

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ACT 88:
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEROIN AND OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION
(HOPE)

Date: January 11, 2024
Time: 8:30 am– 10:00 am
Bienville Building: Room 173
628 N. 4th St, Baton Rouge, LA

1. Call to Order at 8:45am, due to technical difficulties.
2. Roll Call

Present:

Chair Dr. James Hussey
Michael Comeaux – via zoom
Crystal Lewis
Etrana Gerard
Shelley Edgerton
Judge Thomas Duplantier- via zoom

Absent:

Dr. Allison Smith
Ronald Callegari
Tavares Walker
Sen. Regina Barrow
Elsie Joanne Brown
Lt. William Bosworth
Monica Taylor

3. Introduction/Welcome New Members
 - a. Judge Thomas Duplantier- Judicial Representative
 - b. Etrana Gerard- DCFS Representative
4. Review and Approval of January 11, 2024 Agenda- unable to vote due to lack of quorum.
5. Approval of Prior Minutes- unable to vote due to lack of quorum.
6. Presentations:
 - a. Draft of HOPE 2023 End of Year Report: Dr. Hussey gave an overview of the HOPE Report. Some highlights include:

While nationally, the number and percent change of drug overdose deaths increased, when compared to the previous year, as noted, Louisiana overdose deaths actually declined in calendar year 2022. The total number of opioid pain medication prescriptions also declined in calendar year 2022, as did the number of emergency department and hospital days.

Nell Wilson of Office of Public Health (OPH) sent updated information on the data to reflect there was an increase in both the national data and the Louisiana data for opioid deaths.

Reviewed recommendations:

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1. Addressing outpatient pharmacy Suboxone access and dispensing barriers
2. Require and Support Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders in Emergency Departments
3. Seek Medicaid Reimbursement for Peer Navigators in Emergency Departments
4. Continue and Enhance Support for Harm Reduction Efforts
5. Expand Access to Methadone Clinics through Extended Hours and Mobile Dosing Units
6. Adoption of New ASAM Criteria in 2024
7. Continue Support of Telehealth/Remote Options for SUD Service Delivery
8. Include Isotiazene, Brophine, Xylazine and Kratom into Future HOPE Annual Reports
9. Reevaluate Operational Goals of HOPE Advisory Council

Reviewed several graphs reflecting specific data.

Reviewed all Impact Metrics.

Reviewed summaries of Treatment, Recovery, Education and Prevention, and Resource and Capacity Development.

Lonnie Granier suggested the HOPE Council evaluate treatment services past just MOUD and outpatient services. He said he would send language regarding recommendation so Dr. Hussey can incorporate. Christine Poindexter, Assistant Administrator of Second Chances Recovery Center in Rayville, LA seconded this suggestion.

7. General Updates

Chair Dr. Hussey mentioned that 50% of the HOPE Council may be in transition and there may be new designees named. He also reminded the team of his retirement, but he plans to be available as needed to the HOPE Council.

a. Future Lead of HOPE 2024 - TBD

b. Open Floor: Karen Stubbs, Assistant Secretary of OBH, assured LDH's commitment to continuing the HOPE Council. She also wanted to publicly acknowledge and thank Dr. Hussey for all of his efforts, leading the HOPE Council, and for making the End of Year Report something of value.

8. Final Discussion of Proposed HOPE 2023 End of Year Recommendations and vote.- No vote due to lack of quorum.

9. Public Comments- None

10. Discussion and Next Steps

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a. HOPE EoY 2023 next steps report due March 15, 2024- will craft a new recommendation or into an existing recommendation, run through grammar, send through all levels of LDH, then to Drug Policy Board, Governor, etc.

b. Impact Workgroups: HOPE@LA.GOV

11. Adjourn

Future HOPE Council Meetings TBD