

## Tioga County Drug & Alcohol Planning Council

August 10, 2022

1:30 PM

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**Board Attendance:** Roger Bunn, Malachi Cunningham, Davey Heck, Saira Olson, Mark Scafidi, Diane Weed, Lisa Wood

**Guest Attendance:** Mellissa Parsons, Sara Rice, Colleen Wilbur

**Call to Order-** Diane Weed called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

### **Agenda Items:**

Diane began the meeting with introductions around the room. After introductions were made, Diane welcomes everyone and thanks everyone for coming to the meeting and joining the drug and alcohol planning council board. She states she has four additional members that were unable to attend today's meeting. The Planning Council is an advisory board to keep the SCA on track, see how we can become more involved in the community, and to help develop plans for the dollars that come to the SCA. We have to submit yearly plans for prevention and a 5-year plan for case management.

The Single County Authority has the first hand to get an individual into treatment and to pay for the treatment. We are managed/overseen by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Program (DDAP), to make sure we are doing everything we need to do. There is a lot of advocacy by sitting on other committees to raise awareness so that people know we are available and there are resources available to them. Diane informs the board that she also meets on prevention with the partnership and the things they are doing in the community and schools. Questions? No questions raised.

Diane presented statistics: We served 165 people last year, from which were direct referrals to our office, with the primary substance being alcohol, meth, and marijuana. Trends are showing an increase with meth use and adolescent use. Youth's substance use has increased by roughly 60% this year. We believe that is due to COVID-19 and the increase of medical marijuana cards being issued more easily. We are seeing a decrease in opioid use. A warm-handoff is a state initiative to deal with the opioid crisis. We contract with Harbor for on-call/after hours and hospital contracts with them for warm hand off. In the last 6 months we have had 1-2 overdoses. Meth overdose numbers have increased and those people are refusing inpatient treatment. Commissioner Bunn questioned if there has been any alcohol overdoses? Diane states that alcohol tends to be more alcohol poisoning and not necessarily and overdose but we haven't had any of those reports. Anyone that comes to ER, no matter what the substance is, is a warm hand off.

Diane presented the by-laws to the planning council stating that they were just a draft and asked each of them to please review them and email me any questions, concerns, changes, suggestions prior to the next meeting. Diane handed out the 5-year plan to the planning council and presented it as it read. Diane states that the Behavioral Health Alliance of Rural Pennsylvania (BHARP) is putting together a data warehouse, that as a county we can access data for substance use, treatments, lengths of stays, etc. This will be helpful with grant writing and 5 year plans. The prevention plan was just submitted and approved in June. No questions.

We are doing a Walk for Recovery on September 24, 2022 and we have had several people sign up for a

booth/table at this event.

Diane states that she will be getting literature out to all of the medical offices regarding Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) to raise awareness and try to reduce it.

We currently have three case manager positions, one of which is vacant. Sam Garrison is our case manager that handles treatment court, Kendra Price is our case manager that is present in the Tioga County jail and they are both going to the homeless shelter for case management. We are working closely with CYS referrals and building that relationship as well. Diane opens the floor to the Planning Council for questions, concerns, and comments.


Commissioner Bunn asked if the SCA is in process for recruiting more advocates for the planning council board and Diane affirms this. Commissioner Bunn had asked where the governing rules come from? Diane states that it is through legislation and DDAP. DDAP audits us every year. DDAP advised us at the last review that we needed one more medically assisted treatment (MAT) center for women that are pregnant and more treatment centers for adolescents. We are actively looking/contracting for those locations. Malachi states that he does not agree with MAT. You are treating one drug for another. Diane said that they came up with an injection that individuals can't abuse. Lisa states she agrees with Malachi especially now since introducing marijuana however there are certain situations when MAT is necessary but she has also seen in the past where doctors are increasing it instead of decreasing/weaning it. Colleen Wilbur states that Dr. Loveland has a presentation on MAT and could organize a training to help individuals better understand it. Diane expresses interest in this presentation.

Diane discussed the different facilities that Tioga County contracts with for inpatient and outpatient treatment. Vaping has increased and the schools have expressed concern and we are looking into what we can do with prevention. Saira states that Northern Tioga School District has reached out to probation for prevention discussion to see what they can do to talk to the children, but we don't have necessarily the experience. Malachi and Davey expressed interest to go and speak in the school districts regarding substance use and asked what age group. Saira responds ages 13-15 is at a very high rate right now and some as young as age 11. In the last year the most challenging has been finding secure placements for youth. Everything is closing and a study was done, we only have 13 facilities in the state right now.

Commissioner Bunn offers his support for the planning council and he could possibly make recommendations to fill those spots on the planning council board. Sara Rice states that we would like everyone's thoughts/perspectives on this planning council and we want to be able to serve these individuals with the best care.

Diane made a motion to close the meeting. Lisa seconded. All in favor? 5 ayes, no nays. Meeting Adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Submitted By:



Diane Weed  
D&A Assistant Administrator