

**LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ACT 88:**  
**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEROIN AND OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION**

**March 10, 2022**

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

1. Call to Order at 9:00am
2. Roll Call

*Present:*

- Chair Dr. James Hussey
- Michael Comeaux
- Captain Heath Guillotte
- Monica Taylor
- Shelly Edgerton
- Lori Miller

*Absent:*

- Co-Chair Dr. Allison Smith
- John Ford
- Linda Theriot
- Sen. Regina Barrow
- Elsie Joanne Brown
- Judge Timothy Marcel
- Sheral Kellar

A quorum was not reached.

3. Introduction/Welcome New Members- Shelly Edgerton was addressed as replacing Blake LeBlanc.
4. Review and Approval of March 10, 2022 Agenda- Unable to vote due to lack of quorum.
5. Approval of December 9 2021 and January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022 HOPE Minutes- Unable to vote due to lack of quorum.
6. Presentations:
  - a. Gender-specific and Gender-sensitive Therapies in OUD– Noelle Deltufo gave an overview of gender sensitive topics when addressing opiate use disorder, which included the following:
    - i. Inpatient clinics may only serve CIS gender patients
    - ii. Detox facilities may not have safe-space for people across gender spectrum which can also be a barrier to get into longer-term treatment
    - iii. People across the gender-spectrum may not trust facilities due to the history of institutionalization of gender non-forming and trans people
    - iv. Staff may not be diverse and can exclude hiring of trans people with a past of substance abuse history
    - v. The following resources were shared for more information:  
<https://www.latransadvocates.org/resources>; <https://www.tidalnola.org/>

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- b. OUD & Special Population Graduate Medical Education and Residency – *Dr. Mark Townsend*
  - i. Gave an overview of training physicians to recognize and treat SUD
  - ii. One example of the lack of training on SUDs is there is only one question on the MD assessment that contains SUD knowledge. There should be more surrounding this topic.
  - iii. LSUHSC Ochsner spends a good amount of time on Addiction Psychiatry training.
  - iv. Summary:
    - 1. Accrediting bodies provide little incentive and guidance for providing comprehensive training in recognizing and treating SUD.
    - 2. No primary care specialty is explicitly mandated to train physicians to identify and treat common SUDs
    - 3. Targeted education at all levels can enhance physician comfort in addressing SUD and improve patient outcome (Pre-med, undergrad and grad medical ed, re-licensure, maintenance of certification)
  - v. Chair Dr. Hussey and Dr. Mark Townsend discussed how to increase early exposure for clinical experience/rotations. There was further discussion on the idea of having regular meetings among various specialty residency training directors, where Psychiatry gets together with Family Practice, OBGYN, etc. for opportunities to be of help or offer training.
  - vi. Monica Taylor asked what is being done in these specialties for prescribing and teaching about the dangers of prescribing opioids, and are they trained to resist sales tactics of pharmaceutical companies? Dr. Mark Townsend responded that the focus has been shifted to recognizing OUD since PMPs are in place now. There are limits on how much they can prescribe. Dr. Townsend also mentioned he hasn't seen a drug rep in a couple years, as they were discouraged due to COVID. There needs to be continuing dialogue on opiate prescriptions.
  - vii. Dr. Janice Williams of OBH asked how we can start working with Associations to get this topic on their agendas. Dr. Townsend will stay in touch with Chair Dr. Hussey on how to move forward.
- c. OPH Provisional 2021 OUD Data updates by *Nell Wilson and Tranettea Williams, OPH*
  - i. 12 month period that ended September 2021:
    - 1. CDC is predicting OD deaths will exceed 100,000 in 2022
    - 2. Louisiana data- 2,394 drug OD deaths for the state- higher than 2020
    - 3. 41% increase in opioid poisoning deaths for 2021
    - 4. Synthetic opioid deaths- total: 814 (69% increase in 2021), mostly due to fentanyl.
    - 5. Health disparities- 36% increase for white deaths and 95% increase for black deaths, 51% increase for other deaths from 2019- 2021

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6. COVID-19 impacts: social distancing/isolation, shift to telehealth in treatment, redirection of public health resources, disruption of drug supply chains, and exacerbation of key determinants of drug use. Black Americans are exposed to unexpected toxic levels of fentanyl from street drugs.
7. Chair Dr. Hussey suggested: Racial and ethnic disparities should be considered for recommendations. Nell Wilson also suggested looking into what coroners are saying- that there are no clean drugs in LA- even laced in marijuana. Public education is necessary.
8. Rebecca from the crime lab- ran numbers for Dr. Mark Ryan of poison center- % suspected heroin that they received was only heroin- 97%; now at 24% in suspected heroin only being in heroin- now laced with fentanyl in vast majority. She also mentioned the large increases in counterfeit pharmaceuticals- In 2020 55% were counterfeit and in 2021 they were up to 75%.

#### 7. General Updates

- a. 2021 HOPE End of Year Report went through LDH approvals and making some changes in phraseology and consistency. Otherwise should be ready for Drug Policy Board to review.
- b. OTP/Methadone RFA Update- a need to expand methadone OTPs in LA
  - A. The RFA awardees are scheduled to open 2 new locations in Region 3 and 9 in May 2022.
- c. Fentanyl Test Strip Update- HB 212 by Rep. Dustin Miller- also addressed other proposed legislation. Kristy Miller with Drug Policy Board will keep us up to date and also offered to review the link online:  
<https://www.legis.la.gov/legis/BillSearch.aspx?sid=last>
- d. Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking ([https://www.rand.org/pubs/external\\_publications/EP68838.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/external_publications/EP68838.html)) – Chair Dr. James Hussey gave a brief overview of this report, and shared the link with the group.
- e. Community Impact Group- Dr. Allison Smith is not in attendance to discuss.
- f. Healthcare Impact Group- Unable to get a workgroup in place this time around.
- g. Public Safety Impact Group- Shelly Edgerton gave a quick update. The group discussed themes they hope to discuss in upcoming groups/council meetings which include mortality studies for those releasing from opioid treatment to see what the cause of death was w/ DOC and fentanyl strips. Tonja Myles talked about some of her projects- When you are ready (to talk or get treatment), Ride or Die program, One Call/Save Many program working with crime stoppers.
- h. Monica Taylor with Attorney General's Office mentioned medical disposal pouches for Hospice. They are interested in doing this in every parish. She reached out to Council on Aging to get contacts but would like to get this from Office of Elderly Affairs. Kristy

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Miller of the Governor's Office, Donna Matthews of Region 6 CLHSD, Trudy Wickham of Region 2 are able to assist.

- 8. Public Comments**
  - a. Possibly meet in person for next meeting.
  - b. Nell Wilson mentioned the BH Symposium pre meeting- one day Opioid Action Summit in Baton Rouge. Meeting details coming.
- 9. Discussion and Next Steps**
  - a. Future presentations: LCMC-UMC Emergency Department Management of Opioid Presentations –Dr. Blieux
  - b. If interested in joining an impact workgroup, reach out to [HOPE@LA.GOV](mailto:HOPE@LA.GOV).

**10. Adjourn**

Next Meeting: June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 9 AM to 11 AM

Remaining 2022 Meetings:

- o Thursday, September 8th, 9-11am
- o Thursday, December 8th, 9-11am or Thursday November 17th, 9-11am

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58 pm.