**Woodford County ASAP Board Meeting Minutes**

**EMS Conference Room, Big Sink Road**

**Tuesday, January 17, 2023**

**The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Freeman Bailey.**

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| Permanent Voting Members | Non-Permanent Voting Members | Non-Voting Members / Guests |
| * WCHS Family Resource Center & Youth Service Center Director, Jasmine Hazelwood
* DCBS, Julie Snawder
* Judge Executive, James Kay
* County Attorney, Alan George
* WCHD Director, Cassie Prather
 | * 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
* Versailles Police Department, Rob Young
* WC Sheriff’s Department, Jimmy Fugate
* WC Casa Coordinator, Jeanne Box
* Woodford County Health Department Grants Manager, Robin Miller
* Serenitee at its Best, Stephanie M. Raglin
 | * Woodford County Magistrate, Larry Blackford
* WCMS Family Resource Center & Youth Service Center Director, Mallory White
* WC Health Department Educator, Anne Hagan
* WCHD Harm Reduction, Rolgard Casimir
* Isaiah House, Ariel Smith
* Isaiah House, Amber Ramsey
* Franklin County ASAP Coordinator, Charlie Kendell
* WCHD Intern, Savannah Hobbs
* Wildside Winery, Elisha Holt
* Versailles Police Department, Ellie Castle
* Brightview Community Outreach Manager, Shannon Gordon
* Brittany Riggins
* Beth Thompson-Mooney
* Woodford Sun, Melissa Patrick
* ASAP Coordinator, Nancy Blackford
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**Membership reviewed the minutes. Lisa Johnson made a motion to accept the minutes. Rob Young seconded. The motion passed. Minutes will be filed as presented.**

**Introductions of Attendees**

**Presentations**

**Executive Director Advisory Commission Ky Office of Attorney General W. Bryan Hubbard**

Mr. Hubbard provided an eloquent overview of the advisory commission’s role in dispersing $842 million in Opioid Settlement funds to counties and cities over the course of the next 18 years. Mr. Hubbard emphasized the enormous responsibility of overseeing the disbursement of the funds to respond to the “insidious and lethal dimension” of the opioid epidemic that is overwhelming cities and counties throughout the Commonwealth. He also mentioned our state’s “checkered past” with regard to the stewardship of large sums of money and expressed his desire to ensure that the opioid settlement funds were used wisely (as opposed to becoming the subject of a Frontline documentary 10 years from now). He reiterated the importance of using these “one-in-a=lifetime funds” for driving change to improve the lives of Kentuckians. He then answered questions about the guidance provided by the advisory commission to counties and cities regarding the appropriate use of the funds.

 A summary of the Q & A session is included with the minutes as an attachment.

**Planet Youth Update Lisa Johnson**

Judge James Kay began by stating his opinion that the Just Say Yes / Planet Youth model does align well with the commission’s vision for use of the opioid settlement funds given the fact that the model very specifically aims to PREVENT substance abuse. Freeman Bailey pointed out that we can reach out to Mr. Hubbard in the event that we have questions about appropriate use of the funds. Charlie Kirk confirmed that Franklin County will be use some of the opioid settlement funds for Planet Youth & Just Say Yes. Lisa Johnson then provided a brief overview of Planet Youth, recalling information that was presented at the May 2022 meeting of WC ASAP. She specifically noted the verbal agreement by Judge Executive James Kay at the May 2022 meeting for the county to commit funds to help pay for Planet Youth. She further reminded those In attendance that the overarching program model originated in Iceland and was very successful in helping youth make healthy choices instead of experimenting with drugs and alcohol. Ms. Johnson reiterated commitments from the following entities to fund the Planet Youth contract, which costs $28,000 per year:

City of Midway: $2500

City of Versailles: $10,000

Woodford County: $10,000

Woodford County ASAP: $3000

Woodford County Health Department: $2500

Ms. Johnson also explained that getting the contract signed is the first step and would allow us to perform a risk behavior survey before the end of the 2022-23 school year to students in 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grades.

**Motion to Approve $3000 to $5000 to fund Planet Youth contract**

The motion was made by Judge Executive James Kay. Freeman Bailey seconded the motion. All voting members voted in favor of the motion with none opposed.

**Motion to approve WC ASAP Chair Freeman Bailey to sign any and all documents related to the contract with Planet Youth**.

The motion was made by Judge Executive James Kay. Stephanie Raglin seconded the motion. All voting members voted in favor of the motion with none opposed.

**Presentation of the Budget Nancy Blackford**

In the interest of time, Ms. Blackford encouraged people to review the documents attached to the agenda regarding the budget. She also reminded all in attendance to apply for a mini-grant prior to January 30, 2023.

**Announcements Freeman Bailey, Chair**

Judge Executive James Kay reminded all in attendance that the best use of the opioid settlement funds would result from community collaboration, and he stated the desire to have a summit where the community would have an opportunity to provide input and ask questions about Woodford County’s plans for combating opioid use and substance use disorders.

**Meeting Adjourned Freeman Bailey, Chair**

*January 17, 2023*

*WC ASAP Meeting*

*Q & A with Bryan Hubbard, Executive Director of Commission*

*Unless quotation marks are used, the following Q & A is a paraphrased summary of the discussion that took place between Mr. W. Bryan Hubbard and attendees at the January 17, 2023 WC ASAP meeting.*

Q: How much of the available funds can be used for reimbursements for past abatement efforts? (Nancy Blackford, WC ASAP Coordinator)

A: That is up to your city / county. The way the statute is written, there is no limit on the amount that can be used for reimbursement, but the objective is to “change future outcomes” and I would strongly encourage cities and counties against “trying to patch holes” or “catch water that has already gone over the dam”. He added, “If you use the funds for reimbursements, you’re just trying to clean up spilled milk—that is my personal opinion”.

Q: Can you talk about what we can do within the parameters of the statute? (James Kay, WC Judge Executive)

A: We have traveled throughout the state and have had about 10 town halls, and what we are hoping to see are prevention services, particularly those targeting children, as well as “the creation of the necessary legal and logistical infrastructure to support recovery”. We have a solid treatment infrastructure in the state, both abstinence-based and medically-assisted to treat the acute phases of opioid dependence. What we don’t have are good solid recovery housing programs (safe and sober living), transportation for people coming out of an acute opioid dependency, second-chance employment opportunities, and the delivery of acute-phase treatment within existing healthcare infrastructure that can provide a seamless transition from detox into recovery. That does not exist. Individual communities are going to need to work with their healthcare providers to develop the necessary infrastructure to provide that seamless transition from withdrawal / overdose to a recovery setting. Recovery housing, recovery support, collaboration with healthcare providers to develop a recovery network, prevention programs focused on children. Kentucky has the 5th highest percentage of bereaved children in the U.S. 22% of the children in KY who have lost a parent have lost them to a fentanyl overdose. We want to make sure there is awareness about the “unforgiveable executioner” that is fentanyl. This should be PRIORITY 1 at this stage of the game. Driving culture change is important to challenge the preconceived notions that people have about those with substance use and opioid use disorder. Our students are being raised in a culture that is very permissive to medications that treat ADHD and other conditions that are a part of normal development. “I think about a college student who has come up in a culture that is very aggressive about medicating things like ADHD and any other thing that is a part of the natural human development process that I think we have unnecessarily medicalized. When you have someone who is cramming for that exam or trying to get that term paper out and they go to find a little touch of Adderall…to help or enhance their academic performance, that ain’t gonna be Adderall that they have been conditioned to understand will help and enhance their academic performance, that aint gonna be Adderall that they get on the street. It’s going to be the death penalty (fentanyl)”. These are the messages that need to reach everybody—not in a way that is designed to implicate fear of punishment, but in a way that is designed to raise awareness about the pre-meditated, well-designed chemical warfare that is being waged by a hostile power across the sea. It is a fact.

Q: I just wanted to be clear that there is $842 million in the state fund. How much is in the local fund? (Melissa Patrick, Woodford Sun)

A: There will be $421 million disbursed to the cities and counties and $421 million to the Commonwealth.

Q: There are 120 individual counties, judge executives, mayors, et cetera. Who will oversee the disbursement of the funds? (Melissa Patrick, Woodford Sun)

A: Oversight of the local government will be a multi-participant process. Each designated local official will be required to provide quarterly certifications and attest (under the penalty of perjury) to the fact that the expenditures are being made in compliance with the statutory requirements, which are translations of the settlement conditions. If we misuse the funds, those who have paid into the fund can try to recoup the funds, thereby reducing the amount available for future disbursements.

The commission and its staff will send people out to inspect the accounting records of cities and counties to ensure that the money is being spent as intended and to ensure that the process is completely transparent and available for public inspection. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the individual citizens to hold their local government accountable.

Q: Who is in charge of the quarterly certification? (Melissa Patrick, Woodford Sun)

A: Whoever the local government designates as the financially controlling officer. While it sounds daunting given the decentralized nature of the process, it is important that local governments can tailor their strategies to meet the individual needs of their communities. This will require engaged and informed citizens to have good collaborative conversations that will prevent redundancy and waste and instead drive innovation, creativity, and effectiveness.

Q: As I understand it, the government entity will need a separate bank account. If we are in the process of transitioning our banking, do you all prefer a separate, stand-alone bank account for these funds? (Alan George)

A: Yes. We recommend having a separate bank account specifically for these funds for instant access as well as accountability and credibility.

Q: I am with the Franklin County ASAP Board. The guidance says the awards will be distributed once for the first 18 month period and will then be renewed for an additional 12 months. We’re trying to think through what an 18-month project would look like versus a 15 or 16 year project (assuming the funds are available that long). (Charlie Kirk, FC ASAP)

A: “Let me apologize up front for the byzantine nature of state government”. We anticipate making our first round of awards in April. That means that we’ll capture 4 months out of FY 23 plus the following 12 months in FY 24. The guidance will be revised once this fiscal year expires to reflect a 12-month cycle going forward.

Q: But there’s no question that the money is coming?

A: Correct. Now having said this, there is a settlement administrator (firm) comprised of litigating attorneys and we have had to apply significant pressure to get them to release funds we were expecting to receive months prior. The settlements are negotiated and the funds are there, but there are occasional delays and we have to give ourselves flexibility. We are managing it as we go.

Q: The guidance defines the “target population” as people with opioid use disorder and comorbidities, etc. Is the commission thinking that we would require a diagnosis in order to serve folks? We want to invest a significant portion of the funds into prevention, which would keep people from developing opioid use disorder…

A: The way the statutes are written, the money is to be used to address opioid use disorder, substance use disorder, and any companion mental health disorder. We have the ability to address it all. The only requirement is to establish opioids as the “hook” that underlies the problem.

Q: Yes, so for example, we know that children are at risk for developing opioid use disorder as well as at risk for being harmed by the impact that opioids and opioid activities have on them physically, emotionally, etc. So if we want to create a program that ensures that children have access to healthy activities that are a safe alternative to opioid use, that they have transportation to get to programs that are providing healthy, safe alternatives to opioid use, such prevention strategies would fall within the parameters of the guidance?

A: That is correct. At this stage of the game, the opioid use is not being driven by prescription medication. It is almost exclusively fentanyl, so as long as you have a program that is addressing fentanyl, you are covered. (Rob Young, VPD)

Q: Is there anything going on in townhall meetings that you thought was particularly innovative—maybe something we haven’t thought of yet?

A: We have listened to people from all over the commonwealth. We have probably heard more than 30 hours of people pouring out their pain—raw, visceral, and unreserved. What we have also heard about is grassroots activity taken by people of conscience. The most innovative things I have seen are in the west end of Louisville, Northern Kentucky (rich and well-resourced).

The [Goodwill Learning Center](https://goodwillwestlouisville.com/opportunity-campus/): This is a “human individual reconstruction” project where they will re-train recovering addicts as if they are children (clothing them, interview training, etc)/ This is happening in the West end of Louisville, where they have “In the trenches” creation of grassroots infrastructure.

There are also faith-based organizations, churches, other civic organizations have collaborated to provide children with a taste of “sanctuary, stability, and spirituality” during those afterschool hours from the time that school dismisses until about 6 pm. Nothing better can be provided to children. They aren’t able to be with the children all the time, but those 3 things make a lasting impact on a little one in the midst of chaos. Giving children these 3 things is vital.

Paducah and West Kentucky area: [Lifeline Recovery Center](https://lifelinerecoverycenter.org/donate) (2806 Morgan Lane, Paducah, KY 42001 270-443-4743

The commission would like to see organically-driven, grassroots prevention and treatment and recovery infrastructure that is collaborative and transparent. Lifeline Recovery Center offers an abstinence-based program and is getting fabulous results, and they are working collaboratively to ensure there is no redundancy, no replication, and no waste. Sharing community resources is vital to their success, and I would recommend scheduling meetings with the leaders of this and the other organizations I have mentioned because I think that is where you will find the most innovation.

Q: The Just Say No program failed. Are there any requirements for evidence-based program?

A: There are many well-established templates for any number of programs that are ostensibly “evidence-based”. There is not a requirement that a program be “evidence-based”, because sometimes the collection of evidence requires experimentation that leads to the evidence. We want to allow for innovation and creativity. For example, there is a program called “[Feed Louisville”](https://www.feedlouisville.org/) started by Donny Greene and Rhona Kalmar. When COVID hit, programming that ministered to the homeless stopped, so these individual went to a church and started cooking foods. They recruited volunteers and started “cranking out” 800 to 900 meals a day. Then Donny Greene and his partners went into a hotel and booked rooms for homeless people. While they were there, they connected them with health screenings, mental health assessments, and they are having phenomenal results. As awful as the opioid epidemic is, Kentucky has some fabulous innovation and creativity that is having successful.

Q: Did you have a chance to check into the number of beds available for detox? (Nancy Blackford)

A: It is on my agenda to do next, and I will report to you by the end of the week the day and time I have scheduled to get this information for you!

Q: It would be helpful to the counties and cities if the commission could give it’s “blessing” to programs as a way of saying that “Yes, your program is eligible”. If there was a hotline or something that community leaders could utilize regarding eligibility, this would help communities develop projects without chilling their innovation and creativity. (James Kay)

A: Yes, if your fellow judges executive are open to that sort of thing, it is a fabulous idea and I will pass that along. The commission does not want to be suffocating and dictatorial.

Q: I just want to be sure I am clear about what the funds can be used for. Is there a limit on the amount of funding that can be used to reimburse counties and cities for past activities? (Nancy Blackford)

A: There is no limit on how much you can spend to pay for patching up yesterday, but it will not fix tomorrow. It is going to take ASAP boards like this one to ensure that these funds are used to prevent additional strain by prevent opioid use and abuse. “We’ve been talking about this for 25 years, and we are much closer to the beginning than we are to the end”.

Q: So the ASAP board, if it makes a request from the fiscal court for certain funds, you would assume the ASAP board should be one of the beneficiaries of some of these funds, but again, in reporting what specifically the money is used for, what kind of reporting will be required to show what specifically the money will be used for? (Alan George, County Attorney)

A: Well I would assume that any “ask” would be used to execute the plan that your coalition has already developed and approved.

Q: We already have some money in the bank. I’m hearing from the jailer and various other entities, and what I need to know is what level of detail would the Fiscal Court need to make the determination about whether or not to approve the release of the funds? (Alan George, County Attorney).

A: Again, I would hope that any request would be a part of a comprehensive plan that had already been approved by the Commission for the use of the funds to execute a specific set of priorities that are a part of your overall plan.

Q: There are a couple of things that are particularly “thorny’, there is a 10% cap on fiscal agent fees (the same as we have now). This is a very low threshold ( a great one but a low one). That has been a topic of conversation for Franklin County as we look for a fiscal agent. So while the ASAP board may not get audited, the local fiscal agent might. This could be a $10K fee. I hope those audit requirements do not exclude organizations who cannot afford such an audit. (Charlie Kirk, FC ASAP)

A: All those issues will be reviewed on a case by case basis. We do not want to disqualify any good ideas. For example, we asked for background checks on everyone participating in this project. We aren’t necessarily going to exclude people based on what is discovered in the background check, but it is important to know what we’re dealing with. We already know that many people who will be integral to defeating opioids in our state have criminal records. With that said, this money belongs to “the people”, and it is important for us to exercise the necessary due diligence as we disburse these funds.

Q: We teach DARE, and it is obviously an outdated program. Do you have a recommendation for a better program that we could use? (Ellie Castle, VPD)

A: I would have to do some research to respond to that. I will tell you my personal philosophy, but I will have to take off my “official” hat. I don’t think any program can be successful without emphasizing the spiritual dimension of this problem. I would hope that any program partner with other agencies to work around any restriction the government has in place to prevent the spiritual dimension of this problem from being addressed. I would also refer this group to an organization founded by a woman named Terra Leavell. The program is called [Play Cousins Collective.](https://playcousinscollective.wildapricot.org/)

Q: There is a curriculum called “Too Good for Drugs” and New Vista also has a program that is appropriate all the way up to 11th grade. (Cassie Prather)

A: Thank you.