

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

Date: June 10, 2021  
Time: 9:00 am– 11:00 am  
Zoom Meeting

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order by Chair Dr. James Hussey at 9:00am
2. Roll Call

*Present:*

- Chair Dr. James Hussey
- Lori Miller
- Michael Comeaux
- Blake LeBlanc
- Dr. Allison Smith
- Sheral Kellar
- Thomas Travis

*Absent:*

- Captain Heath Guillot
- Linda Theriot
- Sen. Regina Barrow
- Elsie Joanne Brown
- Monica Taylor
- Judge Timothy Marcel

3. Introduction/ Welcome
4. Review and Approval of June 10, 2021 Agenda- unable to approve due to lack of quorum, but no objection
5. Approval of March 25, 2021 HOPE Minutes- unable to approve due to lack of quorum
6. Brief Legislative Update by Kristy Miller from the Governor's Office. Legislation specific to opioids were addressed including the following:
  - HCR76- urges/requests Opioid Action Summit
  - HB166- (did not pass) It would have removed immunity from the person experiencing overdose if law enforcement officers respond to the same residence two or more times.
  - SR82- requests a study by LDH on Medicaid reimbursement for non-opioid pain management/ opioid alternatives
  - SB145- mandatory drug testing, screening, and assessment for drug and specialty court participation for certain offenders

Dr. Allison Smith asked what the Governor's Office's stance is on fentanyl testing strips. Kristy Miller said it is currently considered drug paraphernalia in Louisiana. It was suggested as a potential recommendation that the HOPE Council look into this as a possible harm reduction effort.

Sheral Kellar suggested pros and cons of HB652 (reduction of penalties for having small amounts of marijuana) to be discussed by the HOPE Council if passed.

7. Presentations:

a. Presentation by Rebecca Nugent of the LSP Crime Lab: Diverted and counterfeit pharmaceutical drugs submitted to the LSP Crime Lab. She went through trending drugs from the drug unit. They process about 33% of seized drugs in LA. They receive about 8,000 requests. They have a 21 day turnaround. She shared statistics from 2020 which includes 55% of Xanax and OxyContin are being counterfeited. In 2018, 32% of pharmaceuticals analyzed were counterfeit and in 2019 36% analyzed were counterfeit. This is only based on seized drugs. They can determine if the logo on the drugs are accurate or a false logo. 50% came back as pressed falsely. It has become obvious over time since the PMP has been on board that the prescribed pharmaceuticals are down and the counterfeit pharmaceuticals are up.

b. LaPQC-NOWS Presentation by Dr. Amy Ladley, Marci Brewer, and Kerrie Redmond  
LAPQC- LA Perinatal Quality Collaborative focuses on using maternal and neonatal outcomes and promotes safe, equitable, and dignified birth for all. The Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) Pilot was formed from Act 174 in 2018 legislative session. Began in May 2018 and will wrap up at end of SFY and funded through LaSOR. Focused on equity, stigma and bias. If anyone is interested in joining the stakeholder workgroup, they may contact Marci Brewer at [marci.brewer@la.gov](mailto:marci.brewer@la.gov).

c. LAMHPP Presentation by Dr. Finelli  
Dr. Finelli gave a presentation on Louisiana Mental Health Perinatal Partnership (LAMHPP) which included the following information:

- LAMHPP is funded by HRSA through OPH Bureau of Family Health.
- Opioid overdoses in women has significantly increased by 500%
- Pregnancy is a motivator for cessation
- Challenges faced by women with OUP:
  - Stigma
  - Co-occurring MH disorders
  - Breastfeeding, dependent children
  - High rates of trauma and intimate partner violence
  - Few programs for women-focused treatment (silos can discourage treatment)
  - Systems of care of very siloed and may discourage a patient
- LAMHPP goals:
  - Increased universal screening for depression, anxiety, SUD, IPV
  - Increase front line providers
  - Support resources and referrals and SUD Treatment

Dr. Hussey suggested for anyone interested in offering recommendations for the HOPE End of Year Report, to send to himself and/or Catherine Peay.

d. Agency /Department Updates

- Shelly Edgerton gave a Department of Corrections (DOC) Update. DOC and OBH are in collaboration to tackle the Opioid Epidemic specifically targeting those with OUD who are reentering the community after a period of incarceration.

8. HOPE Community of Caring Impact Workgroup Updates

Chair Dr. Hussey, Dr. Allison Smith, and Jay Besse gave a review of the Health/Healthcare, Public Safety, and Community Impact Domain Workgroups they lead and some of the items discussed during these meetings.

9. Public Comments- none

10. Next Steps

Asked for feedback on more presentations outside of the HOPE Council or just during the HOPE Council meetings. With no response, it will be discussed more during impact workgroups.

Chair Dr. Hussey asked for any feedback on how to make these meetings better. He is concerned about lack of quorum and discussion.

Next Meeting will take place September 9th, 2021, 9-11AM

11. Meeting adjourned.