

# Rescue Committee of the Alabama Council on Opioid Misuse and Addiction

## Meeting Notes **\*\*DRAFT\*\***

**October 10, 2017, 2:30 – 4:00 PM**

Meeting Location: Montgomery County Health Department, Montgomery, AL

Committee Members Present: Carter English (ADMH), Nicole Walden (ADMH), Gayle Sexton, Bret Eddins (Synergy Labs), Tawanna Morton (Crossroads to Intervention), Mark Wilson (JCDH, Chair)

Via phone: John Rogers (ADECA), Darlene Traffanstedt (ALBME), Foster Cook (UAB, Learning Lab, Co-chair)

Others present: Scott Harris (Health Officer, ADPH) Nancy Bishop (ADPH), Jamey Durham (ADPH), Nick Gillespie (Visitor)

Mark Wilson called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

### Updates since last meeting:

The Council has been reconvened by Governor Ivey with Council leadership shared by State Health Officer, Mental Health Commissioner, and State Attorney General. This Committee and its membership and charge remain the same. The reconvened Council met on September 5, 2017. Foster Cook was there to present the Rescue Committee's draft recommendations.

The Council to have all recommendations submitted for the Governor by the end of December, 2017. This committee needs to have its final recommendations to the Council by December 5.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 24.

### Naloxone Distribution

Carter English reported that the DMH has received 5,232 two-dose packs of Narcan Nasal Spray. So far they have prioritized the following to receive the packs:

- 1) One pack per DMH-approved substance abuse treatment provider facility, for staff.
- 2) First responders including volunteer fire departments and rescue squads. DMH has notified these of the availability of the Narcan and the process for obtaining, but so far there have been very few requests.
- 3) Then, law enforcement.

Stephen Wilson of ADPH has received funding of \$800,000 per year for 3 years to purchase naloxone for Emergency Medical Service providers as needed.

The Alabama District Attorneys Association has obtained 600 naloxone auto-injector kits (Evzio) through a grant from the drug company (Kaleo). There are plans to distribute these to each county's DA's office and Sheriff's Dept.

The group offered suggestions on how to facilitate distribution of naloxone, and other potential priority target recipients.

John Rogers suggested reaching out to local Emergency Management Agencies as a way to better reach local first responders.

Foster Cook noted that a UAB project targeting people in the local drug courts for naloxone distribution and training has been very successful, with about 30 overdoses reported already.

Bret Eddins suggested targeting

Gayle Sexton felt that people with addiction who are jailed should be highest priority.

There was discussion of getting DMH substance abuse treatment facilities to host naloxone trainings/distribution for their clients and families/companions, if people qualified to prescribe/dispense the naloxone could be identified to help.

Another option discussed was to distribute people above via local pharmacies, perhaps by referral from treatment facilities with some type of voucher. There was concern that some people not following through with this extra step.

There was discussion of identifying a few counties, maybe 4 or 5 with the highest rates of overdoses based on available data, and identifying resources/avenues for naloxone distribution to high risk people in those counties.

ADPH suggested getting help from Stephen Wilson, Acting Director of ADPH Office of Emergency Medical Services, to help reach volunteer fire departments and rescue squads.

### Legislative Agenda

Mark Wilson recommended the following changes to the naloxone law: 1) Extend immunity to Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants who prescribe naloxone; 2) Allow for certain laypersons (non-medical) to distribute naloxone. Several other states allow for lay distribution.

There was also discussion about whether it would be feasible to broaden the immunity from prosecution for drug or drug paraphernalia possession for persons who call 911 for an overdose victim and stay with the victim until first emergency responders arrive. It was agreed that this should be a separate piece of legislation from the above naloxone law amendments, and that it should first be vetted with the District Attorney's Association (Foster Cook and Jamey Durham to check on this).

It was also recommended that naloxone be added to the list of "drugs of interest" for the Alabama Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

There was general agreement among the committee members to recommend all the above legislative items.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date. The main task remaining for the committee is to establish metrics to go with our draft recommendations. We may entertain some ideas via email prior to meeting again.

