

Woodford County ASAP Board Meeting Minutes
EMS Conference Room, Big Sink Road
Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Permanent Voting Members	Non-Permanent Voting Members	Non-Voting Members / Guests
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Region Administrator of the Cabinet for Families and Children, Department of Community Based Services, DCBS, Julie Snawder • Woodford County Health Department Director, Cassie Prather • Executive Director of Comprehensive Care, New Vista, Shawn Freeman • WC Judge Executive James Kay <p>Absent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superintendent of Woodford County designee, Jill Hargiss 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMS Director and Mental Health Commissioner, Freeman Bailey, Chair • Woodford County Health Department Grants & Data Manager, Robin Miller, Vice-Chair • M & M Director & Versailles City Council, Lisa Johnson • WC Casa Coordinator, Heather Porter • WC Sheriff's Department, Jimmy Fugate • VPD Assistant Chief, Rob Young <p>Absent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WC Attorney Alan George • Serenitee At Its Best LCADC & Embry Chapel AME, Reverend Dr. Stephanie M. Raglin • WCHS Family Resource Center & Youth Service Center Coordinator, Jasmine Hazelwood 	<p>ASAP Coordinator, Nancy Blackford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodford County Magistrate, Larry Blackford • WCHD Harm Reduction, Rolgard Casimir • Isaiah House, Ariel Smith • Versailles Police Department, Ellie Castle • Brightview Community Outreach Manager, Shannon Gordon • Woodford County Health Department Clinic Manager, Kelly Simpson • New Vista, Katie Gross • Anthem Medicaid, Aaron Foley

The meeting was called to order at 8:3 am by Chair, Freeman Bailey.

Membership reviewed the minutes.

Lisa Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes from the March 21, 2023 meeting.

Cassie Prather seconded.

The motion passed. Minutes will be filed as presented.

Welcome & Introductions

Presentations

Harm Reduction Coordinator

Casimir Rolgard

Drug overdose is the leading cause of death in the United States. 80% of addicts are not in treatment. Virtually every metric that measures substance use and abuse reflects staggering increases in substance abuse and overdose since 2019. Kentucky is 2nd in the nation for overdose deaths, and Woodford County is 16th out of 120 counties for the overdose death rate. 52% of all Class A arrests in Woodford County are associated with substance use.

Harm reduction is an approach that emphasizes engaging compassionately and directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission and to provide wrap-around services to optimize physical and mental health outcomes. While some people believe that harm reduction and syringe services enable addicts to use, the numbers tell a different story. Harm reduction and syringe services diminish overdose deaths and reduce the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV and Hep C, both of which exacerbate the problems associated with substance use disorder.

Harm reduction is an important part of the Woodford County Health Department's comprehensive approach to addressing substance use disorders through prevention, treatment, and recovery. Addicts will not seek medical treatment in a traditional healthcare setting, and it is important to show them that they are valued. Once addicts realize "you are for them", they will open up and share the story of their addiction, which can be an important first step in recovery. Rolgard utilizes a number of different strategies to meet people "where they are", and he has been astonished by the results. The recent mobilization of the program has been a contributing factor to its success, and Rolgard is grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Rolgard concluded his presentation with an announcement. Woodford County will soon have their own Quick Response Team who will be equipped to provide support to family members and other loved ones after a drug overdose event. The QRT will partner with mental health counselors to provide wrap-around services that will hopefully diminish risk and optimize health outcomes for the whole family.

WC ASAP Coordinator

Nancy Blackford

Nancy provided a brief overview of the QRT kits that had been funded by ASAP. Each kit contains a CPR face shield as well as NARCAN, gloves, and a set of instructions. The kits will be utilized by the Quick Response Team and are also available to family members of addicts.

WC ASAP Vice-Chair

Robin N. Miller

WC ASAP offers four individual \$1000 scholarships to deserving high school seniors. Leadership scholarships are awarded to two students who have demonstrated leadership abilities in academics, extracurricular activities, and volunteer opportunities. Achiever scholarships are awarded to two students who have overcome obstacles related to drug use and / or addiction.

In 2023, the WC ASAP Scholarship Application process opened in late-February. The opportunity was shared via WCHS counselors and family resource center staff as well as Mentors & Meals. The deadline for submission was April 15, 2023, at which time the committee had received 4 applications. Leadership Scholarships were awarded to Eliza Beach and Evelyn Hamilton. Achiever Scholarships were awarded to Zachary Harper and Evelyn Hamilton.

Robin informed everyone that the Scholarship Committee received some excellent suggestions for improving the process going forward. All in attendance were encouraged to volunteer to be on the scholarship committee to help write guidelines that future committees could utilize going forward.

Planet Youth Update

Lisa Johnson

Ms. Johnson began by encouraging everyone in attendance to become familiar with a quick one-sentence explanation of the Just Say Yes program. She credited Judge Executive James Kay with the following succinct explanation of the program: Just Say Yes is a program that provides engaging activities for youth to reduce risky behaviors during out-of-school hours. Ms. Johnson also reported that the survey administration for the 2022-23 school year was complete, and that Planet Youth had already provided some preliminary data analysis. She encouraged all to attend a special meeting scheduled for June 20, 2023 for a “data reveal”. She added that the Just Say Yes steering committee had met on Monday, May 15, 2023 to discuss the job description for the role of Project Coordinator as well as to discuss fundraising. She concluded with a reminder about future steering committee meeting dates (tentative):

Introduction to Planet Youth on June 6, 2023 Location TBD

Dissemination of Data on June 20, 2023 Location TBD

Budget Update

Nancy Blackford

Ms. Blackford encouraged those in attendance to review the budget attachments included with the agenda and responded to a question regarding the protocols for ensuring that mini-grant funds were used by grantees as intended, “These mini grants funds are dispersed as reimbursements, so no monies are provided until receipts are submitted”.

Announcements

Lisa Johnson, Executive Director of Mentors and Meals and City Council member, announced Trivia Tuesday on May 30, 2023 at Versailles Brewing Company to benefit Mentors and Meals. She also announced a \$10 raffle for a chance to spend a night at The Castle.

Julie Walls, Community Liaison for Addiction Recovery Care, introduced herself and invited everyone present to get an informational packet to learn more about ARC.

Ariel Smith, Prevention Specialist for Isaiah House, made the group aware that although the Versailles facility is still closed for renovation, but there are beds available should anyone need a place to land.

Katie Gross, New Vista, announced the fact that she has two new prevention specialists coming on board and volunteered them both for the Just Say Yes steering committee and the Scholarship committee. She mentioned the complications with Senate Bill 150 and the problems it has created with regard to gaining parental consent for counseling and other supports such as the KIP survey. The KIP survey that should be administered in October 2023 will be postponed until October 2024. Katie applauded the work of WC ASAP in administering the Planet Youth survey, as we know now that it fills a data gap created by SENATE BILL 150. Katie also announced a networking opportunity for ASAP members throughout central KY to take place on June 2, 2023 from 9:30 to 11 am in Lexington. All are welcome.

Aaron Foley, Community Relations Representative for Anthem Medicaid announced his new position promoting value added benefits and renewals. He encouraged folks with events to let him know so that he could represent and ask questions.

Heather Porter, Woodford County CASA Coordinator, did not have an announcement but did express her desire to volunteer for the scholarship committee.

Julie Snawder, Service Region Administrator of the Cabinet for Families and Children, Department of Community Based Services, DCBS, expressed her gratitude for Rolgard Casimir's presentation and the work he is doing. She also announced a methadone program opening in Paris, KY.

WC Magistrate, Larry Blackford, provided an update regarding his training to become a facilitator for PAL, Parents of Addicted Loved Ones, an organization that provides hope, through education and support, to parents of addicted loved ones. Mr. Blackford hopes to begin having meetings two days per month beginning in June 2023.

Ellie Castle, Versailles Police Department, did not have announcements but did expressed her desire to be on the Scholarship Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 am.