

## **New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council**

Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
**1:30PM-3:30 PM**

Location:

[Webex Link](#)

Meeting ID: **146 370 2565**  
Password: **C5JyyYqqP33**  
Or Call-In: **1-844-992-4726**

### **MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Introductions
- II. Review of November 13th, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
- III. Review of Agenda
- IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez
- V. PMP Statistics by Licensing Boards – Jim Davis
- VI. 2021 Legislation – (Proposed by Steve Jenkusky)
- VII. Drug Decriminalization – Emily Kaltenbach (Drug Policy Alliance)
- VIII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations
  - a. Methamphetamine Committee – Chandelle Chavez
  - b. Fentanyl Committee – Sophie Andar
  - c. Integrative Pain Management Committee – Michael Pridham
- IX. 2020 Advisory Council – Recommendations Finalization
- X. Next Meeting - TBD

## **Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 15th, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM**

**Location:** WebEx

### **COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Jennifer Burke, Ernie Dole, Jason Flores, Steve Jenkusky, Frances Lovett, Ralph McClish, Cheranne McCracken, Clare Romero, Brandon Warrick, Troy Weisler

**ABSENT:** Joanna Katzman, Michael Pendleton

**QUORUM:** Yes

**Other attendees:** Sophie Andar, Wence Asonganyi, Neal Bowen, Carlos Briano, Alisha Campbell, Eric Chavez, Karen Cheman, Mark Clark, Jaime Crowell, Donna Daniel, Karen Edge, Victor Ekpe, Marcus Erickson, Sharon Finarelli, Phil Fiuty, Evonne Gantz, Roxy Grajeda, Kimberly Greenberg, Brian Gutierrez, Autumn Hobson, Athena Huckaby, Lisa Jackson, LaShai Jake, Emily Kaltenbach, Robert Kelly, Stanford Kemp, Laurie Kerr, Alana Lee, Kathryn Lowerre, Brooke Parish, Haley Peterson, Janet Popp, Wendy Price, Michael Pridham, Galina Priloutskaya, Robert Rhyne, Ashley Riley, Toby Rosenblatt, Peter Ryba, Joann Sanchez, Laura Schwartz, Michael Sievert, Janet Simon, Samantha Storsberg, Josh Swatek, Dale Tinker, Desiree Valdez, Kamilla Venner

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **I. Introductions**

#### **II. Review of November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

- a. Bill Barkman was removed from the Council Membership list for the Nov. Meeting Minutes and for the future since he has retired.
- b. Minutes were approved without dissent. Ralph McClish made, and Steve Jenkusky seconded the motion.

#### **III. Review of Agenda**

- a. Brandon Warrick proposed a discussion about the changes in benzodiazepine prescribing during the meeting. Toby added this item to the agenda after the 2020 Recommendations discussion and said in the future he will try to move the recommendations discussion earlier in the agenda, to try to avoid rushing discussions about recommendations.
- b. Agenda was approved. Steve Jenkusky moved to approve & Frances Lovett seconded the motion.

#### **IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez**

- a. Desiree reported the Governor’s Board and Commissions Appointments official has been contacted and they said they are working on appointments for the Advisory Council.
- b. She asked the attendees if anyone in attendance had received a letter about being newly appointed to the council. No one said they have been newly appointed.

#### **V. PMP Statistics by Licensing Boards – Jim Davis**

- a. Jim presented on data about the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). To provide context, Jim shared NM has had a sharp uptick in overdose deaths recently with a strong emphasis on the use of fentanyl and its analogues. Use of non-fentanyl Rx opioids has declined. Based on Jim’s projection methodology, overdose deaths and rates are expected to be higher in 2020 than in 2019.
- b. Regarding the PMP analysis, the data is based on New Mexico practitioners with at least 20 controlled substances patients, excluding the larger groups of hospital residents. The board with the highest number of practitioners with more than 20 controlled substance patients is the NM Medical Board and

the board with the lowest numbers consist of the Board of Pharmacy and Certified Nurse Midwives. The decline in the number of practitioners is not due to less providers, but changes in prescribing practices. There was a dip in the various of the measures in 2020 due to the pandemic and the temporary reduction in elective procedures, but the numbers moved up as the year went on. The number of folks with chronic opioid prescriptions did not decline, but those with short term prescriptions declined, probably due to the pandemic. The percentage of PMP checks have increased with all the boards since 2016 but there is still room for more growth.

#### **VI. 2021 Legislation – (Proposed by Steve Jenkusky)**

- a. Toby reviewed 2021 legislation related to drug overdose. He reviewed different pre-filed house bills which cover studying injectable opioid treatment programs, DWI blood testing, carrying firearms while trafficking controlled substances. Senate pre-filed bills cover the physical therapy licensure compact, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) appropriation, allowing fentanyl strips to be included in the harm reduction program. Another bill brought up was the chiropractic copay bill. A section of the Nursing Practice Act which allows nurses and LPNs working in opiate treatment programs to dispense methadone will also be brought up during the session this year.
- b. Discussion about all prescriptions changing to electronic formats, including controlled substances, took place. Council members had questions about this and Cheranne McCracken said she would share more information about this topic with the group via email.

#### **VII. Drug Use and Possession Decriminalization – Presentation – Emily Kaltenbach (Drug Policy Alliance)**

- a. Emily Kaltenbach is the director of the Drug Policy Alliance in New Mexico and presented on decriminalization of drug use and possession. Decriminalization of drugs consists of eliminating criminal penalties for drug use and possession, possession of paraphernalia, and low-level drug sales. Most drug arrests are due to possession of small amounts of an illicit substance.
- b. Decriminalization is important because it addresses the severe health and socioeconomic consequences of drug arrests, racial disparities and over-policing in communities of color, and lack of investment in treatment and harm reduction programs. The benefits of decriminalization range from saving money on jail costs to reducing stigma about drug use, so people with substance use disorder do not feel as discouraged about seeking treatment and other support.
- c. The decriminalization efforts we have in NM currently are: Good Samaritan Law, LEAD programs in Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Doña Ana counties, and the efforts to decriminalize use of cannabis and drug paraphernalia.

#### **VIII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations**

##### **a. Methamphetamine Committee – Evonne Gantz on behalf of Chandelle Chavez**

- i. Chandelle is rotating leadership of the committee to Ashley Riley (Emergency Department Coordinator with the Overdose Prevention program with NMDOH) and a new meeting will be scheduled by Ashley soon.

##### **b. Fentanyl Committee – Sophie Andar**

- i. Sophie will schedule a meeting for late January. E-mail Sophie if you would like to join this subcommittee: [sophie.andar@state.nm.us](mailto:sophie.andar@state.nm.us). The meeting in Dec. consisted of discussing the recommendation about eliminating syringes and needles as drug paraphernalia. Council members had voted to approve this recommendation in draft form.
- ii. Josh Swatek shared about his recommendation to amend the Substance Control Act and the Harm Reduction Act to expand the supplies the Harm Reduction Program can distribute, particularly fentanyl test strips. He would like to amend the Public Health Act with his recommendation.

##### **c. Integrative Pain Management Committee – Michael Pridham**

- i. Michael Pridham met with former Representative Xochitl Torres-Small to cosponsor legislation to increase chiropractic coverage in Medicare. Congressional Representative and Secretary Designate of the Interior Deborah Haaland had already cosponsored this legislation and 91 representatives are sponsoring it.
- ii. The committee met on December 4<sup>th</sup> and discussed the potential of decreased copays for acupuncture and other services, Medicaid inclusion, and rural tax credits for providers. Michael will be an expert witness for the copay bill coming up in this session. One of the suggestions for the committee is to work with the Primary Care Association for implementation of the pilot programs within the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Michael said he invited several legislators to this meeting, including Senator Ivey-Soto, who conveyed his appreciation of the work and the dedication of the Council. He also sent out a white paper to the Council from the National Association of Governors which recommends increasing access to integrative medicine in Medicaid, as well as a paper from the Journal of Pain which shows manual therapy modulates the pain processing centers in the brain.
- iii. Michael will send out a Doodle Poll for the next meeting date and time in mid-February. E-mail him for more information on this committee: [michael@drpridham.com](mailto:michael@drpridham.com)

## **IX. Recommendations Finalization**

Sophie shared two draft Recommendations for the Council members to discuss:

1. (Previously approved as a draft) Eliminate the classification of syringes and needles as “drug paraphernalia” in NMSA 1978 30-31-25.1 to decrease the likelihood of syringe litter being found in public and to increase the return rate of syringes to safe disposal options, such as the NMDOH Syringe Service Program.
  - a. Discussion took place on how this amendment can help folks in rural and frontier communities. Council members had agreed to this recommendation in September 2020. Steve Jenkusky motioned to approve this recommendation & Ralph McClish seconded it. Votes in favor: Brandon Warrick, Cheranne McCracken, Frances Lovett, Jason Flores, Jennifer Burke, Ralph McClish, Steve Jenkusky, Troy Weisler, Ernie Dole. Absent: Clare Romero.
2. (Presented Josh Swatek) “To promote personal and public safety, provide for additional protection against paraphernalia charges for individuals enrolled in the NMDOH Harm Reduction Program in NMSA 1978 24-2C and 30-31-25.1 for items used to consume or prepare substance provided by the NMDOH Harm Reduction Program, which have been determined by the department, to reduce negative health consequences associated with substance use.”
  - a. Steve Jenkusky moved to approve this recommendation & Ralph McClish seconded it. Votes in favor: Brandon Warrick, Cheranne McCracken, Frances Lovett, Jason Flores, Jennifer Burke, Ralph McClish, Steve Jenkusky, Troy Weisler, Ernie Dole. Absent: Clare Romero.

## **X. Changes in Benzodiazepine Prescribing (New Agenda Item proposed by Brandon Warrick)**

Brandon Warrick shared the US Department of Health and Human Services has stated providers do not need to pass the X-waiver course and can instead write an “X” on prescriptions for buprenorphine, which means the substance will be used for substance use disorder as opposed to pain management.

- XI. Future agenda items:** Brandon Warrick proposed a discussion about Medication Assisted Treatment and treatment in general in our rural state. Send an email to Brandon, if you are interested in helping with the presentation: [brandonwarrick@salud.unm.edu](mailto:brandonwarrick@salud.unm.edu)

- XII. Next Meeting – April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 PM – WebEx meeting**

# **New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council**

**Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 1:30PM-3:30 PM**

**Location:**

[WebEx Link](#)

Meeting ID: **187 296 1127**

Password: **EUxbeirv522**

Or Call-In: **1-844-992-4726**

## **MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Introductions - 15 min
- II. Review of January 15th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – 10 min
- III. Review of Agenda – 5 min
- IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez – 5 min
- V. Presentation – Quarterly Prescribing Report – Jim Davis – 10 min
- VI. Statewide Survey of Drug Use – Kathryn Lowerre – 5 min
- VII. 2021 Legislative Session – Toby Rosenblatt – 15 min
- VIII. Presentation - Medication-Assisted Treatment in NM – Brandon Warrick – 20 min
- IX. Presentation – Injectable Opioid Treatment – Snehal Bhatt, Medical Director, UNM Addiction and Substance Abuse Program. – 20 min
- X. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations - 10 min
  - a. Methamphetamine Committee – (none)
  - b. Fentanyl Committee – Sophie Andar
  - c. Integrative Pain Management Committee – Michael Pridham
- XI. Next Meeting – including proposed future agenda items - TBD

## Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 16th, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Location: WebEx

### COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE

**PRESENT:** Ernie Dole, Joanna Katzman, Frances Lovett, Ralph McClish, Clare Romero, Brandon Warrick, Troy Weisler, Toby Rosenblatt

**ABSENT:** Jennifer Burke, Jason Flores, Steve Jenkusky, Cheranne McCracken, Michael Pendleton

**QUORUM:** Yes

**Other attendees:** Sophie Andar, Wence Asonganyi, Theresa Baillie, Snehal Bhatt, Laura Brown, Alisha Campbell, Danelle Callen, Chandelle Chavez, Eric Chavez, Karen Cheman, Mark Clark, Jim Davis, Jaime Crowell, Phil Fiuty, Tracy Gordon, Kimberly Greenberg, Raquel Guzman Vega, Amy Heflin, Lisa K. Jackson, LaShai Jake, Janet Johnson, Robert Kelly, Rebecca Leppala, Andrea Lohse, Kathryn Lowerre, Aaron Martinez, Matt Miller, AJ Pacheco, Haley Peterson, Sasha Poole, Michael Pridham, Galina Priloutskaya, Robert Rhyne, Jacqueline Romero, Peter Ryba, Art Salazar, Julie Salvador, Laura Schwartz, Michael Sievert, Janet Simon, Samantha Storsberg, Dale Tinker, Chris Trujillo, Desiree Valdez, Chris Vivian, Tonya Elyse Westrick-Henry, M. Yamada

### MEETING MINUTES

#### I. Introductions

#### II. Review of January 15th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes were reviewed. Ralph McClish moved to approve & Brandon Warrick seconded the motion. Minutes were approved after a typographical error was corrected.

#### III. Review of Agenda

- b. The Agenda was reviewed with the group.

#### IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez

- c. Desiree reported the Governor’s Board and Commissions Appointments contact, Melissa Salazar, has been contacted many times and has not responded to questions about appointment for the council. Toby noted that other Boards and Councils are reporting similar experiences.
- d. Clare Romero is stepping down from the Council and will no longer be representing the NM Association of Nurse Practitioners. The association is in the process of recruiting a new appointment.
- e. There was a question from someone about their application for an appointment a long time ago that never received a response, if they should submit another application. Toby said this question will be taken to the Office of the Governor Boards and Commissions appointments officer to get clarification about reapplying and if old applications need to get renewed or resubmitted, or if old applications will get reviewed.

#### V. Presentation – Quarterly Prescribing Report – Jim Davis

- f. Jim reviewed the Quarterly Measures which highlighted data showcasing 12 month running totals of overdose deaths. There was a 15% increase in overdose death totals in 2020 between October and

December, based on provisional data. This is mainly due to increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths. Overdose deaths due to cocaine have also increased.

- g. The number of patients using chronic opioids has plateaued. Making more strides to reduce those numbers has been impacted by the pandemic. The number of new patients who are potentially using opioids chronically are plateauing. MAT patients have also plateaued. These may increase as in person activities start up again.
- h. PMP measures are going in the right direction, but usage of PMPO could be increased. The Board of Pharmacy and Professional Licensing Boards could assist with enforcement. Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine use is a concern and academic detailing could help with this challenge.
- i. Question: What is the plan for academic detailing?
  - i. Jim stated the boards have their own approaches to enforcing PMP use. Regarding academic detailing, Chris Trujillo stated that the Center for Health Innovation is detailing providers statewide and this will continue. In addition, Chris provides education and coaching to prescribers whose patients have suffered non-fatal overdoses. Kathryn Lowerre shared she has more information about the evaluation of the process of the statewide efforts concerning providers.

## VI. Statewide Survey of Drug Use – Kathryn Lowerre

- j. Kathryn explained the survey is meant to get a representative sample of the state regarding knowledge and attitudes folks have about various kinds of substance use, prevention, harm reduction, and treatment options.
- k. Main findings: Respondents to the survey stated they perceive an increase in substance misuse in their communities. Knowledge about what overdose risk looks like is high in adults in New Mexico. About a quarter of folks are not clear on the risks of taking extra doses of opioids or overdoses being fatal. Folks have identified fentanyl and cocaine as a serious health problem. Folks reframing substance use as an “illness” over a “weakness” or “both” is taking place in the state. More folks know about the Prescription Monitoring Program and they also think Narcan is important for folks to access.
- l. Findings that show little progress: Folks were not clear on how to access Narcan and these responses were specific to regions. Awareness of alternative pain management options did not change much.
- m. Question: How is this information used to work on interventions in the state?
  - i. Kathryn shared this data is used to evaluate programs and policies, in addition to preparation of educational materials.
- n. Question: How are the Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) doing with sending naloxone home with patients?
  - i. UNM ASAP does this with their clients.
  - ii. Samantha Storsberg with Human Services Department shared their 21 Overdose Treatment Programs are required to provide naloxone as funding and access permits to clients. Sometimes the OTPs run into barriers in providing kits, but most can provide this service.
- o. Kathryn Lowerre’s contact information is: [Kathryn.Lowerre@state.nm.us](mailto:Kathryn.Lowerre@state.nm.us)

## VII. 2021 Legislative Session – Toby Rosenblatt

- p. Toby reviewed house and senate bills that were introduced during the 2021 Legislative session pertinent relating to drug overdose prevention.
  - i. House Bill 46 – Injectable Opioid Treatment Study: this bill would have funded a study to determine the feasibility and accessibility of an injectable opioid treatment program at the UNM Addiction & Substance Abuse Program. It made it to the Senate floor but did not get voted on.
  - ii. HB 123 – Overdose Prevention Programs and Limited Immunity: This bill would have allowed municipalities and counties to work with DOH oversight to approve entities to establish and operate overdose prevention programs with safer injection sites. The advisory council has

recommended safe injection sites in the past and the council may want to discuss this further as a possible recommendation in the future. This bill died in the Senate Judiciary.

- iii. Senate Bill 255 – Harm Reduction Act: This bill would have decriminalized the use of harm reduction supplies, including fentanyl test strips. The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- iv. Senate Memorial 3 - Fentanyl Overdose Recognition: This was an effort to publicize the increase of fentanyl overdoses in the state. It went to Senate Rules and was not considered there.
- v. HB 215 – Behavioral Health Screening Coverage: This would have allowed HSD to provide medical assistance coverage to enrollees who have symptoms of alcohol or substance abuse or a mental health disorder. This bill would have also required county Sheriffs or jail administrators to provide medication assisted treatment. These folks would be offered a screening for referral to treatment. The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- vi. SB 398 – Rural Substance Use Recovery Services: This bill would have appropriated funds to HSD for programs to deploy mobile units in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, Taos, and Mora counties. This bill died in the Senate Finance Committee. The audience did not say whether they would like to hear more about such services at future meetings.
- vii. SB 23 – Healthcare Purchasing Act: This bill would have limited the amount of copays that could be required for chiropractic services. The Advisory Council recommended such legislation. Michael Pridham shared this bill was waiting to be heard on the House floor when time ran out. A similar bill will probably be introduced again in the future.
- viii. SB 60 – Physical Therapists License Compact: This bill would have allowed New Mexico to enter the Physical Therapists License Compact, which would have provided standards for interstate practice, in addition to easier access to physical therapists who provide non-pharmaceutical pain management. This bill was died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

#### **VIII. Presentation - Medication-Assisted Treatment in NM – Brandon Warrick**

- q. Brandon’s presentation was titled, “Opioids – The Evolving Epidemic.” He shared on what is going well and what needs improvement as we work on addressing the opioid epidemic, as well as evidence-based treatments that could improve health outcomes.
- r. Synthetic opioids are causing significant problems in the United States and New Mexico. He said that that based on the statistics about overdose death, there has been a failure in addressing this. He also cited economics being a factor in addressing the opioid epidemic, the amount of money cartels makes with their profit margins, and the multi-level marketing model can be helpful in better understanding this issue.
- s. The evidence-based interventions he presented included medication assisted treatment (MAT), which has a broad spectrum of improvements for many. He states there is under prescribing of MAT for people in New Mexico. He stated that stigma is a factor in the lack of these services. Brandon is part of an implementation team that is working with rural hospitals to get patients in the ER connected to MAT immediately. Holy Cross Hospital has worked with the implementation team to get this service to their patients with drug use disorder.
- t. There was discussion about the ideas and interventions taking place in the state currently and what could be done now to work on the opioid epidemic due to the urgency of the situation. Toby asked the group if they wanted other presentations connected to what Brandon presented and what was discussed. Brandon shared he has been talking with Stanford Kemp with NMDOH about a statewide addiction hub/hotline with peer support, medical experts, etc.

#### **IX. Presentation – Injectable Opioid Treatment – Snehal Bhatt, Medical Director, UNM Addiction and Substance Abuse Program**



- u. Dr. Snehal Bhatt, Chief of Addiction Psychiatry at UNM, presented on the contrast between the continued efforts to work on the opioid epidemic in the state and the severity of the challenges that are being faced. He expressed we need to stay innovative. He also mentioned how MAT can work, but there is a subgroup of patients who don't respond to MAT. He introduced Laura Brown, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Addictions Division (under Dr. Bhatt) of UNM Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, with a current Fulbright Global Scholar award, who presented on injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) in Canada and Senate Bill 46, which did not get passed this year. Laura will visit Vancouver again in the summer of 2021 to learn more about injectable Opioid Addition Treatment (iOAT).
- v. Laura shared about the high societal cost of illicit opioid use and how innovative interventions are needed for the folks who do not respond to MAT. Several countries have this treatment available. There is substantial medical and psychosocial support for patients in these programs. The outcomes of this treatment are decreased use of street opioids, more engagement with the treatment program, better health outcomes, improved quality of life, and increased public safety. Safe injection facilities/safe consumption sites are not equal to iOAT as clients usually bring in pre-obtained illicit substances to SIF/SCS, while iOAT services are provided as form of MAT. Vancouver has had success with providing iOAT.
- w. Question: Does iOAT help clients sustain employment over time due to not having to focus their time on finding substances for use over the course of day? Laura mentioned iOAT requires clients to go to the clinic sometimes two to three times a day, which does cut into the workday. This type of program can serve as a stepping stone to other treatment and programs that comprehensively support the client.
- x. Laura Brown can be contacted at: [LABrown@salud.unm.edu](mailto:LABrown@salud.unm.edu)

**X. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations -**

- y. Fentanyl Subcommittee: Sophie Andar shared this group meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Although the legislation about fentanyl test strips and the memorial about fentanyl did not come through, CDC and SAMSHA are allowing their grantees to use money to purchase fentanyl test strips. People who are interested in this subcommittee, can contact Sophie at: [sophie.andar@state.nm.us](mailto:sophie.andar@state.nm.us)
- z. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee: Michael Pridham shared about HB 34 (lower copays) not getting a hearing on the Senate floor this year. He hopes get HSD to allow Medicaid to cover integrative services. He will also meet with New Mexico's congressional delegation to discuss national prevention efforts by the American Chiropractic Association. The next subcommittee is meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. People who are interested in joining this subcommittee may contact Michael Pridham at: [michael@drpridham.com](mailto:michael@drpridham.com)
- aa. Michael also announced that another bill, HB 34, Podiatric Cost Sharing Limits, sponsored by Marian Matthews, provided that NM insurance providers could not impose a higher participant pay for services provided by a podiatrist than for primary care services.

**XI. Next Meeting – June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 PM – WebEx meeting**

# **New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council**

**Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 1:30PM-3:30 PM**

**Location: [WebEx Link](#)**

**Meeting ID: 187 889 6847**

**Password: TRxz45dK2br**

**Or Call-In: 1-844-992-4726**

## **MEETING AGENDA**

- XII. Introductions – 10 min
- XIII. Review of Agenda – 5 min
- XIV. Review of April 16th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – 5 min
- XV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez – 5 min
- XVI. Quarterly Prescribing Report – Megan Deissinger – 10 min
- XVII. Presentation –
  - a. Cannabis Regulation Act – Hayley Peterson - 30 min
  - b. Controlled Drug Legalization – Kathryn Lowerre – 15 min
- XVIII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations - 10 min
  - c. Methamphetamine Subcommittee – Desiree Valdez
  - d. Fentanyl Subcommittee – Sophie Andar
  - e. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee – Michael Pridham
- XIX. Draft Recommendations based on April 16th presentations: - 20 min
  - f. Brandon Warrick’s presentation:
    - i. Stigma regarding people who have drug use disorder and about treatment for this disorder should be addressed.
    - ii. The NM Congressional Delegation should support the MAT Act, which will eliminate the requirement that practitioners obtain a separate X-waiver through the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to prescribe buprenorphine for SUD treatment and require the secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a campaign that would educate practitioners about the change and encourage providers to integrate Substance Use Disorder treatment into their practices.
  - g. Snehal Bhatt’s presentation:
    - i. The legislature should appropriate \$150,000 to fund a study to determine the feasibility and acceptability of an injectable opioid treatment program at the UNM Addiction & Substance Abuse Program.
- XX. Next Meeting – including proposed future agenda items – TBD – Location

## Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 18th, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Location: WebEx

### COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE

**PRESENT:** Ernie Dole, Ralph McClish, Cheranne McCracken, Toby Rosenblatt

**ABSENT:** Jennifer Burke, Dr. Jason Flores, Dr. Steve Jenkusky, Joanna Katzman, Frances Lovett, Brandon Warrick, Troy Weisler

**QUORUM:** No

**Attendees:** Sophie Andar, Wence Asonganyi, Richard Bell, Miles Bonny, Laura Brown, Amy Buesing, Alisha Campbell, Chandelle Chavez, Karen Cheman, Mark Clark, Jaime Davis, Megan Deissinger, Celia Fisher, Phillip Fuity, Roxanne Grajeda, Brian Gutierrez, Kayla Harrison, Melissa Heinz, Athena Huckaby, LaShai Jake, Emily Kaltenbach, Robert Kelly, Stanford Kemp, Heidi Krapfl, Kathryn Lowerre, Andrea Owens, Brooke Parish, Hayley Peterson, Wendy Price, Michael Pridham, Galina Priloutsкая, Abigail Reese, Frank Roland, Theresa Rosales, Peter Ryba, Shahnaj Safi, Art Salazar, Laura Schwartz, Michael Sievert, Janet Simon, Samantha Storsberg, Josh Swatek, Dale Tinker, Chris Trujillo, Desiree Valdez, Raquel Guzman Vega, Christopher Vivian

### MEETING MINUTES

#### **XII. Introductions**

- a. There was not a quorum of the Advisory Council members

#### **XIII. Review of April 16th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

- b. The minutes were reviewed with the group. No changes were recommended.

#### **XIV. Review of Agenda**

- c. The agenda was reviewed with the group. No changes were recommended.

#### **XV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez**

- d. Desiree reported the Governor’s Board and Commissions Appointments contact, Melissa Salazar, has communicated that she is now in the process of reviewing applications for the vacant Advisory Council seats. Toby was scheduled to meet with Melissa on Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, but Melissa did not show up for the meeting. Desiree will follow up with Melissa to get updates on this process.

#### **XVI. Quarterly Prescribing Report – Megan Deissinger**

- e. Megan reviewed the Quarterly Measures which highlighted data, which included the 12-month running total of overdose deaths in NM through the provisional data as of December 2020. Overdose deaths continue to increase, mainly driven by use of fentanyl and its analogues, and methamphetamine.
- f. The measures about the number of patients with concurrent opioids and benzodiazepines prescriptions has plateaued somewhat. Patients with chronic concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions has also plateaued. Much of the data involving these patients has been impacted by the pandemic. The pandemic also impacted patients seeking out medication assisted treatment.
- g. Someone asked when the provisional data for overdose from 2020 become official. Robert Kelly with the NMDOH Substance Use Epidemiology Section said the data should be official by August 2021.

- h. There is room for improvement for practitioners checking the PMP for reports on new patients. improvement for practitioners checking the PMP for reports on new patients. Academic detailing and prescriber counseling could help with the concurrent prescribing of benzodiazepine and opioids.

## **XVII. Presentations**

### **i. Presentation: Recreational Cannabis Through a Public Health Lens – Hayley Peterson**

- i. Hayley presented comprehensive information about the legalization of adult use cannabis in New Mexico and how this may impact public health in the state. She reviewed legalization in other states, how the New Mexico regulatory framework looks currently, the public health perspective on this topic, and the issues emerging from legalization.

### **j. Presentation: Controlled Substance Legalization: – Kathryn Lowerre**

- i. Kathryn presented context and what she researched about a proposal for a Controlled Substance Permit. She reviewed how legalization has been attempted in the past and currently. There is much debate for and against legalization of controlled substances from the perspectives of public policy and economics. She presented on the concept of such a permit, from an anonymously authored proposal, which is designed to work with the current pharmacy system. The permits would only be distributed to folks who have completed educational programs about controlled substances. There are several reasons this would be a complicated process and Kathryn shared issues ranging from the unintended consequences of legalizing all substances to public stigma, as well as pharmacy stock keeping up with demand.
- ii. There was discussion about the feasibility about this system and it was expressed there may not be the political will to get something like this permit system implemented. There was also concern regarding community members not being willing to be on a national list of permit holders due to stigma.

## **XVIII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations -**

- k. **Methamphetamine Subcommittee:** Desiree Valdez reported the subcommittee met on June 8<sup>th</sup> with 22 attendees. They discussed the history of the subcommittee, possible meeting formats, and next steps. A survey was conducted to see how folks viewed the meeting format moving forward. Desiree will work with Sophie to see how the subcommittees can work together. The next meeting is pending, and information will be sent out soon.

- i. Contact Desiree Valdez for more details and to get included on the email list for this group: [desiree.valdez@state.nm.us](mailto:desiree.valdez@state.nm.us)

- l. **Fentanyl Subcommittee:** Sophie Andar shared the group last met at the end of April. They discussed observed need for public education about fentanyl test strips. She mentioned Desiree Valdez created some education materials about that topic. They also discussed the need for more public awareness of polysubstance use. Josh Swatek with the NMDOH Harm Reduction Program shared some updates about policy about fentanyl test strips. There are ongoing discussions with different state agencies to determine how to implement distribution of the test strips due to the current law defining them as drug paraphernalia. There is work on a new bill to ensure test strips are no longer considered to be paraphernalia. The subcommittee will meet on Weds. June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:30PM-4PM.

- i. People who are interested in this subcommittee, can contact Sophie at: [sophie.andar@state.nm.us](mailto:sophie.andar@state.nm.us)

**m. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee:** Michael Pridham shared that an important stakeholder in overdose prevention, Adan Dino Carriaga, passed away and there was a moment of silence during the meeting to honor his life. The group met on June 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss legislative updates on the national level. There is a bill which would allow chiropractors to work within their state's scope of practice. This would expand integrative healthcare services for pain management. Duke University has included the UNM Pain Department in their list of the top 4 departments in the country due to the number of Integrative Medicine services available. Michael is also working with Robert Rhyne to talk with HSD about chiropractic medicine being included in Medicaid. Michael will send out a Doodle Poll to schedule the next subcommittee meeting.

- i. People who are interested in joining this subcommittee may contact Michael Pridham at: [michael@drpridham.com](mailto:michael@drpridham.com).

**XIX. Draft Recommendations based on April 16th presentations.**

Toby Roseblatt has drafted some recommendations based on recent presentations for the Council to review. These recommendations are based on the presentations made on April 16<sup>th</sup>. They are in draft form and can be revised, as needed.

- n. These recommendations will be revisited in August due to the lack of quorum at the June meeting.

**XX. Next Meeting – August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Location: WebEx**

- o. Toby asked the council members in attendance when they would want to resume in-person meetings. They discussed the efficiency of meeting virtually, but that it is also beneficial to meet in person. It was also proposed there could be a hybrid meeting schedule with some being in person and others being virtual.
- p. Future Agenda Items: Toby proposed the group receive a presentation on pain management. Any ideas for presentations or possible presenters for the Advisory Council meeting can be sent to Toby: [toby.rosenblatt@state.nm.us](mailto:toby.rosenblatt@state.nm.us)

# **New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council**

**Friday, October 29th, 2021 | 1:30PM-3:30 PM**

**Location: [WebEx Link](#)**

**Meeting ID: 2480 150 2839**

**Password: ypNJSax989m**

**Or Call-In: 1-844-992-4726**

## **MEETING AGENDA**

- I. Introductions – 10 min
- II. Review of Agenda – 5 min
- III. Review of June 18th, 2021, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – 5 min
- IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez – 5 min
- V. Quarterly Prescribing Report – Megan Deissinger
- VI. Presentation(s)
  - a. Dr. Joanna Katzman – Take-home Naloxone – 15 min
  - b. Dr. Nas Manole – Interventional Pain Management and Health Policy – 20 min
- VII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations - 10 min
  - a. Methamphetamine Subcommittee – Desiree Valdez
  - b. Fentanyl Subcommittee – Brandon Warrick
  - c. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee – Michael Pridham
- VIII. Draft Recommendations based on April 16th presentations: Attached - 20 min
- IX. Next Meeting – including proposed future agenda items – TBD - Location

## **Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 29th, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM**

**Location:** WebEx

### **COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Jennifer Burke, Joanna Katzman, Frances Lovett, Ralph McClish, Cheranne McCracken, Brandon Warrick

**ABSENT:** Ernie Dole, Jason Flores, Steve Jenkusky, Troy Weisler

**QUORUM:** Yes

**Attendees:** Erica Abeyta, Richard Bell, Miles Bonny, Amy Buesing, Alisha Campbell, Flor Cano-Soto, Eric Chavez, Jaime Davis, Megan Deissinger, Marcus Erickson, Teresa Evaro, Celia Fisher, Sondra Frank, Phillip Fuity, Manon Gouse, Roxanne Grajeda, Kimberly Greenberg, Brian Gutierrez, Kayla Harrison, Melissa Heinz, Lisa K. Jackson, LaShai Jake, Robert Kelly, Stanford Kemp, Laurie Kerr, Andrew Knox, Kathryn Lowerre, Andrea Maloney (Owens), Matt Meehan, Savannah Morris, AJ Pacheco, Brooke Parish, Hayley Peterson, Janet Popp, Michael Pridham, Galina Priloutskaya, Abigail Reese, Robert Rhyne, Theresa Rosales, Toby Rosenblatt, Shahnaj Safi, Art Salazar, Dawn Sanchez, Laura Schwartz, Susan Seefeldt, Valerie Speidel, Samantha Storsberg, Josh Swatek, Mikiko Takeda, Desiree Valdez, Raquel Guzman Vega, Samantha Winter, Dominick Zurlo

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **I. Introductions**

- a. There was a quorum of the Advisory Council members

#### **II. Review of June 18th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

- a. The minutes were reviewed with the group. No changes were recommended.

#### **III. Review of Agenda**

- a. The agenda was reviewed with the group. No changes were recommended.

#### **IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez**

- a. Desiree reported she is in touch with Melissa Salazar and applications from are in process. Melissa has numerous task forces, councils, and other boards in the state to attend to, so she is working on getting our appointments done as soon as possible. As soon as Desiree has more information, she will provide an update. Phil Fuity and Andrea Maloney (Owens) have applied to the council and as soon as there is more information on the status of the applications, it will be shared.

#### **V. Updates – Megan Deissinger**

- a. **Quarterly Prescribing Report** - Megan reviewed the Quarterly Measures which highlighted data, including the 12-month running total of overdose deaths in NM through the provisional data going into 2021. Overdose deaths continue to increase and remain driven by use of illicit fentanyl and its analogues. There are still many New Mexicans on opioids and benzodiazepine concurrently, which is concerning. A lot of the data are impacted by the pandemic and it's not clear what drove the overdose death increase in 2020 and how the rates may stabilize in 2021. Medication Assisted Treatment patient numbers have plateaued and there is room for improvement with this indicator. PMP usage should also

be higher. There was a question about whether there has been an association with a reduction in access to prescription opioids with the increase in illicit fentanyl use during the pandemic. Megan mentioned these trends started before the pandemic, so it is not clear what impact the pandemic has had on these data at this point.

- **SB 211 – (Sen William Soules, 2019) Requiring Providers to advise patients on risk of overdose and prescribe naloxone, and Changes in Naloxone Dispensing** – Megan shared on this bill and how it requires healthcare providers to advise patients on the risks of overdose and opioid overdose. It also allows healthcare providers to prescribe naloxone, which may have resulted in the large increase in naloxone prescriptions shown in 2019, when NM led the nation in retail pharmacy naloxone dispensing. Drug overdose deaths increased in 2019 and 2020, so while this bill was likely effective, it is important to keep in mind how harm reduction can be broadened and new overdose prevention strategies can be implemented.
  
- b. **Federal Health and Human Services Department Priorities Update** – The Health and Human Services Department has recently come out with new overdose prevention strategies, which include harm reduction activities using fentanyl test strips and more comprehensive support through Syringe Services Programs. They are also promoting recovery support that consists of peer recovery, workplace supported recovery, recovery communities led by those with lived experiences in recovery, housing, stigma reduction, and racial equity. Secretary Becerra also acknowledged evidence supporting Safe Consumption Sites as a Harm Reduction Strategy, which could mean future support for this strategy in the United States.

## VI. Presentations

- a. **Dr. Joanna Katzman – Take-home Naloxone** - Joanna presented on the importance of strengthening House Bill 370 (enacted in 2017). The bill requires take-home naloxone and education for people leaving jail who are diagnosed with opioid use disorder, people in opioid treatment centers, and for law enforcement on active duty in New Mexico “as agency funding and agency supplies of naloxone permit”. She cited the increase in opioid overdose deaths due to illicit fentanyl and how social determinants of health are also impacting the death rates. She noted NM has led the country in naloxone distribution.

Joanna is concerned certain populations leaving opioid treatment centers are at dramatically increased risk for overdose and should be provided with naloxone when they leave treatment. The UNM Pain Center has studied naloxone distribution and found when the medication was distributed to OUD patients in treatment, many participants went on to reverse overdoses in their communities and it enabled them to get naloxone where it is needed. They also studied the barriers to providers prescribing naloxone. She stated when naloxone is distributed to a targeted group that is vulnerable to overdose deaths, overdoses are reversed. She proposed removing the provisional clause from the current language of HB 370 to make it stronger and figure out budgeting strategies to make naloxone more affordable for opioid treatment centers.

There was discussion about changing the wording in the bill and understanding the budget options. Toby will draft a recommendation. Brandon Warrick suggested augmenting the wording to include all New Mexicans covered under the Good Samaritan Law. Jennifer Burke suggested recommending that naloxone be made available through the Office of Peer Support Recovery if there are peer support workers on site to provide overdose prevention education.



Joanna requested a vote from the council to assess support for changing the language of HB 370. A straw vote was called, and the council approved Joanna pursuing the word change on the bill – Yes: 6 votes. Approved.

- b. **Dr. Nas Manole – Interventional Pain Management and Health Policy** – Dr. Manole was unable to join the meeting.

## VII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations -

- a. **Methamphetamine Subcommittee:** Desiree Valdez reported the subcommittee met from June through September with great turn out and enthusiasm. She is working on a timeline for recommendations for the 2023 session. Main topics for recommendations: contingency management in treatment, mobile outreach unit coordination on a statewide level, and treatment duration. Other topics include economic incentives for treatment providers/centers in NM, and treatment gap analysis. The next meeting will be Wednesday, Nov 17th at 2PM.
  - i. Contact Desiree Valdez for more details and to get included on the email list for this group: [desiree.valdez@state.nm.us](mailto:desiree.valdez@state.nm.us)
- b. **Fentanyl Subcommittee:** Brandon Warrick proposed the subcommittee’s past recommendation regarding fentanyl test strips be revisited considering the news from the federal government about promoting and implementing harm reduction activities. He also asked for support from the council on the recommendation about funding for injectable opioid treatment programs.
- c. The subcommittee will meet on Wednesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM.
  - i. People who are interested in this subcommittee can contact Roxy Grajeda at: [Roxanne.Grajeda@state.nm.us](mailto:Roxanne.Grajeda@state.nm.us)
- d. **Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee:** Michael Pridham shared the governor signed a proclamation declaring October Chiropractic Health Month. In August Michael attended a meeting with other colleagues to present the recommendation about adding chiropractic medicine to Medicaid benefits to HSD and Medicaid. HSD and Medicaid folks suggested a pilot program to explore the recommendation. JC Moore presented to the Legislative Health & Human Services Committee in September about integrative treatments for overdose prevention. He also shared about the Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act of 2021. The subcommittee will meet on Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM.
  - i. People who are interested in joining this subcommittee may contact Michael Pridham at: [michael@drpridham.com](mailto:michael@drpridham.com).

## VIII. Draft Recommendations based on April 16th presentations

- a. Toby reviewed the draft recommendations and folks working on the recommendations summarized them briefly before a vote was taken on each one to approve the drafts.
  - i. **Recommendation:** Stigma regarding people who have drug use disorder and about treatment for this disorder should be addressed.
    - 1. Brandon said he will work on the wording of this recommendation
    - 2. **Vote - Yes: 5 votes. Abstained: 1 vote. Approved.**
  - ii. **Recommendation:** NM Congressional Delegation should request that the secretary of the Health and Human Services Department include the Practice Guidelines for the Administration of

Buprenorphine in Treating Opioid Use Disorder in the training required to prescribe and dispense buprenorphine for 30 or more patients for the X-Waiver program.

**1. Vote - Yes: 5 votes. Abstained: 1 vote. Approved.**

- iii. **Recommendation:** NM Congressional Delegation should request that the secretary of the Health and Human Services Department develop a campaign to educate eligible prescribers about the change in the Practice Guidelines for the Administration of Buprenorphine in Treating Opioid Use Disorder and encourage providers to integrate treatment of substance use disorder into their practices.

**1. Vote - Yes: 5 votes. Abstained: 1 vote. Approved.**

- iv. **Recommendation:** The legislature should appropriate \$150,000 to fund a study to determine the feasibility and acceptability of an injectable opioid treatment program at the UNM Addiction & Substance Use Program.

**1. Vote - Yes: 5 votes. Abstained: 1 vote. Approved.**

- v. **Recommendation:** The NM Congressional Delegation should support the Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act of 2021 (HR 2654), particularly the expansion of “Medicare coverage of chiropractic services to include all pain management and substance use disorder services provided by chiropractors, rather than only subluxation corrections through manual manipulation of the spine.”

1. There was discussion about chiropractic modalities being used in evidence-based ways for pain management. Medicare has guidelines for patient notes with cases getting chiropractic treatment for pain.

**2. Vote - Yes: 5 votes, No: 1 vote. Approved.**

- vi. **Recommendation:** The State of New Mexico should establish, fund, evaluate, and provide oversight for a statewide, sustainable drug-checking technology and communications system.

1. Brandon shared how these types of systems exist in other states and with the rise of illicit fentanyl and analogues we need to take more steps to understand what is in the drug supply to address the situation quickly and effectively. There was a question about the language of this recommendation and the suggestion about making it more specific before becoming a finalized recommendation. The group agreed the recommendation should include the details from the research in the final recommendation.

**2. Vote: Yes: 5 votes. Abstained: 1 vote. Approved.**

**IX. Next Meeting – December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Location: WebEx**

- a. Future Agenda Items: Ideas for presentations or possible presenters for the Advisory Council meeting can be sent to Toby: [toby.rosenblatt@state.nm.us](mailto:toby.rosenblatt@state.nm.us)

# **New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council**

**Friday, December 10th, 2021 | 1:30PM-3:30 PM**

**Location:** [WebEx Link](#)  
**Meeting ID:** 2499 553 5355  
**Password:** 7jtJXpx5tK5  
**Or Call-In:** **1-844-992-4726**

## **MEETING AGENDA**

- XXI. Introductions – 10 min
- XXII. Review of Agenda – 5 min
- XXIII. Review of October 29th, 2021, Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – 5 min
- XXIV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez – 5 min
- XXV. Presentations
  - h. Dr. Joanna Katzman - School-based drug misuse prevention programs – 20 min.
  - i. Dr. Nas Manole – Interventional Pain Management and Health Policy – 20 min.
- XXVI. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations - 10 min
  - j. Methamphetamine Subcommittee – Desiree Valdez
  - k. Fentanyl Subcommittee – Brandon Warrick
  - l. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee – Michael Pridham
- XXVII. Draft Recommendations
- XXVIII. Next Meeting – including proposed future agenda items – TBD – Location
  - m. Stanford Kemp – Overdose Fatality Review
  - n. Others?
- XXIX. Transition

## **Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 10th, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM**

**Location:** WebEx

### **COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE**

**PRESENT:** Jennifer Burke, Steve Jenkusky, Joanna Katzman, Frances Lovett, Brandon Warrick

**ABSENT:** Ernie Dole, Jason Flores, Ralph McClish, Cheranne McCracken, Troy Weisler

**QUORUM:** No

**Attendees:** Erica Abeyta, Mary Bartlett, Elizabeth Bisio, Miles Bonny, Carlos Briano, Amy Buesing, Alisha Campbell, Flor Cano-Soto, Jaime Davis, Gary French, Sondra Frank, Phillip Fuity, Manon Gouse, Roxanne Grajeda, Kimberly Greenberg, Elene Gusch, Brian Gutierrez, Melissa Heinz, Autumn Hobson, Athena Huckaby, LaShai Jake, Robert Kelly, Stanford Kemp, Andrew Knox, Naomi Lane, Andrea Lohse, Kathryn Lowerre, Pauly Maldonado, Nas Manole, Brenda Martinez, Matt Meehan, Brooke Parish, Hayley Peterson, Michael Pridham, Abigail Reese, Robert Rhyne, Michelle Rincon, Theresa Rosales, Toby Rosenblatt, Art Salazar, Joann Sanchez, Kathleen Schuster, Laura Schwartz, Michael Sievert, Aryan Showers, Samantha Storsberg, Dale Tinker, Chris Trujillo, Desiree Valdez, Raquel Guzman Vega, Dominick Zurlo

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **XXI. Introductions**

- q. There was not a quorum of the Advisory Council members

#### **XXII. Review of Agenda**

- r. The agenda was reviewed with the group. No changes were recommended.

#### **XXIII. Review of October 29th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

- s. The minutes were reviewed with the group.
- t. Melissa Heinz mentioned she was unable to contribute to the discussion about take-home Narcan kits during the meeting in October but wanted to make sure community members know that under the Statewide Overdose Response grant, the Office of Substance Abuse Prevention, in conjunction with UNM, HSD can provide training and Narcan for personal carry and distribution for treatment facilities statewide.

#### **XXIV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez**

- u. Desiree Valdez reported not hearing back from Melissa Salazar concerning appointments since the last Advisory Council meeting, but Phillip Fuity shared there has been progress on his application. Melissa has been in touch with questions about the Advisory Council meeting format. DV will continue to follow up with Melissa and work on providing any further updates to the council as they come up.

#### **XXV. Presentations**

- v. **Dr. Joanna Katzman - School-based drug misuse prevention programs**
  - i. Joanna presented on the importance of school-based opioid education programs and adverse childhood events (ACEs) in youth. She shared current data about overdose deaths increasing over 30% during the pandemic. In 2019 there were over 4,000 overdose deaths among young adults according to CDC. Heroin was found in most of these deaths. She also shared about

school-based health centers (SBHCs), how they function, and who staffs them. These centers are helpful and supportive of the students and staff. The Adolescent Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), is an evidence-based method of prevention and early intervention that has been used in the past, but more research is needed to see how it can be used more widely. Adolescent SBIRT is not currently being used in one of the larger networks of SBHCs in northern New Mexico because there needs to be a network of providers available to accept referrals for treatment.

- ii. Joanna shared about ACEs and their connection to opioid use disorder (OUD). The ACEs tool is widely used to determine care for youth at risk for OUD. However, the questions asked can be triggering and support for the student and family should be provided when using it. She also mentioned DWI models of education might not translate well to work on opioid and methamphetamine use. Joanna said if she had the funds, she would get the SBHCs trained to use the ACEs tool and SBIRT model to refer youth for treatment. She also mentioned SBHCs also need to be equipped with Narcan.
- iii. There was discussion about activities in the Santa Fe Public School district to equip the schools with Narcan and training on dispensing it. Leadership in the district is supporting harm reduction educational programs, provided by the Drug Policy Alliance, in the schools. An Albuquerque SBHC is also working on training staff in Narcan dispensing for personal carry. OSAP is looking to work with the Office of School and Adolescent Health in NMDOH to get more trainings and Narcan into SBHCs.
- iv. Toby asked about SBIRT and the data collected by Human Services Department regarding the use of this tool. HSD did not have the data at the time he requested it because they collect the data regarding individual service. Toby was curious if HSD can provide this data. Kathryn Lowerre shared that Sindy Sacoman may know because she has done evaluation of SBIRT.
- v. Brandon Warrick shared UNM's Addiction Clinic at ASAP is prioritizing youth under 18 with substance use disorder and focusing on pregnant women, too. Shashwat Pandhi, MD, is a new specialist at the clinic who focuses on Child/Adolescent Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine and is working to develop support and care for youth at the clinic. Brandon also mentioned the importance of referral for SBIRT is connected to follow through and cited research which found that without follow through or providers to treat youth referred through SBIRT, the tool was comparable to giving someone a pamphlet.
- vi. Jennifer Burke mentioned that Albuquerque Public Schools had counselors who focused on substance and alcohol use before the pandemic. The counselors were called "Crossroads Counselors" and they worked with community partners to provide education in the schools. Youth who were identified as experiencing issues with substances or alcohol worked with the counselors in an 8-week program. The pandemic interrupted this work. Joann Sanchez asked what education is currently being provided to families to identify if their children are experiencing substance use issues. Jennifer said she wasn't aware of any education of this kind taking place and added education about substance use should be added to health education classes in schools.

**w. Dr. Nas Manole – Interventional Pain Management and Health Policy**

- i. Dr. Athanasios Manole and his intern, Jose Mendoza, presented on pain management in Dr. Manole's practice. They reviewed data about overdose and overdose deaths, naloxone, and the types of alternative therapies available for pain management (e.g. physical therapy, interventional pain management, manual therapy, and acupuncture). Most medical students are not aware of the various types of treatments available to manage a patient's pain besides prescriptions.

- ii. Interventional pain management consists of nerve blocks, steroid injections, PRP injections, among other types of injections and spinal cord/peripheral stimulation therapies.
- iii. Dr. Manole shared his experiences treating pain patients. He mentioned patients being referred to his practice due to general practice doctors being reticent to prescribe opioids for long term pain management. He also shared about the openness of patients to try alternative treatments for pain versus wanting to continue opioids long term. Transitioning patients from opioids to suboxone can be part of pain management for some patients as they try other therapies. Screening patients for potential risks is another important element and providers can use a DIRE (Diagnosis, Risk, Intractability, and Efficacy) instrument when considering long-term opioid treatment. Monitoring patients with PMP checks, telehealth visits, and urinary drug screens is also part of patient care.
- iv. The challenges Dr. Manole and his staff experiences when treating patients are overprescribed opioids by other providers, financial burden of in-office and telehealth visits for patients, and required prior authorizations can be difficult to receive for interventional pain management therapies. Prior authorizations can cause delays in treatment due to time-consuming approval processes with insurance.
- v. Lobbying with state legislators to change prior authorization policy for interventional pain management, prescribing interventional pain management before opioids are prescribed for pain, and educating hospitals and physicians about interventional pain management therapies are all activities Dr. Manole would like to see take place to support patients and providers who practice pain management.
- vi. The question was raised about cannabis being prescribed for pain while a patient is also taking opioids. Dr. Manole mentioned medical cannabis can be used while using opioids and can help patients take less opioids over time. Athena Huckaby also shared how Dr. Robert Rhyne and his team of academic detailers working statewide teach primary care physicians and other providers managing chronic pain patients how the combination of cannabis and opioids have a non-harmful synergistic effect. This means patients using opioids can use medical cannabis to titrate themselves to reduce opioid use and prevent overdose. Dr. Rhyne has more information to share about this topic: [rrhyne@salud.unm.edu](mailto:rrhyne@salud.unm.edu)
- vii. Toby offered to work on drafting recommendations about interventional pain management and plans to follow up with Dr. Manole.
- viii. Dr. Nas Manole can be reached at: [doctormanole@outlook.com](mailto:doctormanole@outlook.com)

## XXVI. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations -

- x. **Methamphetamine Subcommittee:** The subcommittee met in November to discuss next steps with the recommendation crafting process and intend to craft recommendations about making contingency management a covered treatment option, extending treatment duration timelines, and supporting statewide mobile outreach unit programs. There are three subgroups working on drafting recommendations covering these topics and the subcommittee will continue to meet monthly. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 22nd at 1PM.
  - i. Contact Desiree Valdez for more details and to get included on the email list for this group: [desiree.valdez@state.nm.us](mailto:desiree.valdez@state.nm.us)
- y. **Fentanyl Subcommittee:** Brandon Warrick shared there were proposals the committee worked on that the Advisory Council voted on in October. The subcommittee met in November and will meet on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30PM.
  - i. People who are interested in this subcommittee can contact Roxy Grajeda at: [Roxanne.Grajeda@state.nm.us](mailto:Roxanne.Grajeda@state.nm.us)

- z. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee:** Michael Pridham thanked the Advisory Council for voting to support the recommendation about the Chiropractic Medicare Coverage Modernization Act of 2021 (HR 2654). Representative Theresa Leger-Fernandez and former Representative Melanie Stansbury are also supporting the bill, which has 107 co-sponsors in the House of Representatives. Michael and Robert Rhyne will meet with HSD in 2022 to work on the pilot project to study the possibility of chiropractic visits being covered Medicaid.
- i. Michael provided a short survey to get some feedback about the subcommittee:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTB9PFY>
  - ii. People who are interested in joining and getting information on when this subcommittee will meet in January can contact Michael Pridham at: [michael@drpridham.com](mailto:michael@drpridham.com).

**XXVII. Draft Recommendations**

- aa.** Toby reviewed Joanna Katzman’s proposed draft recommendation about Opioid Overdose Education. It recommends two doses of naloxone and brief education on how to use it be made available to patients in opioid treatment centers.
- i. Brandon had a question regarding opioid treatment centers versus opioid treatment programs and Samantha Storsberg mentioned the language needed to be consistent. Joanna shared the purpose of the recommendation is to add more to the prior bill covering this topic, SB 370 in 2017. The bill specified opioid treatment programs as opposed to opioid treatment centers. This proposed recommendation revises the bill from 2017 regarding opioid treatment programs.
  - ii. Desiree shared there was not a quorum for the council to take a vote regarding this recommendation. Toby suggested the council revisit the proposed recommendation during the next meeting.
  - iii. Toby reviewed another recommendation that had been approved regarding addressing stigma and asked if it should be made more specific. The council did not have any comment.

**XXVIII. Next Meeting – January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 PM, Location: WebEx**

- bb.** Proposed future agenda items
- i. Stanford Kemp shared about a possibility of having a presentation from the contractors who conducted the Overdose Fatality Review pilot that took place in 2021.

**XXIX. Transition**

- cc.** Toby shared that Dominick Zurlo, Director of the Medical Cannabis Program in NMDOH, has been appointed to chair the Advisory Council. Dominick thanked Toby and Desiree for the work they have done to maintain the council. He also thanked the council members for their commitment to work on overdose prevention and pain management during the pandemic.
- dd.** Dominick discussed with the council members having a shorter meeting in January. There were questions about the effectiveness of the meeting and recommendations, and how appointments have been difficult to get from the Office of the Governor. Dominick said he wants to work to get the appointments processed for the council and ensure the work of the council continues in an effective manner. Dominick will work with Desiree on the January agenda.
- ee.** Council members can contact Dominick with any questions or concerns about the council:  
[dominick.zurlo@state.nm.us](mailto:dominick.zurlo@state.nm.us)