

SCA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 26, 2021
CONFERENCE CALL VIA LIFESIZE

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Klugh
Ken Ralph
Ken Marzinko
Commissioner Craig Lehman

STAFF PRESENT:

Rick Kastner
Cecilia Ebersole

A. Welcome and Introductions

Rick welcomed the Board Members. Rick noted that he was notified by both Brian Frey and Kim Long, that they would not be able to attend tonight's meeting. Rick also added that Cecilia Ebersole will be taking the meeting minutes due to Ashley Reese being on vacation.

B. Minutes

The meeting minutes of the May 24, 2021 SCA Advisory Board Meeting were reviewed. No changes were indicated by Board Members.

C. State Budget

Rick informed the Board that there will be no cuts expected from the State Budget this year. There may be additional funding for drug/alcohol services from the Federal Government for this fiscal year. Rick added that opioid overdoses in Lancaster County continue to climb. In 2020, there were 146 overdose deaths in Lancaster County alone, particularly due to the COVID pandemic. This was a 40% increase in Lancaster. Rick expects this rate could increase for 2021.

D. HealthChoices Updates

Rick informed the Board that there is \$12 million available for reinvestment projects for the Cap 5. The counties in the Cap 5 consist of Lancaster, Lebanon, Cumberland, Perry and Dauphin, collectively known as CABHC. Rick is the Treasurer of the CABHC Board. HealthChoices provides funding for both substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment, while the physical health care is provided by the five HMOs in Lancaster. Rick added there are four SUD reinvestment projects being reviewed and should be funded. The four drug/alcohol programs are in the top 10 options out of 14 options. Reinvestment dollars would be used to provide grants to Recovery Houses to be licensed by the state. Rick added that some recovery houses will struggle to meet the requirements for state licensure. Therefore, reinvestment dollars will be used to bring these Recovery Houses up to code, such as fire and safety requirements and ambulatory requirements. Other reinvestment dollars could be used to provide grants for drop-in centers for upgrades and renovations (e.g. the RASE Project), expand MAT (Medication

Assisted Treatment) in the outpatient clinics, and embedding Recovery Support Specialists in the outpatient clinics. Rick added that Recovery Support Specialists are similar to peer support specialists in the mental health field. Out of the 14 suggested projects, four will primarily go to the drug and alcohol field and 10 will go to the mental health field. As to the mental health field, one project is to provide support to Crisis Intervention to work with the police departments. Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (BHDS) received a special grant to work with the police departments in fiscal year 2021-2022.

E. Department of Human Services (DHS) Block Grant

Rick reviewed the ten pages of the Department of Human Services Block Grant. This Plan is similar to the Five-Year Treatment Needs Assessment submitted to DDAP, which was reviewed at the May SCA Advisory Board Meeting. The DHS Grant will provide \$1.3 million to the SCA for the fiscal year of 2021-2022. DDAP will provide about \$3 million to the SCA.

F. Marijuana Attestation

Rick discussed the recent issues of medical marijuana being used by clients with substance use disorder/mental health disorder. The Federal government is requiring that if a client was using medical marijuana for either a substance use disorder or mental health disorder, then the facility serving the client will lose federal funding unless they discussed alternatives to medical marijuana with the client. Rick added that the issue of medical marijuana has received media attention, particularly by SpotLight PA. There was one county in Pennsylvania that put up a roadblock for a client seeking treatment who was on medical marijuana. This county refused to serve the client. The client ended up overdosing and died. For the Lancaster SCA treatment, providers are instructed to discuss with the client alternatives to the use of medical marijuana, but they are required to still serve the client. Lancaster is not setting up roadblocks or speed bumps, due to this federal requirement.

G. Drug and Alcohol Commission's Website

Rick informed the Board that all treatment policies and procedures of the Drug and Alcohol Commission have been finalized as of today, and placed on the website. These policies and procedures are accessible to our providers, the public, and any agency seeking a contract with the SCA.

H. DDAP's New Requirements

Rick reviewed the new requirements implemented by DDAP. With the ASAM alignment and the new counselor certification requirements, the cost of treatment is increasing. On average

in Lancaster, a 7% increase in treatment costs for the outpatient providers and an average of 20-30% increase in treatment costs for residential and halfway house services is occurring. There has been a challenge for treatment providers in getting workers who meet the requirements implemented by DDAP. Medicaid HealthChoices is also increasing reimbursements to treatment providers to cover these changes. Rick emphasized that these increases will not impact clients getting into treatment.

I. Other Business

Rick asked the Board Members if there were any topics, etc. they would like to raise. None indicated.

J. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Cecilia M. Ebersole
Secretary

**THE NEXT AND FINAL SCA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING FOR 2021 IS
SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY SEPTMEMBER 27, 2021 AT 6:00 PM.**