

HOPE Advisory Council

April 11, 2024

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Bienville Building: Room 118

628 N. 4th St, Baton Rouge, LA

***In-Person Only**

1. Call to Order at 9:07am
2. Roll Call:

Present:

Interim Chairs: Quinetta Womack, Karen Stubbs

Dr. Allison Smith

Lt. William Bosworth

Etrana Gerard

Shelley Edgerton

Absent:

Michael Comeaux

Tavares Walker

Sen. Regina Barrow

Elsie Joanne Brown

Monica Taylor

Ronald Callegari

Crystal Lewis

Judge Thomas Duplantier

A quorum was not reached.

3. Introduction/Welcome New Members- no new members to introduce at this time.
4. Review and Approval of April 11, 2024 Agenda- no vote due to lack of quorum.
5. Approval of December 2023 and January 2024 Minutes- no vote due to lack of quorum.
6. Presentations:
 - a. Drug Demand Reduction Outreach Program: Sgt. Rylan Choates, Scott Corales
Louisiana's DDRO Program was established in May of 2019
 - Primarily supports formed coalitions and community based organizations with a drug nexus.
 - Supports law enforcement on any analytical work. Other lines of efforts include:
 - Governors Office of Drug Policy
 - Office of Behavioral Health and Human Services
 - HIDTA Strategic Programs Coordinator
 - DEA Prevention Coordinator/Community Outreach coordinator
 - Law Enforcement Agencies/Harm Reduction
 - Community Coalitions
 - DFC Communities (Grant overseen from ONDCP-Governor's Office-communities)
 - OBH funded Coalitions (Federal Grant money sent directly to the state OBH-LGE regions-parishes)

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- Privately funded Community Based Organizations
 - Nonprofits
 - Public and Private School education
-
- Harm Reduction is something DDRO really promotes, as well as prevention of illicit drug use through education and evidence-based prevention programs.
 - Their skills allow the Strategic Prevention Framework process to be implemented.
 - Strategic planning, motivating and networking, bringing people who are doing the same thing together for a common goal.
 - Their presence in communities enhances community relations, ethics/moral character, and confidence within the scope of the field. Unique military skill set builds credibility in the prevention field.
 - Their profession instills trust and confidence with schools, communities, coalitions and local leaders
 - They are a free resource for 35- 40 individuals who can assist as needed as long as they are mitigating risk of drug use anywhere throughout the state. It starts with Prevention.

b. 988 Campaign – Collegiate (SUD/MH): Dr. Robyn Thomas gave an overview of the 988 Awareness Campaign.

Campaign Goals include:

- Increase general 988 awareness and intent to contact 988 statewide
- Increase 988 awareness among key populations including BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, Veterans, suicide attempt survivors and loss survivors
- De-stigmatize the need for mental health treatment and services particularly among key populations with emphasis on areas of the state with low engagement.

Survey and Focus Group Research was conducted to gain a better understanding of awareness and usage of the 988 number and barriers and motivators around emergency number usage.

Key Findings

1. Residents recognize the need for crisis services in their communities.
2. Unclear perceptions or knowledge of 988 services may prevent people from calling.
3. Residents rely on their personal relationships to learn about trusted health resources.
4. Messages that humanized and normalized the need for mental health support resonated most.
5. Knowing calls would be confidential increased willingness to call. Residents wanted assurance their problems would be kept private.

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6. Creative images and messages should include diverse imagery, and share enough information so residents know what to expect without overwhelming them with too much information.

Louisiana 988- Bayou Classic Campaign was discussed in detail, including the types of promotion. During the game, there were over 1 million impressions through in-stadium ads.

Dr. Thomas shared the Southern University marching band's 988 formation.

7. General Updates

a. Office of Behavioral Health –

1. Collegiate Recovery Program Model- Amber Slater gave an overview of the CRP program. She discussed the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Prevention Services:

- Primary prevention services are designed to address SUD Prevention across the lifespan
- Statewide Prevention Services are currently being offered to the following populations:
 - School-Based Populations (Grades K-12)
 - Institutions of Higher Education (Two-Year, Four-Year, and Technical Colleges)
 - Parents and Caregivers
 - Service Members, Veterans, and Families (SMVF)
- Higher Education Initiatives include:
 - CORE Alcohol & Drug Survey
 - Louisiana Higher Education Coalition Conference (LaHEC)
 - Evidence-Based Programs (EBPs)
 - Naloxone Education and Distribution

Although there were many resources being afforded to the campuses, there was another population that was being underserved. CRP is an Initiative dedicated to helping students obtain their education while having the resources, community, and support they need to maintain their recovery in college.

Found on 7 campuses as a pilot for now.

The goal is to reduce barriers by providing the necessary support and resources so students will not have to choose between their education and recovery.

Dr. Allison Smith said April 15th is Collegiate Recovery week, and sharing information with students that week.

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2. Narcan Harm Reduction Hub- Jamie Donaldson, Project Director of the LASOR Grant introduced Sarah Jane Robertson with the Louisiana Department of Health's Harm Reduction Distribution Hub. She gave a description of the Hub:
 - Collaboration through OPH and OBH, funded through Louisiana State Opioid Response Grant Funds (LaSOR)
 - Centralized platform for approved institutions to order harm reduction supplies (churches, health units, street outreach groups..)
 - Shipped directly to the organization
 - Straight forward site approval process
 - Not just transactional; transformational!
 - Trainings & educational materials, links to helpful resources, map of distribution sites

Eligibility Requirements:

- Groups must be willing and able to distribute requested supplies to the general public
- Groups must not have any available funding that could be used to purchase harm reduction materials
- Groups must be willing and able to track and submit monthly distribution reports

Currently distributing narcan and fentanyl test strips. Distribution Numbers (Dec 2022-Feb 2024):

- 66,984 Narcan kits distributed to distribution sites
- 60,612 FTS distributed
- 69 distribution sites (started with 12 groups Jan 2022)
- 7,366 **overdose reversals** reported using Naloxone from the portal
- 2,006 sharps containers distributed
- 2,777 wound care kits distributed

Coming soon will be

- Wound Care Kits, Personal Hygiene Kits, Sharps Containers, Medication Disposal Products, Medication Lock Bags
- Harm Reduction Vending Machines
- Enhanced inventory tracking system

There were several questions and praise from the audience.

b. Community Impact Group- Dr. Allison Smith said there are no updates, but asked if we are resetting the roles or responsibilities until a new Medical Director is named. Quinetta said to carry on as before until new MD is named.

c. Healthcare Impact Group- No update

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d. Public Safety Impact Group- No update but Shelly Edgerton to send email out asking if members still want to be a part of the group and asked others to reach out if they would like to join.

e. Other Updates

3 listen and learn events May 16th in Gonzales, May 7th in St. Francisville, and April 30th in East Baton Rouge. A flier was sent to members from Trudy Wickham on the events.

Melissa Stainback introduced a Hospital Navigator, Stacy Lee, and provided her email address: stacy.lee@la.gov if anyone has an interest in implementing the program in a hospital.

Dr. Allison Smith- Mentioned that May 22nd they are holding a conference at Pennington in Baton Rouge.

Drug Policy Board Meeting open to public- covering information on adolescent drinking April 18th at Capitol in press conference room at 10am.

8. HOPE 2023 Year End Report Update- Finalized report but not yet sent to the Legislature.

9. Public Comments- None

10. Discussion and Next Steps

a. Impact Workgroups: HOPE@LA.GOV

b. Next Meeting: Thursday, July 11th 9:00 - 11:00 am

11. Motion to adjourn at 10:26am by Dr. Allison Smith and seconded by Shelley Edgerton.

Future HOPE Council Meetings

Thursday, July 11th, and Thursday, October 10th