

Controlled Substances Advisory Committee

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 from 1:00-4:00 PM

Location: Attorney General's Office, 1031 W 4th Ave
5th Floor Conference Room, Anchorage, AK 99501

Chairperson: Robert Henderson (LAW)

Member in Attendance: Leonard (Skip) Coile (public member)
Dr. Alexander Von Hafften (Psychiatrist Designee) - telephonic
Lana Bell (Board of Pharmacy Designee)
Dr. Butler (Chief Medical Officer and Director, DHSS) - telephonic
Lieutenant Tim Putney (Kodiak Police Department) - telephonic

Public in Attendance: Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention – "OSMAP"

Andy Jones
Elana Habib
Elijah Gutierrez

Secretary: Shiloh Werner

Agenda

- ❖ Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2017
- ❖ General Discussion
- ❖ Next Steps / Next Meeting

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on November 14, 2017 are unanimously approved by the committee.

Public Safety Action Plan

Coordinated effort between various state agencies in order to address public safety in Alaska with action items in a central location to better provide transparency to the public. The Plan focuses efforts in four main areas:

1. Improving outcomes in the criminal justice system;
2. Identifying public safety resource needs, particularly for rural communities;
3. Improving Access to mental health and substance abuse treatment; and
4. Addressing the opioid epidemic and drug trafficking.

Action item #54 of the Public Safety Action Plan is of importance to this committee and the Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention (OSMAP). Mr. Henderson states the goal of today's meeting is get a sense of how the committee can help OSMAP.

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#54. The State continues to execute the Strategic Plan for responding to the Opioid Crisis and evaluate further measures to combat opioid abuse, including: expanding treatment capacities at existing facilities and recovery networks; improving access to group recovery in prisons; providing tools and resources to “second change employers”; expanding drug take-back programs; increasing security measures to prevent importation of opioids on bush airlines, airports, ferries, etc.; funding public and provider education campaigns; fund distribution of overdose education materials and naloxone kits to first responders.

OSMAP Overview – Andy Jones, Elana Habib, and Elijah Gutierrez

The strategic plan is going to be a document that lays out a high level action plan. Ms. Habib provides the committee with an overview of the work of OSMAP. A primary goal is to identify the players involved in the opioid response. Given the urgency of need a lot of groups have been popping up in order to address these issues. The strategic plan is about bringing these groups and their efforts into alignment, both locally and statewide. Ms. Habib provides the committee with a handout – *Opioid Response Strategic Plan* (November 27, 2017). There are five overall goals providing the structure of the strategic plan:

1. Primary prevention – prevent opioid misuse, addiction, and overdose (before it starts)
2. Secondary Prevention – expand access to screening, treatment and recovery services.
3. Tertiary Prevention – increase use of harm reduction approaches to prevent life-threatening adverse outcomes (e.g.; overdose, HIV, etc.)
4. Data and Surveillance – improve opioid surveillance in the State
5. Enhanced Collaboration – enhance statewide collaboration among opioid stakeholders

Ideally what OSMAP would like to accomplish is visiting a multitude of communities, those most highly effected with opioid issues, and hear from a variety of stakeholders about these five goals. OSMAP would like to know what is currently happening on the ground. What are these communities seeing? What do they think they are missing? What do they think they need from the State or locally? Can we identify funding sources, etc. in order to assist them in their efforts? They are also looking at other states and how they are responding to similar issues. Goals 1 through 3 make sense, Goal 4 of data and surveillance, what does that mean to OSMAP Mr. Henderson asks. Ms. Habib responds that it is the idea of creating collaboration between different systems in order to share data. It’s about creating and building those partnerships, and then fostering and institutionalizing those growing partnerships to ensure data is being shared. Enhancing collaboration will aid in making informed decisions. We want to start by going to the communities and have frank and honest conversations to understand the goals they want to achieve and whether or not they are achievable. Mr. Coile asks, who are you going to talk to? Law Enforcement specific? Ms. Habib, we are going to talk to everyone. What do you think they are going to tell you, what do you hope to glean? Mr. Jones responds, we just want to see ‘where they are at’. Do they have a task force? What are they already working to achieve? Who are their champions? – Public health officials, law enforcement, etc. We are not going in to promise anything, but rather to gather information and see what work we can do or what support we can provide. Dr. Von Hafften adds

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that even though people tell us things we might already know, just being there and listening to these communities is helpful. Mr. Jones agrees. Yes, we are hoping to form advisory groups while we are out there and bring champions out of the community. Ms. Habib also adds that they want to create ownership so that these communities take charge and also to ensure they are meeting the many culturally diverse needs. We need to capture all the different voices because what is needed in each community will be so different.

Financial Concerns

Mr Coile wonders, does it all come down to money? We haven't really talked a lot about that in this setting. Mr. Jones responds that yes, that is an important point and it is going to be addressed. There are small things OSMAP believes they can do that won't cost a lot of money right away as opposed to trying to tackle some very large, high cost project right at the beginning. Ms. Habib adds that this is why advisory groups will be beneficial. They will allow for discussion of funding sources that may be available in individual communities or statewide. Talking to these smaller groups and communities may reveal sources we didn't know were initially available to us.

Mr. Henderson advises OSMAP on the benefit of breaking down the "needs" to as specific a list as possible, using the example of the Public Safety Action Plan. The Department of Law broke down specific prosecutorial needs in order to be able to ask for what they needed to meet short term versus long term goals. They broke down what the Department was going to ask for now, versus what they were going to ask for in the future. Break things down, identify those short term action items versus long term, etc. Mr. Jones is in agreement and adds that OSMAP also needs to have a strategic plan so that when they approach bigger players (e.g. hospitals) to build public-private partnerships they have good information and can identify funding sources that are available. There is a lot of money out there, it is about identifying it. We want to be able to provide a plan and how much it is going to cost. Mr. Henderson thinks that this is where this committee can come in. Maybe it is time the committee expresses opinions on these sorts of things. We have the statutory ability.

Mr. Jones shares with the committee that OSMAP is now trying to identify what model they want to go with. This committee could help out with that endeavor because of its diverse make up. Mr. Henderson would like to know if there are specific action items that the committee can help OSMAP with. Mr. Jones agrees to share with the committee OSMAP's spreadsheet of pre-identified goals. Not all will apply to the committee, but perhaps there are things that will stick out as something you can assist with.

Emergency Regulations

Dr. Butler believes that emergency regulations for scheduling substances is something the committee may be able to address. Mr. Henderson adds that the idea of emergency regulations for controlling substances is something being talked about at present. The question being discussed is whether or not the Department of Law can do it. The idea is that this committee would make a recommendation to the governor and the attorney general, then the attorney general would make a written finding that would create a 'state of emergency' scheduling a particular drug for 30 days. Then the legislature has a time period in which to adopt. Mr. Jones believes that this could be very beneficial and one of our first wins in the strategic process. Is it possible to look back at past situations, such as the Spice epidemic, and see what the scenario might be if we created such a process. What would the

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plan be, the process, the cost? Can we take it and run with it and add it to the OSMAP strategic plan? Mr. Henderson agrees, he would like to see this process written out. He reminds OSMAP that this particular committee is purely advisory so in this situation the committee would only be providing the recommendation.

OSMAP would like to share their goals with the committee and be a presence at any meetings so as to provide updates, etc. Mr. Henderson asks if the committee is in agreement with this. Do we want to do this? Mr. Coile responds that he is, as long as the committee does not lose focus from heroin and opioids and also law enforcement needs, funding, etc. There is agreement among the committee members about working with OSMAP, and also to include law enforcement in these discussions as an important aspect.

Next Steps / Next Meeting

Mr. Jones will send the OSMAP goals spreadsheet and schedule a meeting with a small portion of the committee to go over the document. He would also like to talk about the emergency regulations aspect and how that can be incorporated into the OSMAP strategic plan. The committee is in agreement with this plan.

ASSIGNMENTS

- ❖ **Mr. Henderson will meet with OSMAP representatives to go over their spreadsheet of goals and identify individual goals that may apply to this committee.**
- ❖ **Reach out to DPS to ensure one of their representatives attends the committee's next meeting.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 10th @ 1-4 PM.