

**Tioga County Drug & Alcohol Planning Council**  
**November 15, 2023**  
**1:30 PM**

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

**Guest Attendance:** Janice Chamberlain, Brenda Fry, Heather Kreger, Shane Nickerson, Mellissa Parsons, Marc Rice, Sara Rice, Laurie Roof, Mary Wilson

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

**Secretary's Report-** Diane asked the board to review the minutes as presented for the October 11, 2023 meeting. Lisa made a motion to accept the minutes. John seconded, 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

**Business:**

We received an application for Opioid Settlement Dollars from the Overdose Fatality Review(OFR) Team in the amount of \$5,000. Copies of the request were distributed to the Planning Council members. These funds will be used to request records from involved agencies of fatal overdoses and suicides in Tioga County. The OFR Teams were established by Governor Wolf effective 11/3/2022. The Tioga County Board of Commissioners appointed the Tioga County Partnership for Community Health to act as the lead agency for the OFR Team and has registered as such with the PA Department of Health. This team will be able to review circumstances, identify gaps in services or processes, and to make recommendations. These funds may last several years depending on number of cases and the cost of obtaining the records. No questions/comments regarding this request.

We have been working with BHARP to do a stigma survey. They have reached out to the Commonwealth College social work department to collaborate to get a survey started. This information will help us determine needs in the county.

We had a Recovery Hub/Listening Session at the end of October. There were three questions to the session: What is working for your recovery in your community, what could be better, and what keeps us hopeful. We had three stakeholders and seven individuals in recovery who attended. A lot of information was received and discussed during this meeting. DDAP has recognized that this is a population we need to enhance, embrace, and empower. We began the Hub with this initial meeting and now it will break into focus groups.

Our prevention team at the Partnership is partnering with the after-school programs in providing a holiday meal with small gifts for each of the kids at Cowanesque Valley. We are looking to do a Cabin Fever night in January at the Wellsboro School District. Our goal in these events is to make the SCA present in our County. There are prevention dollars available for gambling. We would like to utilize these dollars for information dissemination and to pay for our membership to the Pennsylvania Council on Gambling. This membership will give us more information. The ease of access to gambling is a real concern and I want to make sure we are doing something about it in our County. We received an email from the PA Overdose Prevention Program to transition to recognized entity model. I was asked if we would want to be that entity and we agreed. This means that we will now have easier access to Narcan.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> I had to submit a report on our 5-year plan, giving an update on our plan and where we are at in year two. We have not yet been able to accomplish a contract with a 4.0 level of care, which are hospital-based. We are not the only SCA that is having this issue. Eagleville, a hospital in Chester County who provides inpatient medically monitored substance use treatment will not contract with us. It is difficult to get these hospitals to contract with us due to distance and transportation, dollar reimbursement amounts and due to the contract process that it takes if we don't end up using them. Other area's that we have identified are MAT providers. We are very close to having a contract in place with CleanSlate.

Plans of Safe Care is state mandated program that the SCA is involved in. It is an effort not to police the parents and their use but rather to educate the parents of the use and connect them to all the resources available locally to make sure their babies develop as typical as possible. Tioga County has done a lot of work to educate the medical community on their responsibility to report use. Whenever we get a report, we then make it a plan of safe care. It is a Plans of Safe Care caseworker and D&A caseworker that reach out to the parents collaborate resources available to the parents. The engagement efforts have really worked in Tioga County and we lean into celebrating the birth of the baby.

Joelle motioned to close the Planning Council meeting; Lisa seconded. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Meeting Adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Submitted By:

***Diane Weed***

Diane Weed  
D&A Assistant Administrator

*Saira A. Olson*

Saira Olson  
Secretary