

Substance Use Disorder Awareness Commission (SUDAC)

Date: 10.20.2023

Time: 12-1p

Location: Nat U Hill Room and via Zoom

Facilitator: Peter Iversen (President)

Notes: Melanie Vehslage (Secretary)

Present in person: Melanie Vehslage, Steve Malone, Kathy Hewett, Peter Iversen, Whitney Meeks, Patricia Cummings, Karen Wrenbeck

Present online: Sarah Larson, Nick Voyles

Non-members present: Lori Kelley, Ashley Collins

1. Call to order (12:08) Peter Iversen
2. Member announcements
 - a. Patricia
 - i. Continuing to work with those owing child support who are having a difficult time paying due to SUMH challenges by providing information and resources.
 - b. Steve
 - i. [Reducing Revocations Challenge](#).
 - ii. Applied for grants to support urine screen testing and training for staff.
 - iii. [CARES](#) needs board members. Please share about the CARES board within your network. CARES is local coordinating council that uses fees related to drug related offenses and distributes that money in the form of grants to support prevention efforts. They meet monthly to discuss needs in the community and decide who will get grants along with annual educational events around primary prevention.
 - c. Whitney
 - i. IRA is hosting a safe skate night at Western Skateland for Halloween from 6-8 pm on Halloween.
 - ii. Will be starting Harm Reduction support group with Alyson Grider (LCSW who provides Harm Reduction therapy) and Whitney (peer and certified Community Health Worker). They are interested in connecting with Probation to see if this group could count as a support meeting in addition to AA/NA etc. for folks on probation. Hoping to start these meetings before mid-November. More to come. Be on the lookout for flyers and other promotional materials.
 - iii. To Do: Steve and Whitney connect about the group for folks on probation
 - d. Melanie and Kathy
 - i. Still onboarding new Harm Reduction staff.
 - ii. Note that [988](#) has a text line in addition to the call line. Would like members of this body to promote this option for crisis response.
 - iii. If we can, would like to see information about 988 on the SUDAC webpage.
 - iv. Note that if someone needs to connect via text, they will type 'HOME' and send to 741741 for live chat.

- e. Penny
 - i. Monroe County is hosting a meeting with Jayme Whitaker about IRACS later in the afternoon ([CATS link 10/19](#), and [CATS link 10/20](#)). To implement IRACS we need an RCO formalized in the community as it is the body oversees the certified peers.
 - ii. Q: Does IRACS provide training for peers? A: Believe so, can check.
 - iii. To Do: Melanie to follow up and connect Penny with THRIVE staff
- f. Peter
 - i. County Council passed the 2024 budget which included an 8.5% COLA increase which includes the jobs of people doing things like harm reduction, working in the courts to retain staff in MoCo.
 - ii. Connect with Peter if you have ideas about the 2025 budget.
- 3. Nonmember announcements:
 - a. Ashley Collins (Centerstone) - If there are things related to SUMH activities that are upcoming, she can distribute within her network with professionals and clients.
- 4. Lunch and Learn (general discussion)
 - a. Have had three so far, JLAP and two on RCOs ([links here](#))
 - b. There will be lots of time and energy needed to plan the upcoming 2024 summit. Should SUDAC do another one this year or wait till next year?
 - i. Wait till next year is general consensus.
- 5. Opioid Settlement Grant (Penny Githens)
 - a. Requires matching monies to come out of settlement funds to support more harm reduction supplies, a building for IRA (phase 1 of review of property has been completed), vehicle for outreach for the IRA.
 - b. Have gone to Council ([see Council 10/10 meeting](#))
 - c. Having a difficult time finding a vehicle that works for that purpose in the dollar amount requested. Hope to be on Council agenda in November.
- 6. Opioid Settlement
 - a. Council plans to put together a workgroup to decide how to spend the rest of the Opioid Settlement money with judiciary, MCHD, auditor, Commissioners and legal. If you are interested in participating in the workgroup let Penny know. Want to be intentional about who is in the room and want to work across sectors.
 - i. Will there be someone with lived experience on the committee? No reason why not.
 - b. Peter notes that there are two buckets of dollars both unrestricted and restricted totals and will be included in the minutes for next. These are estimated dollars as some settlements are pending. ([see distribution estimates and approved uses here](#))
- 7. IRACS and RCO (Jayme Whitaker)
 - a. Have been meeting with Monroe County, toured the jail, met with Commissioners etc..
 - b. IRACS pilots since launch in 2022 have been successful. Currently in second year of funding from Governor's office and looking at launching new sites.
 - c. Jayme's job is to meet with the communities and do the survey assessment and bring back to partners at the state. IRACS is an intense program, so if the right parts aren't in

place, it has potential to create more issues than it resolves. It is a recovery program, driven by recovery. It is part of and collaborates directly with the Sheriff's team.

- d. Peers have an opportunity to connect with folks in a way that many of the other service providers cannot, breaking down barriers and building trust with people with lived experience. The goal is to take providers and partner with peers to help folks understand how to more effectively build bridges. The RCO and peer support network is a unique structure to Indiana. It allows for the capacity to layer in recovery resources to bring a new dynamic to existing work.
 - e. An RCO is a formalized organization for folks who are struggling with addiction and mental health. The RCO is or is under a 501c3. Can have another fiscal agent while it is starting out. Need a way to funnel funding to the organization (ie can be a church, or other sort of umbrella organization and then formalize moving forward to fill gaps in the recovery ecosystem.
 - f. There are several groups that have been funded by the state to help formalize RCOs, create a board of directors, create processes, procedures and otherwise organize in a way to make it more efficient. A certified RCO allows for access for additional monies, grants and other funding streams.
 - g. There are additional ways to certify peers; there are folks working on developing a forensic certification.
 - h. Jayme will connect with Heather Rodriguez and Monroe County.
 - i. Q: Are there issues with peers and charges on background checks? A: Originally this program was started with Jayme who has an expunged record. Peers are certified and vetted, though some felonies may not be accepted such as trafficking in prison/jail, but ultimately that is at the Sheriff's discretion.
8. CHIP update
- a. Wrapping up this cycle of the CHIP group and looking to address some of the barriers that are within the control of participants in the group before the year end.
 - b. Information sharing for things like 988, new/updated programming were identified as one easy to accomplish task.
 - c. We are hoping that folks will also take what we've identified in the mapping process in the implementation of a SOFR action team as there is a fair amount of overlap, as well as encourage continued communication, possibly through newsletter or other information repository.
 - d. Knowing that it is likely that substance use and mental health will be an identified area of need in the next CHA cycle, we hope that folks will use momentum to share the assessment when it goes live, help with advertising and participate in focus groups, and help lead towards addressing some of the bigger more complex issues identified on the map.
 - i. Q: When can we play around with the map? A: More to come – looking towards SIM mapping and more tweaking before public share. Would be interested in printing largely for easier readability.
9. Educational Summit 2024
- a. Talk to county legal to develop a sub-committee for planning purposes
10. Approval of Minutes

- a. Motion to approve the minutes with date added to the notes by Patricia, seconded by Steve
- b. Unanimous approval

11. Adjourn

Next meeting: Nov. 17th 2023, 12n-1p in Nat U Hill room or on Zoom