

Tioga County Drug & Alcohol Planning Council
June 14, 2023
1:30 PM

Board Attendance: Malachi Cunningham, Diane Weed, Lisa Wood, Joelle Young

Guest Attendance: Commissioner Roger Bunn, Janice Chamberlain, Commissioner Erick Coolidge, Mellissa Parsons, Marc Rice, Sara Rice, Laurie Roof, Michael Spencer, Colleen Wilbur

Call to Order- Diane Weed called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence at 1:30 p.m.

Agenda Items:

Due to the lack of a quorum, last month's meeting minutes will need to get approved at the July meeting. Diane begins informing the planning council where the Opioid Settlement Dollars have been allocated so far. We have put out an RFP for a D&A Counselor in the schools and have reserved \$30,000 for this. We allocated \$20,000 start-up costs for Meadowlark, \$4,351 for training costs, \$1,712 for Deterra Bags, \$10,000 for Drug Endangered Children(DEC) prosocial activities, \$10,000 for the Adventure Motorbike Program (AMP), and \$25,000 for a youth that needs treatment at Serenity Lodge who fell into a gap where he wasn't covered by CYS and we could not use DDAP dollars. This totals \$101,063 with a balance of \$38,501. We have pending Harbor's proposal request for a CRS in the homeless shelter. That is still under consideration due to the dollar amount. We need to make sure we aren't spending money that we don't have. We expect another round of allocation at the end of the year.

Any questions/comments? Commissioner Bunn states that going forward, these disbursements will be voted on at the Commissioners meeting each month. Joelle asks if the D&A counselor is for all school districts in Tioga County? The RFP was for Southern Tioga and Wellsboro Area School Districts because Harbor is already in Northern Tioga School District for the next four years. Marc Rice asked if there was another provider that could do these services other than Crossroads? At the moment, no. Marc- is this something the County could take on? Diane- we are already in the school for prevention. Regarding the counselor position, we would need licensure to do so. Question—Would there need to be licensure if the SCA funded it instead of billing insurance? This would allow no barriers based on the child's insurance. Commissioner Coolidge mentions that at the Venango County board meeting, there has been a lot of scrutiny given to how these dollars are being invested. The County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania(CCAP) has submitted a right to know request, because we are a 501(c)(3), we are not obligated to forward any of that. It was advised that whatever we do with these dollars, it needs to meet the criteria that it was set aside for. If we do that, we will be fine. There is an ambition by Spotlight PA to make themselves known at the expense of those that are trying to serve. This is about service and needs to be met. Every dollar will have an accountability. Marc Rice- the billing piece of this is important because we are trying to make this program self-sufficient and self-sustainable. Diane- That is correct. These dollars that we receive are front-heavy. We will get more money the first 4-5 years and then those funds will start to dwindle, so we do not want to rely heavily on these funds, that is why we submitted a RFP for the D&A counselor. It would be unfair to think that we would fund the program solely on settlement dollars. We will support start-up costs while components are put in place.

Laurie from Harbor- What is Meadowlark? It is a new facility that is opening in Mansfield that will provide mental health counseling to start and will also be doing drug and alcohol outpatient counseling. They will be located at the old Chamber of Commerce building behind Strohecker Vision Center.

Mike Spencer from Harbor would like to present a proposal for Opioid Settlement Dollars. We are requesting funds to assist transportation costs associated with providing much needed services for our clients struggling with addiction. The biggest barrier to treatment in this rural area is safe, reliable, and low-cost transportation. Harbor Counseling is a non-profit agency that provides mental health and substance abuse treatment in this community for over 30 years. We do not have a fleet of vehicles or unlimited gas caps. We have three very used vans that our staff uses 7 days a week to transport our clients to various meetings, appointments, and other obligations. No other agency does this, and travel is not a billable service, however we believe it is a vital service that our staff provides when our clients need to

overcome obstacles to get back on their feet. Our proposal fits many categories in Exhibit E. We are requesting approximately \$15,000 to assist with these costs. Questions? Marc Rice- What would the \$15,000 specifically go for, a vehicle? Staff time? Mike- This would go towards gas and some vehicle maintenance. We would not be purchasing another vehicle.

Diane states that any dollars spent, would be dispersed through an invoicing process that would have a cap dollar amount to it. That way we can account for these dollars. This would allow for complete transparency, and we will be reporting on it at every meeting. We are trying the best we can with the dollars that we receive and spend is according to Exhibit E. Janice Chamberlain mentions that we could possibly post this information on the county website showing what we've received, what was spent and for what reason, and how much is left. That way the public can see where the dollars are going.

Diane states that some dollars were spent on Detera Bags which are for medication disposal. You put the medication in the bag, add warm water, wait 30 seconds, seal, and drop the bag in the garbage. We have 4 cases (800 bags) of them. These will be given to our prevention team, nurse practitioners, schools, CYS, and given out at the Senior Expo in August. Marc- Can you please give some out to Bridge Housing? Yes.

Diane mentions that the Planning Council by-laws state that we will need to eliminate 1/3rd of the planning council members after year one. She asks if any of the members would like to step down? No response. She suggests that Nancy and Joelle stay on the council since they just came on board in the spring. Question—If a council member misses so many meetings, are they considered to be off the council? Yes- it would be up to the County Commissioners, but they could remove a member from the council for missing 3 consecutive meetings. Diane introduces Katlyn Lutchko to the Planning Council. She is a social worker at the hospital, and we would like to welcome her to the council if the County Commissioners agree. Going forward, we will need 3 people stepping down next year and then each member would hold a three-year term after that. Question—Prior to the next meeting, can you propose who will be coming off the council? Yes.

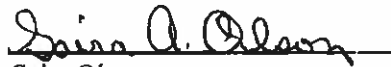
Our DDAP representative will be visiting June 27th to review our case managers charts, contracts, and monitoring visits with all the facilities. They have a new focus on recovery and they awarded dollars into recovery hubs. We are in Centre, Lycoming, Clinton, Northumberland, Columbia, Montour, Union, Snyder, Bradford, and Potter Counties. There will be more to come regarding dollars being received.

The Commissioners granted us permission to use The Green for A Walk for Recovery event on September 9th. We plan on having t-shirts made and selling them at the event to raise funds for this event going forward each year. We have reached out to many entities to get more people involved-CCBH, UPMC, Guthrie, Laurel Health, Etc. The event will be from 10-1:30. We would like to have live music and speakers. If you would like to volunteer your time for this event, please let me know.

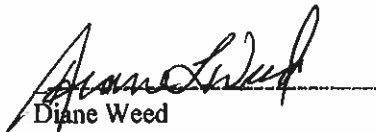
Colleen Wilbur mentions that BHARP is hosting several trainings for professionals and will send the schedule to Diane. Commissioner Bunn asked for a copy of this.

Malachi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Lisa seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Submitted By:



Saira Olson
Secretary



Diane Weed
D&A Assistant Administrator