

Meramec Region's Opioid Affected Youth Initiative

Consortium Meeting

Thursday, December 9, at 2:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82373878285?pwd=NEtqL0t4R3pDUHdsWndxMi9IMk9zdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 7387 8285

Passcode: 795091

MEETING MINUTES

Consortium Members Present: Jeremy Brown (25th Circuit Juvenile Office), Dr. Casey Burton (Phelps Health), Shawnee Douglas (Washington County Health Department), Mary Heywood (Mid-Ozark CASA), Rebecca Losing (Russell House), Jamie Myers (Prevention Consultants of Missouri), Teresa Norton (Citizen of Belle), Dr. Sean Siebert (Invent Yourself, LLC)

MRPC Project Staff Present: Christa Harmon, Jane Johannsen, Mark Perkins

Welcome: Jane Johannsen welcomed the virtual attendees to the Zoom call at 2:02 PM. Dr. Sean Siebert motioned to approve the October 2021 MROAYI Meeting Minutes; Dr. Casey Burton seconded the motion for approval.

Guest(s) Introduction (if applicable): Not applicable; no guests present.

Consortium/Community Updates:

1. Rebecca Losing (Russell House) informed the consortium members that Russell House now offers six months of free counseling for anyone who has experienced sexual and/or domestic violence. Additionally, Russell House's legal advocates have the capability to assist victims in the court and legal processes that fit their needs. For more information, individuals can contact Rebecca at rebeccal@russellhousemo.org.
2. Dr. Sean Siebert invited everyone to a public Community Conversation on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 6:00 PM, in the Cuba Library located at 305 N. Smith Street, Cuba, Missouri. Dr. Siebert was approached by Crawford County law enforcement, first responders, and other community leaders to host a public conversation in response to the recent rise in overdose calls/deaths. Dr. Siebert will facilitate the discussion with support from the Meramec Region Rural Opioid Program. For more information, individuals can contact Dr. Siebert at sean@ruralmo.com, or Samantha Sherman at ssherman@meramecregion.org.

Project Updates:

Seeking Safety –

Mark Perkins reported that three individuals completed 10 weeks of the Seeking Safety program through the 25th Circuit's Intensive Court Monitoring referral process. All three individuals requested to continue the program to cover all 25 sessions of the program. For information on the 25th Circuit's ICM Seeking Safety program, contact Mark Perkins at mperkins@meramecregion.org.

As of November 10, six youth started and three completed all 10 weeks of Seeking Safety, hosted by the Rolla Public Library and facilitated by Rebecca Losing. At the completion of the program, the youth selected books relevant to opioid/substance use disorder among adolescents for the library's catalog.

Prevention Consultants of Missouri –

Jamie Myers updated the consortium on the progress of Too Good for Drugs. At the time of the December meeting, the program was being implemented in the Belle, Cuba, Saint James, Potosi, and Salem school districts. The program is supported by both the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative and the Drug Free Communities grants. Additionally, for the first time, with support by the Drug Free Communities, the program is offered in all rural Dent County school districts.

J. Myers informed all of the status of the Youth Drug Prevention Program; videos of testimonials provided by Rebecca Losing and Christa Harmon are in the editing process. The purpose of the Youth Drug Prevention Program will be to educate students who have completed Too Good for Drugs with tangible OUD/SUD community resources.

Finally, J. Myers emphasized the importance of the Missouri Student Survey and encouraged everyone to advocate to their local school districts to participate. The data collected through the survey is anonymous and tracks trends of substance use, bullying, suicidal thoughts, etc. of the Missouri student body.

Invent Yourself LLC –

Dr. Sean Siebert provided project partner updates from Invent Yourself. The Pulaski County Community Conversation was held in October 2021 among the county Head Start programs. The leadership team requested the conversation among their staff who teach 0 – 6 years of age, whom primarily come from low-income families with higher rates of foster care, substance misuse, and domestic abuse among their populations. The next Conversation is projected to be held in Washington County.

The first “Breaking the Cycle,” was held at the Cuba Alternative Learning Center in November. The next presentation is scheduled for Friday, December 10 at the Potosi Alternative Learning Center.

Next Steps:

Jane Johannsen informed the meeting of the next steps in the OAYI project. The biannual progress and data report for the July 1 – December 31 period will be due in January 2022. The project team and consortium will begin revising the Strategic Plan as a working document, and use its project information for post-award funding opportunities.

MRPC OAYI Project Staff Updates:

As of November 10, Rebecca Losing resigned her position at MRPC to take a job offer at the Russell House. She will still be an active member of the MROAYI consortium.

As of December 22, Christa Harmon will resign her position at MRPC to take a job offer at the Missouri Department of Mental Health. She plans to maintain an active role in the MROAYI awareness events and walks.

Both positions are posted to the MRPC website and can be found here:

<https://www.meramecregion.org/career-and-business-opportunities/jobs/>. Depending on education and/or qualifications, the position will be either a Community Development Specialist or an Assistant Community Development Specialist. The selected individual(s) will take part in both the OAYI and HRSA grants.

Questions and Comments: No questions or comments were voiced.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 2:00 PM, Zoom link to follow.

Adjourn: 2:35 PM