

Meramec Regional Planning Commission
Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

Zoom Conference Call
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2020
2:00 PM

Members Present: Casey Burton (Phelps Health), Heather Durbin (Kids' Harbor), Jim Fleming (City of St. James), Jan Haviland (Private), Mary Heywood (Mid-Ozark CASA), Linda Kozlowski (Phelps Maries Health), Jamie Myers (Prevention Consultants of MO), Felisha Richards (YCHC), Elizabeth Satterfield (Children's Div. 25th Cir.), Stephanie Schindler (MU Extension), Tracy Sovar (MADAC), Beverly Williams (Washington County Memorial Hospital), Undisclosed phone number

MRPC Staff Present: Christa Harmon, Jane Johannsen, Rebecca Losing

Welcome and Introductions: Jane Johannsen welcomed OAYI consortium participants to the Zoom meeting. She introduced Christa Harmon, a new full time hire by MRPC, who will be assisting with data collection for the OAYI project. Ms. Johannsen acknowledged the completion rate of the Typeform survey: SWOT analysis, opportunities and threats prioritization. Twenty-three of the 34 consortium members completed the survey; a completion rate of 68%. Ms. Johannsen will be following up with the survey's prioritization results, via written meeting summary, before the May 21, 2020 OAYI consortium meeting.

MRPC's Approach to Missouri's phase 1 re-opening: Ms. Johannsen summarized the Meramec Regional Planning Commission's approach to the state of Missouri's phase one of re-opening, due to COVID-19, as set forth by MRPC's Executive Director, Bonnie Prigge. To summarize, MRPC offices will remain closed to the public until June 1, 2020. The office will accept small meetings by appointment only. MRPC employees are encouraged to return to work in the office, but will have the option to continue working remotely until June 1, 2020. MRPC will re-evaluate office practices after the governor of Missouri announces the next phase of the state's re-opening plan.

Discussion Questions: Ms. Johannsen debriefed the April 14, 2020 OAYI Focus Group discussion: the challenges each agency is facing during the COVID pandemic.

What is each agencies' approach to Missouri's phase 1 re-opening?

L. Kozlowski (Phelps Maries Health Department): The health department is continuing to implement curbside services. In person appointments are accepted for shots, immunizations, etc. The department has referred individuals to Your Community Health Center (YCHC) for Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) services. The department continues to service most clients via telehealth.

H. Durbin (Kids' Harbor): Kid's Harbor is still in operation. Staff is mitigating physical contact by implementing a four-team office rotation. As of May 18, 2020, the organization will re-adjust the rotation to a two-team rotation. Until the end of May, the organization is limiting the number

of individuals in the office for services and practicing social distancing, and continues to utilize telehealth services. They have suspended their stewardship trainings and parenting classes until further notice.

E. Satterfield (Children's Division, 25th Circuit): Organization's temporary protocol is to work closely with health departments' compliances, and county by county approaches. Most staff are working remotely, services are being implemented virtually, curbside services are available for those without remote capabilities. Hotlines are still working and requiring continued field work.

F. Richards (YCHC): Organization service update – YCHC is now a testing center for COVID-19, making the fifth testing center in the eight-county region. The agency can accept outside prescriptions and take evaluations of individuals without a prescription. They are utilizing the, "Smile Mobile," as the testing site, which is in a separate space outside of their normal office. There is no charge for COVID testing, the tests are sent to a private lab and results return in 2-3 days. From May 4 – 13, YCHC has tested over 20 individuals with COVID related symptoms.

Since the April 14, 2020 Focus Group discussion, how have agencies' challenges altered due to Missouri's phase 1 re-opening? (I) Do you foresee any new challenges arising? (II) Have you witnessed any behavioral changes in those you serve since the beginning of the phase 1 re-opening? (III) What impact of agency services (opioid-specific if relevant) has your agency experienced since the beginning of the phase 1 re-opening?

T. Sovar (MADAC): Agency has seen an increase in relapses (six in Gasconade county).

E. Satterfield to R. Losing: There has been a notable and concerning decrease in hotlines calls. The division is working to notify schools and other organizations that work with these vulnerable populations to warn of possible increases in domestic violence and increase in substance misuse. Positively, the division has witnessed a strengthening of relationships with the families they are servicing through virtual communications.

L. Kozlowski (Phelps Maries Health Department): Department has seen a rise in client morale, which is believed to be attributed to built-resiliency and household routine establishment.

J. Myers (Prevention Consultants of MO): There is a growing concern of the impact of increasing poverty due to COVID-related job loss.

F. Richards (YCHC): A report out of St. Louis indicates fentanyl supplies have decreased during the COVID pandemic. This raises concerns of a stronger supply to come, coupled with individuals with decreased substance use tolerances.

B. Williams (Washington County Memorial Hospital): Hospital saw a spike in fentanyl over doses the week before the focus group meeting.

Continued contingency plan: MRPC will continue to abide by the state of Missouri's and the Centers of Disease Control and Preventions' safety protocols in response to COVID-19.

If the state of Missouri fully re-opens after May 31, 2020: the majority voted to wait to resume in person meetings until mid to late summer 2020.

For future in-person meetings, do you want an option to remote-in: the majority voted yes.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 21st at 2:00 PM via Zoom.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.