

**SCA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 28, 2022  
CONFERENCE CALL VIA LIFESIZE**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brian Klugh  
Ken Ralph  
Ken Marzinko  
Jean Bickmire  
John Trescot  
Dave Bender

**GUEST:**

Gabrielle Thomas

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Rick Kastner  
Ashley Reese

**A. Welcome and Introductions**

Rick welcomed the Board Members.

Commissioner John Trescot introduced himself. Commissioner Trescot stated his goals as the new Commissioner, taking the place of Commissioner Lehman.

Gabrielle Thomas introduced herself as a student from HACC who is attending a municipal meeting, which is a class assignment.

**B. Minutes**

The meeting minutes of the January 10, 2022 SCA Advisory Board Meeting were reviewed. No changes were indicated by Board Members.

**C. Board Agenda**

Rick informed the Board that there will be a universal SCA advisory board agenda posted each month. The Right to Know law recently changed. The SCA changed the agenda to be in compliance with the law. We also need to publicly post the agenda 24 hours in advance.

**D. Updates in Statewide Topics and Issues**

Rick informed the Board that there is a review of the drug and alcohol confidentiality regulations. What the state is looking to modify is PA's strict D&A confidentiality regulations. The state is wanting to modify the state law to match the federal law, known as 42 CFR. This will allow, upon client's written consent, more information to be shared with other systems.

Rick informed the Board that some of the state legislators are considering passing a law that would legalize marijuana. Lancaster County D&A Commission Office will not take a position.

SCA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2022  
Page Two

In Pennsylvania medical marijuana was approved a few years ago. There are twenty-three different diagnoses a person can have in order to receive a marijuana prescription from a certified doctor. Commissioner Trescot asked if recreational marijuana changes the policies PA has for treating people who are addicted to marijuana. Rick replied that it would not change anything that the LCDAC does or provides. Dave Bender stated that he testified before the House and the Senate regarding the medical marijuana bill and the bill was tightly written. The hope is that if they do legalize recreational marijuana, the bill will be tightly written as well.

### **E. Medicaid HealthChoices Update**

Rick informed the Board that the HealthChoices Medicaid project will have a surplus in the current calendar year 2022. The surplus will allow SCAs to start new programs and services. In Lancaster County there are 108,000 people covered by Medicaid for their mental health treatment, drug and alcohol treatment, and physical health care. It is a big project that is doing very well.

One thing the HealthChoices surplus dollars will go towards is recovery house licensing. Recovery houses must be state licensed to receive government funding. Our HealthChoices project is giving the recovery houses that apply a \$9,000-dollar grant to help them physically get their recovery house up to code for DDAP licensing requirements. Right now, there are 37 recovery houses in the region that applied for the grant and 21 of those recovery houses are from Lancaster. Recovery houses can operate without being state licensed, however they cannot receive state or federal funding unless they have a license through DDAP. Commissioner Trescot asked if there is an issue with having enough beds. Rick replied that it is not an issue in Lancaster County. There are many recovery houses and beds in our county.

The new reinvestment dollars for the calendar year will also be able to expand other reinvestment projects, like additional housing grants and medication assisted treatment in the outpatient clinics, and recovery specialist in the treatment programs.

### **F. State and Local Budget Update**

Rick informed the Board that PA is expecting additional federal dollars for substance use disorder. SCAs received additional federal dollars when the opioid epidemic hit 5 or 6 years ago. The Federal dollars being received will continue addressing the opioid epidemic. The overdose deaths in Lancaster County increased since the Covid pandemic, with the shutdown of a lot of support groups, telehealth treatment, and isolation.

Rick informed the Board that PA is expecting 1.1 billion dollars from the Johnson and Johnson settlement. This will also address the opioid epidemic. A large part of the allocation will be given to the board of County Commissioners in each county and then the County Commissioners

SCA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2022  
Page Three

will make the final decision on where the new resources will be directed. There are many different topics that the settlement dollars can be used for.

Rick announced to the Board that he amended the Blueprints contract to continue the funding for the Second Chance Police Diversion Program. When police officers are out in the field and come across someone who is in need of substance use disorder treatment, staff from Blueprints will go out to the client and work with the client to either go with the police officer and receive possible charges or go with the Blueprints staff and go into treatment. The Second Change program lost its grant from DDAP, so Rick was able to review the SCA budget and amend the contract to keep the program running. Most police departments in the county are active with the Second Chance Program. Commissioner Trescot asked if there were any police departments not participating. Rick replied that 85 percent of police departments participate with the Second Chance Program. Once Rick gets monthly reports to pay Blueprints, then he will be able to see what police departments are participating. The leader of the Second Chance Program is the chief from Elizabethtown. The Elizabethtown's police chief is conducting a statewide training soon. The brochure will be sent to the advisory board.

Rick announced to the Board that the LCDAC is also reapplying for a federal grant for NARCAN. LCDAC has a 5-year federal grant that is given to LGH Penn Medicine, who distributes the NARCAN. The grant will be over in September, so we are applying for the grant to be renewed.

The SCA budget has a surplus, so the LCDAC is moving money around to utilize the surplus. Many people are covered by Medicaid, so we no longer need to fund them in treatment. LCDAC is having the outpatient clinics hire additional social workers or case managers, to help client's transportation issues, employment, housing issues, etc.

### **G. Problems or Issues Occurring in the Field**

Rick informed the Board that with the pandemic becoming less intense and people vaccinated, the LCDAC is slowly trying to get most substance use disorder treatment back to meeting face to face. The LCDAC allowed providers to conduct treatment through telehealth, however LCDAC is trying to get things back to the way it was before the pandemic. There has been feedback stating the virtual treatment sessions have limitations and more face-to-face therapy is more effective.

Rick informed the Board that the Spanish American Civic Association, also known as SACA, expanded their rehab. The LCDAC gave them \$150,000-dollar grant. They also received another \$100,000-dollar grant through the HealthChoices Project. They are making some modifications and making two rowhouses into one. Doing so will provide additional beds and additional room for therapy offices. Ken Marzinko suggested that when the weather is nice, that SACA should be a place to visit. Rick agreed once SACA is ready to host.

SCA Advisory Board Meeting Minutes  
March 28, 2022  
Page Four

Before the opioid epidemic, overdose deaths were 56-60 deaths per year in Lancaster. With the epidemic in 2017, there were 175 overdose deaths in Lancaster. Then in 2019 there were 104 deaths, due to being aggressive in expanding new D&A services. However due to the COVID shutdown, the overdose deaths increased 43 percent, with 140 deaths in 2020. In 2021 there has been approximately 136 deaths due to overdoses in Lancaster. Commissioner Trescot asked if the deaths could be related to increase in fentanyl. Rick replied that yes, fentanyl is more deadly today, however it has been part of the opioid pandemic since day one. In 2021 the first quarter there were 40 deaths in Lancaster, in the second quarter there were 43 deaths, the third quarter had 39 deaths and in the fourth quarter there were only 14 overdose deaths in Lancaster County. Hopefully this is a new trend, going forward.

Rick is on the Joining Forces committees with the hospitals, and he has been talking to them regarding the overdose deaths and opioid epidemic. The Hospitals have navigators, social workers, and outreach workers. LCDAC has a meeting with the hospitals on Wednesday March 30<sup>th</sup> regarding their issues trying to help people get into treatment and answer their questions.

Rick continues to state that the big issue in Lancaster is that there is a small number of detox beds. It would be ideal to have more detox beds that take public dollars and are for men and women. The big detox in the County is called the Retreat and they have never taken publicly funded clients. Rick is trying to get the existing detox unit or a new detox unit to have beds for both men and women.

#### **H. Reports or Plans**

Rick informed the board that the state will be coming to the LCDAC office to conduct an annual review of the office. The state scheduled time in April and May. There is rarely a finding to correct, so we don't anticipate any issues. That will be a future report reviewed at an SCA Advisory Board meeting.

#### **I. Office Update**

Rick informed the Board that LCDAC has currently two office case managers. However, our one case manager will be transferring to Lancaster County Prison as a drug and alcohol specialist. That will be a position that will need to be filled. There is also an empty part time case manager position Rick is hoping to fill as well.

#### **J. Specific Provider Overview or Presentation**

Rick informed the Board that there is no Provider Presentation for this meeting.

Page Five

### **K. Other Business**

Rick asked the Board Members if there were any topics, etc. they would like to raise. Ken Marzinko asked if there was an update on homeless people in Binns Park, outside the office building. Rick stated that it has gotten better however it could have been getting better due to winter weather. There is a taskforce that has been meeting and have been providing services for the last couple of years. Shawn McNichol, an LCDAC staff member, is on the Committee to help the people in Binns Park. Rick suggested that in the future, Shawn can give an update.

Ms. Thomas asked if she could have names of the SCA Board members and what positions they are. Rick stated that he will give Ms. Thomas some information along with the most recent Drug and Alcohol Commission Annual Report. Ashley also stated that she can send along the minutes from the March 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Ashley will also send a link to the LCDAC website.

No other topics were brought to the board.

### **L. Adjournment**

With no other business presented by the members or guest, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ashley Reese  
Administrative Secretary

**THE NEXT SCA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY  
APRIAL 25, 2022, AT 6:00 PM.**