

**Substance Abuse Services Commission
Meeting of August 13, 2014
State Office, DHHS, Conference Room C
41 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Peter McCorison, Chair
Robert Rogers
Darren Ripley
Irene Laney
Scott Gagnon
Tom Leonard
Robert Creamer
Rep. Ann Dorney

Members Absent/Excused:

Bill Lowenstein
Ann Giggey
Diehl Snyder, MD
Rep. Carol A. McElwee
Rep. Katherine Cassidy
Rep. Peter Stuckey
Senator Colleen Lachowicz

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services:

Geoff Miller, Associate Director, Representing Guy Cousins, Director, SAMHS
Tracy Weymouth, PASRR, Complex Case Group Coordinator, SAMHS
Katherine Coutu-Farrell, SOTA, SAMHS
Stacey Chandler, SAMHS

Guests:

Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA
Mike Savage, Public
Neill Miner, AdCare Maine
Deborah Doiron, AdCare Maine, Recorder

**Substance Abuse Services Commission
Meeting of July 9, 2014
State Office, DHHS, Conference Room C
41 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine**

AUGUST MINUTES

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|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| DRAFT Date: | August 22, 2014 | SASC Approved: | |
| Signed: Recorded by: Deborah Doiron, AdCare Maine | | | |

Meeting Convened: 9:00 A.M.

Adjourned: 12:00

Meeting Convened: By Peter McCorison

Agenda:

- General Meeting Opening: Introductions, Review Agenda; Public Forum

New Business:

- Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting: August 13, 2014
- SAMHS Update – Geoff Miller, Deputy Director, SAMHS representing Guy Cousins, Director, SAMHS
- Increased access to MAT in the State of Maine

Old Business:

- Follow-up on Recovery
- Follow-up on the Letter of request to SAMHS on Recovery
- Follow-up on the Recovery Month Proclamation – Darren Ripley

Prepare Agenda Items for Next Meeting on September 10, 2014

Adjourn meeting 12:00

SASC Meeting - General Opening Statements

**Peter McCorison, Chairperson
Introductions and Public Guest Comments**

Peter McCorison welcomed the members. Peter announced that Scott Gagnon had sent an e-mail out to Commission members asking if they would like to be updated on the three cities involving marijuana being placed on the ballots for this fall. Peter stated he would add this item to the

agenda under old business. Introductions were then given. There were not enough members for a quorum to approve the July minutes, but the members did review the July minutes. One correction was given by Darren Ripley regarding page 5, topic #4, 2nd paragraph of the minutes. Change Robert White to William White. Peter will move the July minutes to the September Meeting for approval. Peter announced that Geoff Miller, Associate Director for Prevention and Intervention would be representing Guy Cousins and SAMHS for this meeting.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

NEW BUSINESS - August Agenda

Topic #1 – Review of Minutes of Previous Meetings – July Minutes

Discussions: feedback on minutes

Conclusions or Actions: Motion for Acceptance and Seconded for June Minutes

- **Motion accepted with corrections or amendments to be made to previous month's minutes, Responsible Lead Person – Deb Doiron**

List Changes Made:

Debbie will change Robert While to William White on page 5 of the July minutes.

Topic #2 – SAMHS Update – Geoff Miller, Associate Director representing Guy Cousins, Director, SAMHS

Discussion:

- 1) Prevention Services – SAMHS has gone through a process with a work group on developing promotion materials for mental health services. This group has developed a rack card with 5 Key Messages that is available at the SAMHS, Information & Resource Center. There have also been two radio spots developed with the same key messages as the rack card, but using a different messenger. Staff have also moved forward with other media components utilizing <MaineParents.net>. SAMHS has created two rack cards: one card around marijuana and the 5 Key Messages, and the other card called the Impact of Marijuana on Maine. There have also been radio messages regarding the impact on youth and education. The Marijuana information is posted on the <MaineParent.net> site and SAMHS is now trying to get the Mental Health information posted to SAMHS website, so they can refer people to those sites. Geoff talked about two marijuana PSA's that have been created and sent out to the Healthy Maine Partnerships. They are informative and evidence-based.
- 2) Credentialing Process: ACRC for Prevention Specialists – moving forward with establishing this credential.
- 3) National Prevention Conference, Hartford, Ct. – September 13th -18th has been posted; there will be two staff from SAMHS going to this conference
- 4) Intervention Services – continuing to work on the Crisis Services RFP and crisis services rate setting with MaineCare; hoping to get the RFP out by July 1st, 2015.

- 5) Recently hired an Intensive Case Manager for forensics for the mental health in the Maine State Prison. This individual has a military background and has worked overseas in a prison and also in mental health services; he comes with excellent credentials.
- 6) Treatment Services – working on the Financial Mapping through the SAT-ED Agreement regarding substance abuse and youth; taking a look across various DHHS organizations; identifying what funds are being used for youth services; also to include education; an initial report from Anna Black will be coming soon on how monies are being spent.
- 7) Recovery Services – Anna Black has also been working with youth interns in recovery and who are connected with the Recovery Center in Portland; SAMHS is currently trying to get approval for the Recovery Manager position; the previous Manager has taken another position in the office.
- 8) Data & Research, Quality Management – working on contract with FEI WITS regarding migrating the TDS data system into a new system; contract has been encumbered and is now moving forward; the tentative date of completion is March 1st; Stacey Chandler will be doing trainings with providers on the new system; the new system will be much like a medical record.
- 9) Questions on Recovery Coach training - were discussed among Geoff and the Commission members; discussion on overcoming competing interests; Darren Ripley is a contact person for new volunteers wanting to become a Recovery Coach.
- 10) Marijuana and pregnant women - Geoff stated that Andrea Pascal who works with the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder for babies in the office is the contact person; she is currently researching this issue.
- 11) Overdose prevention: SAMHS has three overdose prevention contracts to include Bangor, Central Maine and Portland areas; SAMHS looks to these organizations for distributing overdose information.
- 12) Contracting for the new fiscal year: The process is moving forward with the process that was initiated earlier this year; some contracts have been encumbered; SAMHS also going through a budget initiative right now.
- 13) New staff – SAMHS is currently hiring for one position in Prevention Team and one position in DEEP.
- 14) Governor's/Maine's involvement in the regional Opioid Addiction Conference - Geoff is still waiting for approval for this travel.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

NA

BREAK

Topic #3 – Increased access to MAT in the State of Maine

Discussion:

Stacey Chandler began her presentation by discussing some of the reasons for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). She showed a previous presentation that she uses when she does her spring regional trainings with providers regarding MAT and the TDS system. Topics addressed: Opiates, Narcotics, and Heroin; based on Primary substance;

Topics discussed during presentation:

MAT Admissions – Buprenorphine/Suboxone & Methadone
MAT Admissions (excluding Suboxone & Methadone
TDS & PMP (SFY 2014)
Active Clients by Type (excluding OTPs)
County where Treatment Provider is located – based on active clients
Active MAT clients, County of Residence (excluding OTPs)
MAT (excluding OTP's) County of Treatment and Residence
Treatment County & Residence County – Suboxone/No OTPs
Active OTP Clients by MAT Type
County where Opiate Treatment Provider is located, percentages based on active clients for
(Methadone & Suboxone)
County of Residence of OTP Clients (Methadone & Suboxone)
MAT (OTP Only), County of Treatment and Residence
Treatment County & Residence County (OTPs only)
MAT – Suboxone Outcomes - Employment
MAT – Methadone Outcomes - Employment
MAT – Suboxone Outcomes - Fewer Arrests
MAT – Methadone Outcomes - Fewer Arrests

Stacey answered questions and listened to member's ideas and comments.

Peter stated there are 14,790 people receiving MAT opiate treatment right now. He sees this as a significant issue. The Commission has been tasked with coming up with recommendations to share with the legislature concerning how to increase access to MAT services. Peter reported that he has been talking with Guy Cousins about this. Guy and his staff are working to send out the Survey Monkey to the rural health centers. This survey is a five item questionnaire to explore what the providers' comfort level is with providing methadone; what the barriers are and what would be needed to increase MAT services. Peter followed up with the gentleman from California he mentioned at the last meeting regarding mobile methadone units. Peter states that right now the Federal Government is opposed to these mobile units. Katherine Coutu also stated that she had talked with Mark Parino, President of AATOD and Mark said the Federal Government is presently not registering any new mobile units. The 13 units that are currently in use have been grandfathered in. The mobile units are not expected to be up for discussion again for at least one year. The DEA is opposed to the dispensing of MAT medications from mobile units. AATOD and SAMHSA would like to see the mobile units continue. Tracy Weymouth stated these federal organizations are currently in discussions about this, so we will have to wait until they have come to some decisions regarding the mobile units. Peter suggested that the Commission still could put this forth as a recommendation. Tracy said it would be a good idea to make this a recommendation.

Other topics discussed:

- 1) Tracy Weymouth stated that specific regulations under the pharmacy board rules would need to be created for the mobile units; this is another barrier. Transportation and cost issues were also discussed. Tracy states that transportation is a MaineCare service and if we need data, we would have to request this data from them.

- 2) Treatment services for clients who wish to be treated with Suboxone - barriers discussed.
- 3) Transportation data – Katherine Coutu contacted Brian Sullivan, Manager of Non-Emergency Transportation Services. Brian stated that it will be quite a process to collect this information, but said he would begin to gather this data. Katherine stated that she gave Brian all the OTP addresses and he will be gathering data on who was driven to those addresses. Brian stated it will probably take a few weeks to gather this information and that he couldn't guarantee the accuracy of this data. He stated some of this information will be difficult to capture; also discussed mileage reimbursement.
- 4) An observation was made that the State of Maine needs to promote prevention information and education to providers and professionals regarding opiate use; make them more accountable; provide more check-in's with clients to either determine a continued course of treatment or discontinue the treatment, if it is not working for the client.
- 5) The need for ongoing assessments and access to behavioral health services was discussed.
- 6) Peter recommended that the State come up with clearer and stronger treatment guidelines for the use of suboxone, other than 24 month and 16 month prescribing limits; need to engage/inform providers on the size of the dose; setting limits; gather information from the PMP on what dosages are being prescribed by the providers.
- 7) Tracy announced that the median dose for methadone clients in the State of Maine statewide is 86 milligrams.

Peter suggested identifying some additional data points we need and prioritizing some recommendations; the following topics were discussed:

- 1) Capture the data per capita, per county, so we can see all of the data together and not in separate graphs; and also show the percentage of people per capita who are in this treatment to see how the county looks; have methadone & soboxone data all together.
- 2) Gather a dollar amount of annual spending on suboxone, methadone and travel expenses for the legislature; Tracy stated we would have to ask MaineCare for this information; SAMHS also has no control over the prescribing practices of providers; we can encourage best practice standards for these prescribing providers, but cannot make it a requirement.
- 3) Who can prescribe suboxone or vivatrol? Tracy stated currently that only doctors can prescribe. She said that currently there is some interest in allowing PA's to be able to do prescribing.
- 4) Number of overdoses; ability to know how many people are overdosing each day and not just the ones who are dying from an overdose; see if we could get information from hospitals; or possibly having an overdose question on the TDS forms.

An emerging list of recommendations the Commission is considering:

- 1) Prevention needs to be emphasized, e.g., safe storage procedures; Narcan use by emergency staff and family members. Scott Gagnon recommended reconvening the opiate task force to consider these topics.
- 2) Mandatory treatment support for anyone who has been subscribed suboxone or methadone.

- 3) Enhanced service delivery and supports, including exploring the feasibility of Mobile dispensing units; expanding the access to opiate treatment (MAT); insuring best practices.
- 4) Developing clear concrete treatment guidelines for Suboxone.
- 5) Mandatory utilization of the PMP (not just registration to use).
- 6) Providing for methadone clinics report to the PMP and TDS; changing the Maine pharmaceutical law's to support some of these items.
- 7) Finding a way for the State to measure and monitor overdoses (not just overdose deaths);
- 8) Active participation by Maine in the New England Opiate Task Force.
- 9) No further reductions for reimbursement for methadone clinics.
- 10) Assessing how to make the PMP easier to use for physicians; SAMHS keeps changing the PMP pages; needs to be made more consistent.

Peter stated that the Commission will work on these items between now and the next meeting in September.

Peter also shared that the SASC minutes will now be added to the SAMHS web page under the SASC heading, so everyone is able to access the minutes. SAMHS is also working on expanding Recovery's position on the SAMHS web page under the four pillars.

Scott Gagnon gave a brief update on the status of the three cities, which include York, South Portland and Lewiston. Scott went over the number of gathered signatures for legalization of marijuana for each city. He stated that most likely it will be on the ballot for all three cities.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

N/A

OLD BUSINESS – July Agenda

Topic #4 – Follow-up on Recovery

Discussions:

Darren had to leave early. Peter said the Commission will discuss at next meeting in September. Bob Creamer discussed and handed out materials on Recovery and cost benefit.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

NA

Topic #5 – Follow-up on the Letter of request to SAMHS on Recovery

Discussions:

Peter stated that the Commission would present the letter of request to SAMHS on Recovery at our meeting in September.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

NA

Topic #6 – Follow-up on the Recovery Month Proclamation – Darren Ripley

Discussions:

Darren received a letter from the Governor’s office. The Commission will discuss the letter in the September meeting.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

NA

Prepare Agenda Items for the next meeting on September 10, 2014:

Agenda for September:

Review Minutes

SAMHS Update

Recovery Letter for SAMHS

MAT recommendations work

Break

Letter from Governor

Recovery Month – a showing of the film “Anonymous People”

Adjourn Meeting: 12:00