



## Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee

**Meeting #14 Minutes**  
**Friday, January 7, 2022**

**Zoom Video Conference**

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Opioid Abuse Advisory Committee was called to order by Advisory Committee Chair Laura Streich at 9:00 am CT. The following members of the Advisory Committee were in attendance: Becky Heisinger, Sara DeCoteau, Mark East, Margaret Hansen, Amy Hartman, Tiffany Wolfgang, Maureen and Jeff Deutscher, Kristen Carter, Representative Taylor Rehfeldt, Aaron Hunt, John Rounds, Tosa Two Heart, Jennifer Ball, and Kari Shanard-Koenders.

State and program staff in attendance included: Laura Ringling, Beth Dokken, Kiley Hump, Jennifer Larson, Melissa DeNoon, Amanda Weinzetl, Marty Link, and Rachel Oelmann and Madden Pikula (contracted project supports from Sage Project Consultants, LLC).

Guests included: Erin Miller and Nikki Prosch (South Dakota State University, or SDSU); Staci Eagle Elk and Anna Takes the Shield-DyBray (Great Plains Tribal Leader's Health Board); Aly Becker and Erin Kinder (Sanford Research OD2A Evaluation Team); Susan Puumala (University of South Dakota); Sandra Melstad (SLM Consulting); Michelle Hofer and Loretta Bryan (SDAHO); and Brooke Blaaid (South Dakota Board of Medical & Osteopathic Examiners).

### **Minutes Approval.**

The prior meeting minutes were approved via e-mail in January 2021.

### **Welcome & Initial Comments**

Laura Streich welcomed the Advisory Committee members and guests. She began by introducing new members of the coalition and did introductions. The outcome of the meeting was set to a) provide updates on several key initiatives supported by opioid funding managed by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Health (DOH), b) review key data, c) provide update on the rollout of the emergency department toolkit, and d) provide opportunity for sharing of project information and networking across state and non-state agencies working in the area of opioid prevention, treatment, or response and e) provide time for roundtable discussion.

### **Funding Updates.**

Streich relayed that the Department of Health has now been approved for an additional renewal of the grant possible for the coming year. In addition, Streich shared that she is now has taken on a new position and thus they will be looking to hire a new opioid project director in the future.

Department of Social Services as reported by Tiffany Wolfgang, Division Director for Behavioral Health, began with updates on the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant which is supposed to run through Sept 29, 2022. Wolfgang anticipated that there will be a no cost extension through September 2023. Wolfgang

encouraged people to review the annual report to see how the funding is being utilized. Wolfgang shared that details are pending on a potential third iteration of the SOR funding, with announcement expected in February 2022.

## **Presentations**

Meeting slides presented are included in these meeting minutes.

### ***South Dakota's Opioid Road Map – Data & Surveillance.***

#### Presentation #1: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Update

Melissa DeNoon, SD PDMP Director with the Board of Pharmacy, Department of Health, reported on the latest activities associated with the program. DeNoon relayed that interstate data sharing has been started with St. Louis County, MO, and Alaska for a current total of 38 states participating. She also relayed the BOP/PDMP collaborated with SD Medicaid on the Support Act's required PDMP query of C2s effective October 1, 2021. DeNoon also shared that a preliminary report based on the masked PDMP data extracts has been put together and will be released soon. Progress has been made on the PDMP's license integration project that allows for auto-approval of new practitioner user accounts as well as performing daily reverification of current accounts.

DeNoon then updated that the 2018 BJA COAP PDMP Grant ended September 30, 2021, and the program is awaiting awarding of the 2021 BJA Harold Rogers PDMP Enhancement Grant.

DeNoon then spoke on the Clinical Alerts enhancement which is funded through this grant. She shared that this enhancement gives providers alerts on patients that meet or exceed one or more of three thresholds that may put the patient at risk. DeNoon also shared the positive trending data of the Clinical Alerts' elements from 2018 to 2021 showing the success of this enhancement. In addition, DeNoon updated on trending PDMP utilization as measured by queries via Gateway integrations and the web portal. The data showed that Gateway integrations have increased over time which was the design as integration provides in-workflow, one-click access to a patient's PDMP report. DeNoon then shared an update on trending opioid prescription data for SD patients. The three metrics the program measures, prescription count, total quantity dispensed, and total days of supply dispensed, have all trended down from 2019 to 2021.

DeNoon then updated on the PharmaDrop Drug Take-Back program. In 2021, nearly 5 tons were returned for destruction and a total of 84 receptacles are in place across the state.

DeNoon then called for questions. Aaron Hunt asked if there was any data on Naloxone prescriptions since the standing order was put in place. DeNoon said that the PDMP does not collect or track data regarding that particular drug. Tiffany Wolfgang updated that over 50 pharmacies are now participating in the Naloxone standing order. Wolfgang also relayed that increased messaging will be a focus going forward to increase the span of public awareness.

Marty Link also provided an update that law enforcement is also continuing the successful implementation of the program.

#### Presentation #2: Incidence and Prevalence Data

Presentation was provided by Amanda Weinzetl. She reported there is an increasing trend in drug related deaths however we were one of the few states that saw a decrease in 2020 and given what other states experienced this was good to see. Methamphetamine took a jump in Quarter 4 in 2020 but then decreased

in Quarter 1 2021 through Quarter 3, but Fentanyl did increase from 3 in Quarter 1 2021 to 9 in Quarter 3 2021.

Weinzetl provided updated on the State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS.) She shared the requirements that allow the SUDORS program to be utilized including certain cause of deaths, substance types, and death location being in South Dakota. See the enclosed slides for specific figures shared with the committee. Amanda went on to report 63 unintentional overdose deaths in SD--97% unintentional and 3% undetermined--Opioids 56%; Meth 41% and Fentanyl 32%--American Indian rate almost 4 times higher than the white race; 87% of cases were related to substance abuse so they were using drugs for the feeling and overdosed unintentionally; 49% of cases had evidenced of drug use and 32% had a bystander present during or shortly preceding the overdose.

Weinzetl called for questions. Wolfgang applauded the work going on with SUDORS sharing how influential this data could be going forward.

Streich noted that two people had asked in the chat about kratom being a cause of death in the data. Weinzetl shared that kratom was usually occurring when polydrug usage was cause of death.

#### Presentation #3: Emergency Department Toolkit

Laura Streich presented on the Emergency Department Toolkit. Streich relayed that the toolkit is based on a decision tree that hospitals can use based on their own capacity in their community. Streich walked through the decision tree that the ED Toolkit provides. The Toolkit can be seen on [avoidopiodsd.com](http://avoidopiodsd.com).

Streich called for questions. No questions were asked.

Becky Heisinger then continued to provide an update on the ED Toolkit. The program is currently looking for 5 or 6 pilot hospital sites that can champion the program; 4 or 5 hospitals have been identified and discussions have begun to enroll them into the program. Starting next week Heisinger will be visiting the first site to gauge participation. Heisinger relayed that in person visits will be prioritized to assist hospitals to educate and train the staff on the usefulness of the toolkit.

Heisinger called for questions. Aaron Hunt asked what would happen after the implementation in the pilot sites? Heisinger shared that after the pilot sites were finished, they would be able to branch out to new hospital sites in the state. Hunt then asked how much training ER doctors would need before using the decision tree. Heisinger said that she is not familiar on that technical piece of the program. Wolfgang asked if the names of the pilot hospitals could be shared; Heisinger shared that tentatively the communities of Wagner, Brookings, Spearfish, and Aberdeen are considering being pilot sites. She shared that they had tried to spread the usage of the program based on need and geographic location throughout the state with the pilot site selection.

Both Loretta Bryan and Heisinger shared great excitement in the implementation of the program. Additional comments from multiple attendees reflected interest in leveraging MAT-induction via telemedicine, partnering EDs with MAT providers, as a solution to include in the toolkit. This will be further explored as discussions and planning continue with the pilot sites.

Streich called for any additional questions regarding the toolkit and no question were asked.

## State Opioid Strategic Plan Review & Discussion

### Priorities and Activities Moving Forward: Roundtable

Streich shared four prompts that could help the coalition reprioritize how the coalition should act going forward. The prompts are provided in the attached slides.

Stacy Eagle Elk shared that they are doing a lot of recovery and prevention activities with families that include culture. Eagle Elk shared that they have tried other activities such as equine activities, yoga, and other culture-based recovery.

Tosa Two Heart shared that the state has been a great partner; Two Heart relayed that the previous 19-part series was very helpful in her community to educate and help people understand what resources are available to people. Two Heart shared the success of their comic book campaign that helps educate youth on the dangers of opioid usage. An additional program regarding meth use is in the works going forward. The comic book campaign can be found on the Great Plains Tribal Leaders Health Board website (<https://bhr.gptchb.org/>), and is airing on Facebook and YouTube. Staci Eagle Elk relayed that the Rapid City Police Department has also asked to have the comic book located at their locations.

Tosa Two Heart also shared the success of a program they are using, Horse Healing. Two Heart relayed that they are trying to find creative ways that do not seem as direct to people who may think a direct program does not apply to them.

Staci Eagle Elk relayed that increased opioid awareness may need done so that people know exactly what opioids are because many people think of more known street drugs rather than specific opioids.

Streich agreed and said that some effort has been done on social media, but more can be done. Wolfgang agreed and said that the current commercial has been successful in educating people on how they should store their opioids.

Streich spoke about additional programs that are available and possibilities for collaboration. Eagle Elk added that they are open to any collaborations with potential partners in the state.

Aaron Hunt asked how much training is being done with doctors who work in pain management. Hunt added that he included a link in the chat to a new exercise program that has many online availabilities for those in need. <https://thephoenix.org/find-a-class/>.

Mark East shared that a lot of physician focus is being done on medical cannabis but is looking to see how the pilot programs perform going forward. East also shared potential upcoming events that could be helpful in sharing the opioid resources.

Jennifer Ball relayed that many doctors are aware of other recovery services, but the problem comes with funding that is not typically covered for pain control with patient's insurances.

East added that there is work to be done with insurance companies to increase availability of alternative pain management compared to opioids.

Streich asked if there were other options available for collaborations. Aaron Hunt relayed that they are trying to improve access to resources for mental health programs for kids in their community, stress and

trauma management, parenting skills, etc. Hunt added that if anyone has questions, he could be a good resource to how to get involved with said programs.

Streich said that the Department of Social Services is working on issues and asked for an update from Wolfgang on prevention activities that are being done. Wolfgang said that partners are still being worked with to improve relationship with coalitions and resource centers that can increase awareness in communities on a holistic basis.

Jennifer Ball relayed that more people are beginning to utilize resources and have begun to also become more aware that many people in their program are using drugs that are laced with drugs like fentanyl.

Hunt shared that they are going to be applying for the Harm Reduction Grant from SAMSHA and will be looking to potentially form a statewide harm reduction coalition going forward.

Dr. Ball raised the issue that some folks are not aware of the Good Samaritan laws and wondered if some awareness campaign could focus in this area as well as the ingestion law that is concerning for patients that if they do go to the emergency room and be arrested for a felony.

DeCoteau asked if there was still a shortage on naloxone and Marty Link said that their supplier has not had issues. Ball agreed with this. Streich asked for any additional perspective on how we can enhance education on overdose and naloxone. Rachel Oelmann shared marketing materials available on [AvoidOpioidSD.com](http://AvoidOpioidSD.com).

Aaron Hunt said that they have seen some overdose information from high school kids and said that naloxone education to high school students has been difficult to achieve; Streich asked if any parent education information had been done, to which Hunt said that they have been working on programs like that. Streich asked what kind of feedback they have received, and Hunt said that people have been open to the information so far.

Streich opened the floor to any other public awareness campaigns that need more emphasis. Sara DeCoteau talked about the standing orders for naloxone in private pharmacies. She asked if we are explaining the costs involved and why there may be hesitancy right now. Through the I.H.S. standing order, community members are concerned that law enforcement will "track" them if they ask for Naloxone. She also shared that their Certified Nurse Practitioner is MAT waived and will start to provide MAT services. DeCoteau commented about the TOR grant and how the current grant is problematic due to the nine-month nature of the intervention proposed, with only a two-year timeframe from SAMHSA to complete and see results. Naloxone education has been one of the main focuses of their TOR funding.

Streich thanked DeCoteau for sharing and said that further focus will be done in the future with this topic and asked for any other directions that can be taken going forward with awareness. Wolfgang talked about the standing order and how after getting the pharmacies to buy in it is now time to focus on getting the information out to the people who need it. Hunt and Wolfgang addresses some stereotypes that are also opposing the program that must be combated. Wolfgang noted that the Division of Behavioral Health recently released a RFP to seek a vendor that can develop a five year marketing strategic plan to guide this and other messaging in a cohesive manner, including messaging that addresses stigma around treatment and seeking treatment for behavioral health issues statewide.

Erin Miler also emphasized the importance of changing the stigma for individuals as well as healthcare providers involving the mental health conversation.

Mark East proposed that more needs to be done about the prevention of mental health issues rather than just trying to treat the problem. Wolfgang supported his comment saying that prevention, education, and awareness are just as important as treatment.

Streich asked Kiley Hump from the Department of Health an update on the COVID Health Cooperative Agreement received from the CDC. Hump shared that over \$37 million dollars was given to assist in the state to improve capacities. Steps are currently being taken to improve community health workers infrastructure expansion across the state. Hump also shared that an information exchange system is being created to bridge the gap between community-based partners with health providers to have an entire system report to better provide holistic care to patients in the state. A software vendor is currently being picked right now. An additional project that is going on is looking at health equity in the state. A statewide health assessment has been done, which evaluated access to care and health literacy. To continue to address this a future coalition is going to be put together to raise awareness to this project. Hump relayed that they are also looking to provide funding opportunities to others in the state who have shared goals.

Erin Miller asked if there was anything being looked at for recovery housing or long-term housing. Tiffany Wolfgang relayed that there are many ways that people find a sober life and housing is a big need. There are already current efforts being done in Sioux Falls and Rapid City through SOR via Oxford House. Share housing is also a resource listed on the behavioral health website. Bethany Christian Services is an additional resource that is available for women with children.

[https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/docs/BH/BH11\\_SHARE\\_flyer.pdf](https://dss.sd.gov/formsandpubs/docs/BH/BH11_SHARE_flyer.pdf)

Rachel Oelmann added that this is included in Step 6 of South Dakota's Opioid Strategic Plan.

Erin Miller and Tiffany Wolfgang talked about how small communities have increased challenges to provide housing in those communities. Aaron Hunt shared that they have met with are housing programs in their project's catchment area, but capital requirements are limiting. Hunt added that housing is a constant struggle in Brookings; Miller added that people with families especially are struggling to find housing.

Streich asked the group if there were any other events, conferences, or other opportunities that should be used to share their information. Aaron Hunt shared that there will be a MAT boot camp event that will occur in May.

Kari Shanard-Koenders said that with number seven on the strategic plan there is more of an illicit supply of fentanyl coming in and more resources may need to be directed in that way. Laura Streich indicated they will be working with Hot Pink and developing resources for law enforcement to provide resources to law enforcement so they have information to provide individuals they encounter. She also looking at how DOH can address a more timely response in communities that are experiencing issues and mentioned the Brookings social media push that occurred in November.

Aaron Hunt asked for an update on what the state is doing for neonatal abstinence syndrome. Streich spoke about PRAMS and where the data can be accessed: <https://doh.sd.gov/statistics/prams.aspx?>. DeCoteau relayed that the Sisseton hospital has been contracted with NTI Upstream to use a screening assessment with pregnant women and indicated that the program has gone well but has still been difficult to fully implement.

Tosa Two Heart shared information about efforts being done to destigmatize on getting treatment. The program is creating episodes from speakers from different perspectives to help educate and inform people of what is available. <https://thecirclegptlhb.podbean.com/page/2/>

#### Committee and Partner Updates

Streich asked for any additional updates or public input and no response was given.

Maureen Deutscher addressed the committee, advising that Jeff and herself will be stepping down from the committee after five years. Deutscher thanked the committee for the work that is being done and continuing going forward. Deutscher then gave some background and the story behind her son who passed away at 21 from a prescription opioid addiction and thanked the committee for all the progress and work that is being done from this committee. Streich thanked Deutscher for the work she has done in the committee.

#### **Closing Remarks**

The next meeting will be set for summer of 2022. Meeting was adjourned.