**Opioid Affected Youth Initiative**

**COVD-19 Focus Group Discussion**

**Zoom Conference Meeting Summary**

**April 14, 2020**

**Members Present:** Dan Adams (SEMO Behavioral Health), Casey Burton (Phelps Health), Mark Calvert (Associate Judge, 25th Cir.), TR Dudley (Potosi), Jim Fleming (City of St. James), Mary Heywood (Mid-Ozark CASA), Jim Johns (Voc. Rehab), Linda Kozlowski (Phelps Maries Health Depts.), Jamie Myers (Prevention Consultants of MO), Teresa Norton (Belle), Felisha Richards (YCHC), Elizabeth Satterfield (Children’s Div. 25th Cir.), Beverly Williams (Washington County Memorial Hospital), Undisclosed Phone Number

**MRPC Staff Present:**  Anne Freand, Jane Johannsen, Rebecca Losing, Samantha Maddison, Mark Perkins

**Welcome:** Jane Johannsen, Project Coordinator, welcomed attendees at 2:00 pm. She elaborated on the purpose of the meeting: to understand the challenges each agency is facing due to the COVID pandemic; the best practices agencies are using to maintain productivity and morale; the outlook alterations toward the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative.

**Roll Call:** Members introduced themselves and the agencies they represent.

**Agency COVID Challenges:**

Name/Agency: Elizabeth Satterfield/25th Circuit Children’s Division

Response: Working remotely does not allow for face-to-face meetings; virtual services may/may not be available for relapse prevention (opioids); due to stay at home order, drug testing capabilities have been reduced – only one (1) available in Rolla.

Name/Agency: Mark Calvert/25th Circuit Associate Judge

Response: Must follow Supreme Court order, no in-person hearings, no juvenile court hearings (with the exception of protective custody); limited access to reports of drug use in youth/families; concerns about case follow-ups post COVID and ability to reach those who need help.

Name/Agency: Jamie Myers/Prevention Consultants of Missouri

Response: Rolla PD - domestic violence calls have inflated; PC of MO - mentor/mentee operations shifted to virtual and phone that requires parental consent; virtual interactions are subject to mandated reporting.

Name/Agency: Jim Johns/Voc. Rehab

Response: Lack of COVID public health information in the rural communities - unaware of open services; concerns of increase in home “cooking” if drug supply is cut off due to social distancing.

Name/Agency: Dan Adams/SEMO Behavioral Health

Response: Poor technological infrastructure and bandwidth; in-patient services currently unavailable – utilizing virtual and phone conferencing; maintaining client engagement to mitigate accountability concerns post COVID; SEMO hosts a free Narcan pickup site.

Name/Agency: Linda Kozlowski/Phelps Maries Health Department

Response: Health department is fielding questions concerning COVID public restrictions and service availabilities; notices heightened insecurities among the vulnerable and refers them to online benefits (HUD, food stamps, Medicaid).

Name/Agency: Felisha Richards/Your Community Health Center

Response: YCHC still implementing services – medical/behavioral health services available via telehealth or in person; medication assisted therapy inductions currently do not require an initial face-to-face appointment; Narcan pickup available; YCHC advocating telecommunication reversible rates for individuals with limited to no access of video conferencing.

Name/Agency: Rebecca Losing/Meramec Regional Planning Commission

Response: Concerns of COVID stimulus check monies abuse among addicts – SEMO Behavioral Health asks clients what their intentions are with the monies received from the stimulus check.

Name/Agency: Teresa Norton/Citizen of Belle, MO

Response: Concerns of the lack of drug testing and the wellbeing of the youth in the households who are currently misusing opioids/substances.

Name/Agency: Mary Heywood/Mid-Ozark CASA

Response: Concerns of the consequences of shelter in place order: no in-person meetings, lack of accountability, and rise in reports of teenage trauma. Meetings and court hearings are conducted via phone or video conference, which the judge calls in the CASA volunteers assigned to cases.

**Agency COVID Best Practices for Productivity and Morale:**

Name/Agency: Jamie Myers/Prevention Consultants of Missouri

Response: Agency has evolved to more formal internal communications – scheduled Zoom and WebEx meetings.

Name/Agency: Linda Kozlowski/Phelps Maries Health Department

Response: Increased engagement through phone calls with families; health department is maintaining diligent flexibility to evolving COVID public health protocols.

Name/Agency: Dan Adams/SEMO Behavioral Health

Response: Maintaining virtual services within agency’s capacity.

Name/Agency: Elizabeth Satterfield/ 25th Circuit Children’s Division

Response: Call times have been shortened to become less burdensome; family support teams are seeing an increase in response from parents.

**Agency OAYI Outlook Alterations due to COVID:**

Name/Agency: Dan Adams/SEMO Behavioral Health

Response: Pandemic has heightened the vulnerable population’s insecurities: food, housing and domestic life.

Name/Agency: Jim Johns/Voc. Rehab

Response: Pandemic has heightened the vulnerable population’s general stress and increased domestic violence.

Name/Agency: Mark Calvert/25th Circuit Associate Judge

Response: Court system needs remote accessibility.

**Typeform Survey:** Jane Johannsen reminded the attendees of the April 16, 2020 deadline to complete the online SWOT survey. She shared the link with the meeting participants in the Zoom chat box.

**Next OAYI Meeting:** April 23, 2020, 2:00 pm via Zoom

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.