opioid use disorders (AUD/OD) and heightened suicide risk.

Dr. Polk discussed the concerning trend of a 35% increase in suicide rates over two decades despite mitigation efforts.

He highlighted the significant role of mood disorders, especially when comorbid with AUD/OD, in elevating suicide risk.

Dr. Polk pointed out the prevalence of alcohol and opioids in suicide cases.

Chronic alcohol use was addressed as a factor leading to maladaptive coping and impulsive behaviors, thus increasing suicide risk.

Dr. Polk elaborated on how opioid use induces neurobiological changes that exacerbate negative affective states and sustain suicidal behaviors.

He emphasized how both substances impair judgment and increase impulsivity, contributing to suicidal acts under stress.

Despite efforts, suicide rates continue to rise, including among children due to reformulation effects of OxyContin. Dr. Polk recommended interventions encompassing inpatient care, pharmacotherapy, and tailored psychotherapeutic approaches for individuals with AUD/OD and co-occurring suicidal ideation/behavior. *Presentation slides are available upon request*

D. *Presentation with Open Discussion: 988 Suicide & Crisis Hotline/Chat Line - Dr. Robyn Thomas MA, LPC, LMFT, NCC, State Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Louisiana Department of Health/Office of Behavioral Health*

Dr. Thomas delivered a comprehensive presentation on suicide prevention and the resources available through the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Here's a summary of how she presented the information:

Dr. Thomas introduced the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, highlighting its availability 24/7 for calls, texts, and chats, offering support for individuals experiencing various crises.

She provided statistics such as 1 in 5 adults living with a mental health condition and the number of suicides in Louisiana in 2022.

Dr. Thomas also mentioned that suicide was the 12th leading cause of death in Louisiana in 2021, emphasizing its impact on different age groups.

She discussed the significant number of contacts answered by local Louisiana crisis centers, indicating the demand for support services.

Dr. Thomas highlighted the effectiveness of the Lifeline, with 98% of individuals feeling immediate relief upon reaching out.

She mentioned the alarming statistic of one suicide death occurring every 11 minutes in the U.S., emphasizing the importance of services like 988.

Dr. Thomas outlined specialized services available through 988, including support for veterans, Spanish speakers, LGBTQ+ youth, and individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

She detailed the efforts of the Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) in ensuring statewide coverage for Lifeline calls and collaborating with local crisis centers to increase capacity. Legislative actions, such as adding 988 on driver's license renewals and student ID badges, were also highlighted.

Dr. Thomas discussed various initiatives aimed at raising awareness about 988, including radio PSAs, surveys for feedback, and photoshoots of Louisiana residents for promotional materials. She mentioned the launch of a Louisiana-specific awareness campaign and the development of branding materials and logos. She outlined the marketing campaign launched by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), including paid media campaigns, social media advertising, and the creation of the Louisiana988.org website.

Collaboration with community partners, advocates, and local influencers to amplify messaging and awareness was emphasized. Dr. Thomas concluded by encouraging individuals to visit the Louisiana988.org website for more information and to utilize the resources available through the 988 Lifeline.

Other Business

E. Office of Drug Policy updates

- Dr. Polk reported that the Office of Drug Policy had collaborated with Norma DuBois and Cathy Childers to prepare the executive order for the DWI Task Force. He further noted that the draft had been forwarded to the executive legal team and they were currently awaiting feedback from Governor Jeff Landry.
- Dr. Polk shared that the Office of Drug Policy was in the process of planning a Substance Use, Mental Health, and Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol, scheduled for May 28, 2024.

F. Member agency updates

No member updates

G. Public Comments

No public comments.

H. Upcoming Meetings

Dr. Polk informed everyone the Drug Policy Next Meeting Proposal
Thursday, April 18, 2024

Adjournment

Dr. Polk thanked the attendees for their participation. The Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM

DRUG POLICY BOARD
February, 15, 2023 Regular Business Meeting

Member Agency	Appointee/Designee	Present		
		Yes	No	Proxy
Alcohol industry representative	Buddy Schilling, CEO, Schilling Distribution (Kody Thompson as proxy)	X		
Attorney General's Office	Chris Alderman, JD, Section Chief - Complex Litigation Unit	X		
Board of Pharmacy	Joe Fontenot, Executive Director (Standing Proxy for Marty McKay))	X		
District Court Judge	Honorable Scott Schlegel, 24 th JDC – Division D		X	
Federal agency with AOD ed/treatment/prev responsibilities	Vacant			
Governor's Office of Drug Policy	Dr. Shayla Polk, Director and Chair of the Drug Policy Board	X		
House member, Health & Welfare Committee	Honorable Robert “Bob” Owen, LA State Representative, Dist. 76	X		
Louisiana Commission on Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse	Vacant/Commission no longer exists			
Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement	Linda Gautier, Federal Grants Section Manager	X		
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services	Dr. Rebecca Hook-Director of Medical Services	X		
Louisiana Department of Education	Michael Comeaux, Healthy Communities Section Lead		X	
Louisiana Department of Health	Quinetta Womack, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Behavioral Health	X		
Louisiana Department of Corrections	Blake LeBlanc, Mental/Behavioral Health Director	X		
Louisiana District Attorneys Association	Warren Montgomery, JD, District Attorney, 22 nd Judicial District		X	
Louisiana Highway Safety Commission	Lisa Freeman, JD, Executive Director	X		
Louisiana Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control	Ernest Legier, JD, Commissioner (Deatrice Henderson as proxy)	X		
Louisiana Public Defenders Board	Remy Starns, JD, State Public Defender	X		
Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association	Shannon Dirmann, JD, Counsel and Legislative Liaison	X		
Louisiana State Police	Rebecca Chiasson, Chemistry Manager, Crime Lab	X		
National Guard	Lt. Col. Beverly Couto, Coordinator, Counterdrug Program (MSgt Amy Thomas as proxy)	X		
Physician	Dr. Joseph Kanter, State Health Officer, LA Department of Health		X	
Private org involved in substance abuse prevention	Edward Carlson, Chief Executive Officer, Odyssey House Louisiana	X		
Senate member, Health & Welfare Committee	Honorable Gerald Boudreaux, LA State Senator, Dist. 24		X	
TOTAL PRESENT		16		

(Quorum was achieved)

STAFF

André Miller, Governor's Office

GUESTS

Joey Jones – North LA Crime Lab

Jules Edwards - JOC

Kody Thompson – Alcohol Industry

Cathy Childers- LHSC

Aimee Moles - LSU

Ashley Tillison – LSU

Andrew Burns– LSU

Austin Matthews– LSU

Leslie Freeman – OBH/LDH

Theresa Pham- CDC Foundation

Muriell Harrison-PSC

Johanna Braud - LASC

Shelley Edgerton- Department of Corrections

Rusty Fornea- ADAPT. INC

Daniel Schneider, RPh – Tunnel of Hope