

New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council

Friday, June 18th, 2021 | 1:30PM-3:30 PM

Location: [WebEx Link](#)

Meeting ID: 187 889 6847

Password: TRxz45dK2br

Or Call-In: 1-844-992-4726

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Introductions – 10 min
- II. Review of Agenda – 5 min
- III. Review of April 16th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes – 5 min
- IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez – 5 min
- V. Quarterly Prescribing Report – Megan Deissinger – 10 min
- VI. Presentation –
 - a. Cannabis Regulation Act – Hayley Peterson - 30 min
 - b. Controlled Drug Legalization – Kathryn Lowerre – 15 min
- VII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations - 10 min
 - a. Methamphetamine Subcommittee – Desiree Valdez
 - b. Fentanyl Subcommittee – Sophie Andar
 - c. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee – Michael Pridham
- VIII. Draft Recommendations based on April 16th presentations: - 20 min
 - a. Brandon Warrick’s presentation:
 - i. Stigma regarding people who have drug use disorder and about treatment for this disorder should be addressed.
 - ii. The NM Congressional Delegation should support the MAT Act, which will eliminate the requirement that practitioners obtain a separate X-waiver through the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) to prescribe buprenorphine for SUD treatment and require the secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a campaign that would educate practitioners about the change and encourage providers to integrate Substance Use Disorder treatment into their practices.
 - b. Snehal Bhatt’s presentation:
 - i. The legislature should appropriate \$150,000 to fund a study to determine the feasibility and acceptability of an injectable opioid treatment program at the UNM Addiction & Substance Abuse Program.
- IX. Next Meeting – including proposed future agenda items – TBD - Location

Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 16th, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Location: WebEx

COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Ernie Dole, Joanna Katzman, Frances Lovett, Ralph McClish, Clare Romero, Brandon Warrick, Troy Weisler, Toby Rosenblatt

ABSENT: Jennifer Burke, Jason Flores, Steve Jenkusky, Cheranne McCracken, Michael Pendleton

QUORUM: Yes

Other attendees: Sophie Andar, Wence Asonganyi, Theresa Baillie, Snehal Bhatt, Laura Brown, Alisha Campbell, Danelle Callen, Chandelle Chavez, Eric Chavez, Karen Cheman, Mark Clark, Jim Davis, Jaime Crowell, Phil Fiuty, Tracy Gordon, Kimberly Greenberg, Raquel Guzman Vega, Amy Heflin, Lisa K. Jackson, LaShai Jake, Janet Johnson, Robert Kelly, Rebecca Leppala, Andrea Lohse, Kathryn Lowerre, Aaron Martinez, Matt Miller, AJ Pacheco, Haley Peterson, Sasha Poole, Michael Pridham, Galina Priloutskaaya, Robert Rhyne, Jacqueline Romero, Peter Ryba, Art Salazar, Julie Salvador, Laura Schwartz, Michael Sievert, Janet Simon, Samantha Storsberg, Dale Tinker, Chris Trujillo, Desiree Valdez, Chris Vivian, Tonya Elyse Westrick-Henry, M. Yamada

MEETING MINUTES

I. Introductions

II. Review of January 15th, 2021 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

- a. Minutes were reviewed. Ralph McClish moved to approve & Brandon Warrick seconded the motion. Minutes were approved after a typographical error was corrected.

III. Review of Agenda

- a. The Agenda was reviewed with the group.

IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez

- a. Desiree reported the Governor’s Board and Commissions Appointments contact, Melissa Salazar, has been contacted many times and has not responded to questions about appointment for the council. Toby noted that other Boards and Councils are reporting similar experiences.
- b. Clare Romero is stepping down from the Council and will no longer be representing the NM Association of Nurse Practitioners. The association is in the process of recruiting a new appointment.
- c. There was a question from someone about their application for an appointment a long time ago that never received a response, if they should submit another application. Toby said this question will be taken to the Office of the Governor Boards and Commissions appointments officer to get clarification about reapplying and if old applications need to get renewed or resubmitted, or if old applications will get reviewed.

V. Presentation – Quarterly Prescribing Report – Jim Davis

- a. Jim reviewed the Quarterly Measures which highlighted data showcasing 12 month running totals of overdose deaths. There was a 15% increase in overdose death totals in 2020 between October and December, based on provisional data. This is mainly due to increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths. Overdose deaths due to cocaine have also increased.

- b. The number of patients using chronic opioids has plateaued. Making more strides to reduce those numbers has been impacted by the pandemic. The number of new patients who are potentially using opioids chronically are plateauing. MAT patients have also plateaued. These may increase as in person activities start up again.
- c. PMP measures are going in the right direction, but usage of PMPO could be increased. The Board of Pharmacy and Professional Licensing Boards could assist with enforcement. Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine use is a concern and academic detailing could help with this challenge.
- d. Question: What is the plan for academic detailing?
 - i. Jim stated the boards have their own approaches to enforcing PMP use. Regarding academic detailing, Chris Trujillo stated that the Center for Health Innovation is detailing providers statewide and this will continue. In addition, Chris provides education and coaching to prescribers whose patients have suffered non-fatal overdoses. Kathryn Lowerre shared she has more information about the evaluation of the process of the statewide efforts concerning providers.

VI. Statewide Survey of Drug Use – Kathryn Lowerre

- a. Kathryn explained the survey is meant to get a representative sample of the state regarding knowledge and attitudes folks have about various kinds of substance use, prevention, harm reduction, and treatment options.
- b. Main findings: Respondents to the survey stated they perceive an increase in substance misuse in their communities. Knowledge about what overdose risk looks like is high in adults in New Mexico. About a quarter of folks are not clear on the risks of taking extra doses of opioids or overdoses being fatal. Folks have identified fentanyl and cocaine as a serious health problem. Folks reframing substance use as an “illness” over a “weakness” or “both” is taking place in the state. More folks know about the Prescription Monitoring Program and they also think Narcan is important for folks to access.
- c. Findings that show little progress: Folks were not clear on how to access Narcan and these responses were specific to regions. Awareness of alternative pain management options did not change much.
- d. Question: How is this information used to work on interventions in the state?
 - i. Kathryn shared this data is used to evaluate programs and policies, in addition to preparation of educational materials.
- e. Question: How are the Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) doing with sending naloxone home with patients?
 - i. UNM ASAP does this with their clients.
 - ii. Samantha Storsberg with Human Services Department shared their 21 Overdose Treatment Programs are required to provide naloxone as funding and access permits to clients. Sometimes the OTPs run into barriers in providing kits, but most can provide this service.
- f. Kathryn Lowerre’s contact information is: Kathryn.Lowerre@state.nm.us

VII. 2021 Legislative Session – Toby Rosenblatt

- a. Toby reviewed house and senate bills that were introduced during the 2021 Legislative session pertinent relating to drug overdose prevention.
 - i. House Bill 46 – Injectable Opioid Treatment Study: this bill would have funded a study to determine the feasibility and accessibility of an injectable opioid treatment program at the UNM Addiction & Substance Abuse Program. It made it to the Senate floor but did not get voted on.
 - ii. HB 123 – Overdose Prevention Programs and Limited Immunity: This bill would have allowed municipalities and counties to work with DOH oversight to approve entities to establish and operate overdose prevention programs with safer injection sites. The advisory council has recommended safe injection sites in the past and the council may want to discuss this further as

a possible recommendation in the future. This bill died in the Senate Judiciary.

- iii. Senate Bill 255 – Harm Reduction Act: This bill would have decriminalized the use of harm reduction supplies, including fentanyl test strips. The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- iv. Senate Memorial 3 - Fentanyl Overdose Recognition: This was an effort to publicize the increase of fentanyl overdoses in the state. It went to Senate Rules and was not considered there.
- v. HB 215 – Behavioral Health Screening Coverage: This would have allowed HSD to provide medical assistance coverage to enrollees who have symptoms of alcohol or substance abuse or a mental health disorder. This bill would have also required county Sheriffs or jail administrators to provide medication assisted treatment. These folks would be offered a screening for referral to treatment. The bill died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- vi. SB 398 – Rural Substance Use Recovery Services: This bill would have appropriated funds to HSD for programs to deploy mobile units in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos, Taos, and Mora counties. This bill died in the Senate Finance Committee. The audience did not say whether they would like to hear more about such services at future meetings.
- vii. SB 23 – Healthcare Purchasing Act: This bill would have limited the amount of copays that could be required for chiropractic services. The Advisory Council recommended such legislation. Michael Pridham shared this bill was waiting to be heard on the House floor when time ran out. A similar bill will probably be introduced again in the future.
- viii. SB 60 – Physical Therapists License Compact: This bill would have allowed New Mexico to enter the Physical Therapists License Compact, which would have provided standards for interstate practice, in addition to easier access to physical therapists who provide non-pharmaceutical pain management. This bill was died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

VIII. Presentation - Medication-Assisted Treatment in NM – Brandon Warrick

- a. Brandon’s presentation was titled, “Opioids – The Evolving Epidemic.” He shared on what is going well and what needs improvement as we work on addressing the opioid epidemic, as well as evidence-based treatments that could improve health outcomes.
- b. Synthetic opioids are causing significant problems in the United States and New Mexico. He said that based on the statistics about overdose death, there has been a failure in addressing this. He also cited economics being a factor in addressing the opioid epidemic, the amount of money cartels makes with their profit margins, and the multi-level marketing model can be helpful in better understanding this issue.
- c. The evidence-based interventions he presented included medication assisted treatment (MAT), which has a broad spectrum of improvements for many. He states there is under prescribing of MAT for people in New Mexico. He stated that stigma is a factor in the lack of these services. Brandon is part of an implementation team that is working with rural hospitals to get patients in the ER connected to MAT immediately. Holy Cross Hospital has worked with the implementation team to get this service to their patients with drug use disorder.
- d. There was discussion about the ideas and interventions taking place in the state currently and what could be done now to work on the opioid epidemic due to the urgency of the situation. Toby asked the group if they wanted other presentations connected to what Brandon presented and what was discussed. Brandon shared he has been talking with Stanford Kemp with NMDOH about a statewide addiction hub/hotline with peer support, medical experts, etc.

IX. Presentation – Injectable Opioid Treatment – Snehal Bhatt, Medical Director, UNM Addiction and Substance Abuse Program

- a. Dr. Snehal Bhatt, Chief of Addiction Psychiatry at UNM, presented on the contrast between the continued efforts to work on the opioid epidemic in the state and the severity of the challenges that are

being faced. He expressed we need to stay innovative. He also mentioned how MAT can work, but there is a subgroup of patients who don't respond to MAT. He introduced Laura Brown, a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Addictions Division (under Dr. Bhatt) of UNM Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, with a current Fulbright Global Scholar award, who presented on injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) in Canada and Senate Bill 46, which did not get passed this year. Laura will visit Vancouver again in the summer of 2021 to learn more about injectable Opioid Addition Treatment (iOAT).

- b. Laura shared about the high societal cost of illicit opioid use and how innovative interventions are needed for the folks who do not respond to MAT. Several countries have this treatment available. There is substantial medical and psychosocial support for patients in these programs. The outcomes of this treatment are decreased use of street opioids, more engagement with the treatment program, better health outcomes, improved quality of life, and increased public safety. Safe injection facilities/safe consumption sites are not equal to iOAT as clients usually bring in pre-obtained illicit substances to SIF/SCS, while iOAT services are provided as form of MAT. Vancouver has had success with providing iOAT.
- c. Question: Does iOAT help clients sustain employment over time due to not having to focus their time on finding substances for use over the course of day? Laura mentioned iOAT requires clients to go to the clinic sometimes two to three times a day, which does cut into the workday. This type of program can serve as a stepping stone to other treatment and programs that comprehensively support the client.
- d. Laura Brown can be contacted at: LABrown@salud.unm.edu

X. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations -

- a. Fentanyl Subcommittee: Sophie Andar shared this group meets on the last Wednesday of the month. Although the legislation about fentanyl test strips and the memorial about fentanyl did not come through, CDC and SAMSHA are allowing their grantees to use money to purchase fentanyl test strips. People who are interested in this subcommittee, can contact Sophie at: sophie.andar@state.nm.us
- b. Integrative Pain Management Subcommittee: Michael Pridham shared about HB 34 (lower copays) not getting a hearing on the Senate floor this year. He hopes get HSD to allow Medicaid to cover integrative services. He will also meet with New Mexico's congressional delegation to discuss national prevention efforts by the American Chiropractic Association. The next subcommittee is meeting on June 7th, 2021. People who are interested in joining this subcommittee may contact Michael Pridham at: michael@drpridham.com
- c. Michael also announced that another bill, HB 34, Podiatric Cost Sharing Limits, sponsored by Marian Matthews, provided that NM insurance providers could not impose a higher participant pay for services provided by a podiatrist than for primary care services.

XI. Next Meeting – June 18th, 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 PM – WebEx meeting

New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council

Friday, April 16th, 2021 | 1:30PM-3:30 PM

Location:

[WebEx Link](#)

Meeting ID: **187 296 1127**

Password: **EUxbeirv522**

Or Call-In: **1-844-992-4726**

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- V. Presentation – Quarterly Prescribing Report – Jim Davis – 10 min
- VI. Statewide Survey of Drug Use – Kathryn Lowerre – 5 min
- VII. 2021 Legislative Session – Toby Rosenblatt – 15 min
- VIII. Presentation - Medication-Assisted Treatment in NM – Brandon Warrick – 20 min
- IX. Presentation – Injectable Opioid Treatment – Snehal Bhatt, Medical Director, UNM Addiction and Substance Abuse Program. – 20 min
- X. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations - 10 min
 - a. Methamphetamine Committee – (none)
 - b. Fentanyl Committee – Sophie Andar
 - c. Integrative Pain Management Committee – Michael Pridham
- XI. Next Meeting – including proposed future agenda items - TBD

Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 15th, 2021 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Location: WebEx

COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE

PRESENT: Jennifer Burke, Ernie Dole, Jason Flores, Steve Jenkusky, Frances Lovett, Ralph McClish, Cheranne McCracken, Clare Romero, Brandon Warrick, Troy Weisler

ABSENT: Joanna Katzman, Michael Pendleton

QUORUM: Yes

Other attendees: Sophie Andar, Wence Asonganyi, Neal Bowen, Carlos Briano, Alisha Campbell, Eric Chavez, Karen Cheman, Mark Clark, Jaime Crowell, Donna Daniel, Karen Edge, Victor Ekpe, Marcus Erickson, Sharon Finarelli, Phil Fiuty, Evonne Gantz, Roxy Grajeda, Kimberly Greenberg, Brian Gutierrez, Autumn Hobson, Athena Huckaby, Lisa Jackson, LaShai Jake, Emily Kaltenbach, Robert Kelly, Stanford Kemp, Laurie Kerr, Alana Lee, Kathryn Lowerre, Brooke Parish, Haley Peterson, Janet Popp, Wendy Price, Michael Pridham, Galina Priloutsкая, Robert Rhyne, Ashley Riley, Toby Rosenblatt, Peter Ryba, Joann Sanchez, Laura Schwartz, Michael Sievert, Janet Simon, Samantha Storsberg, Josh Swatek, Dale Tinker, Desiree Valdez, Kamilla Venner

MEETING MINUTES

I. Introductions

II. Review of November 13th, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

- a. Bill Barkman was removed from the Council Membership list for the Nov. Meeting Minutes and for the future since he has retired.
- b. Minutes were approved without dissent. Ralph McClish made, and Steve Jenkusky seconded the motion.

III. Review of Agenda

- a. Brandon Warrick proposed a discussion about the changes in benzodiazepine prescribing during the meeting. Toby added this item to the agenda after the 2020 Recommendations discussion and said in the future he will try to move the recommendations discussion earlier in the agenda, to try to avoid rushing discussions about recommendations.
- b. Agenda was approved. Steve Jenkusky moved to approve & Frances Lovett seconded the motion.

IV. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez

- a. Desiree reported the Governor’s Board and Commissions Appointments official has been contacted and they said they are working on appointments for the Advisory Council.
- b. She asked the attendees if anyone in attendance had received a letter about being newly appointed to the council. No one said they have been newly appointed.

V. PMP Statistics by Licensing Boards – Jim Davis

- a. Jim presented on data about the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP). To provide context, Jim shared NM has had a sharp uptick in overdose deaths recently with a strong emphasis on the use of fentanyl

and its analogues. Use of non-fentanyl Rx opioids has declined. Based on Jim's projection methodology, overdose deaths and rates are expected to be higher in 2020 than in 2019.

- b. Regarding the PMP analysis, the data is based on New Mexico practitioners with at least 20 controlled substances patients, excluding the larger groups of hospital residents. The board with the highest number of practitioners with more than 20 controlled substance patients is the NM Medical Board and the board with the lowest numbers consist of the Board of Pharmacy and Certified Nurse Midwives. The decline in the number of practitioners is not due to less providers, but changes in prescribing practices. There was a dip in the various of the measures in 2020 due to the pandemic and the temporary reduction in elective procedures, but the numbers moved up as the year went on. The number of folks with chronic opioid prescriptions did not decline, but those with short term prescriptions declined, probably due to the pandemic. The percentage of PMP checks have increased with all the boards since 2016 but there is still room for more growth.

VI. 2021 Legislation – (Proposed by Steve Jenkusky)

- a. Toby reviewed 2021 legislation related to drug overdose. He reviewed different pre-filed house bills which cover studying injectable opioid treatment programs, DWI blood testing, carrying firearms while trafficking controlled substances. Senate pre-filed bills cover the physical therapy licensure compact, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) appropriation, allowing fentanyl strips to be included in the harm reduction program. Another bill brought up was the chiropractic copay bill. A section of the Nursing Practice Act which allows nurses and LPNs working in opiate treatment programs to dispense methadone will also be brought up during the session this year.
- b. Discussion about all prescriptions changing to electronic formats, including controlled substances, took place. Council members had questions about this and Cheranne McCracken said she would share more information about this topic with the group via email.

VII. Drug Use and Possession Decriminalization – Presentation – Emily Kaltenbach (Drug Policy Alliance)

- a. Emily Kaltenbach is the director of the Drug Policy Alliance in New Mexico and presented on decriminalization of drug use and possession. Decriminalization of drugs consists of eliminating criminal penalties for drug use and possession, possession of paraphernalia, and low-level drug sales. Most drug arrests are due to possession of small amounts of an illicit substance.
- b. Decriminalization is important because it addresses the severe health and socioeconomic consequences of drug arrests, racial disparities and over-policing in communities of color, and lack of investment in treatment and harm reduction programs. The benefits of decriminalization range from saving money on jail costs to reducing stigma about drug use, so people with substance use disorder do not feel as discouraged about seeking treatment and other support.
- c. The decriminalization efforts we have in NM currently are: Good Samaritan Law, LEAD programs in Bernalillo, Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Doña Ana counties, and the efforts to decriminalize use of cannabis and drug paraphernalia.

VIII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations

- a. **Methamphetamine Committee – Evonne Gantz on behalf of Chandelle Chavez**
 - i. Chandelle is rotating leadership of the committee to Ashley Riley (Emergency Department Coordinator with the Overdose Prevention program with NMDOH) and a new meeting will be scheduled by Ashley soon.
- b. **Fentanyl Committee – Sophie Andar**
 - i. Sophie will schedule a meeting for late January. E-mail Sophie if you would like to join this subcommittee: sophie.andar@state.nm.us. The meeting in Dec. consisted of discussing the recommendation about eliminating syringes and needles as drug paraphernalia. Council members had voted to approve this recommendation in draft form.
 - ii. Josh Swatek shared about his recommendation to amend the Substance Control Act and the Harm Reduction Act to expand the supplies the Harm Reduction Program can distribute,

particularly fentanyl test strips. He would like to amend the Public Health Act with his recommendation.

c. Integrative Pain Management Committee – Michael Pridham

- i. Michael Pridham met with former Representative Xochitl Torres-Small to cosponsor legislation to increase chiropractic coverage in Medicare. Congressional Representative and Secretary Designate of the Interior Deborah Haaland had already cosponsored this legislation and 91 representatives are sponsoring it.
- ii. The committee met on December 4th and discussed the potential of decreased copays for acupuncture and other services, Medicaid inclusion, and rural tax credits for providers. Michael will be an expert witness for the copay bill coming up in this session. One of the suggestions for the committee is to work with the Primary Care Association for implementation of the pilot programs within the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Michael said he invited several legislators to this meeting, including Senator Ivey-Soto, who conveyed his appreciation of the work and the dedication of the Council. He also sent out a white paper to the Council from the National Association of Governors which recommends increasing access to integrative medicine in Medicaid, as well as a paper from the Journal of Pain which shows manual therapy modulates the pain processing centers in the brain.
- iii. Michael will send out a Doodle Poll for the next meeting date and time in mid-February. E-mail him for more information on this committee: michael@drpridham.com

IX. Recommendations Finalization

Sophie shared two draft Recommendations for the Council members to discuss:

1. (Previously approved as a draft) Eliminate the classification of syringes and needles as “drug paraphernalia” in NMSA 1978 30-31-25.1 to decrease the likelihood of syringe litter being found in public and to increase the return rate of syringes to safe disposal options, such as the NMDOH Syringe Service Program.
 - a. Discussion took place on how this amendment can help folks in rural and frontier communities. Council members had agreed to this recommendation in September 2020. Steve Jenkusky motioned to approve this recommendation & Ralph McClish seconded it. Votes in favor: Brandon Warrick, Cheranne McCracken, Frances Lovett, Jason Flores, Jennifer Burke, Ralph McClish, Steve Jenkusky, Troy Weisler, Ernie Dole. Absent: Clare Romero.
2. (Presented Josh Swatek) “To promote personal and public safety, provide for additional protection against paraphernalia charges for individuals enrolled in the NMDOH Harm Reduction Program in NMSA 1978 24-2C and 30-31-25.1 for items used to consume or prepare substance provided by the NMDOH Harm Reduction Program, which have been determined by the department, to reduce negative health consequences associated with substance use.”
 - a. Steve Jenkusky moved to approve this recommendation & Ralph McClish seconded it. Votes in favor: Brandon Warrick, Cheranne McCracken, Frances Lovett, Jason Flores, Jennifer Burke, Ralph McClish, Steve Jenkusky, Troy Weisler, Ernie Dole. Absent: Clare Romero.

X. Changes in Benzodiazepine Prescribing (New Agenda Item proposed by Brandon Warrick)

Brandon Warrick shared the US Department of Health and Human Services has stated providers do not need to pass the X-waiver course and can instead write an “X” on prescriptions for buprenorphine, which means the substance will be used for substance use disorder as opposed to pain management.

- XI. Future agenda items:** Brandon Warrick proposed a discussion about Medication Assisted Treatment and treatment in general in our rural state. Send an email to Brandon, if you are interested in helping with the presentation: brandonwarrick@salud.unm.edu
- XII. Next Meeting** – April 16th, 2021, 1:30 – 3:30 PM – WebEx meeting

New Mexico Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council

Friday, January 15th, 2021
1:30PM-3:30 PM

Location:

[Webex Link](#)

Meeting ID: **146 370 2565**
Password: **C5JyyYqqP33**
Or Call-In: **1-844-992-4726**

MEETING AGENDA

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- XI. Review of November 13th, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
- XII. Review of Agenda
- XIII. Council Membership Status – Desiree Valdez
- XIV. PMP Statistics by Licensing Boards – Jim Davis
- XV. 2021 Legislation – (Proposed by Steve Jenkusky)
- XVI. Drug Decriminalization – Emily Kaltenbach (Drug Policy Alliance)
- XVII. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations
 - a. Methamphetamine Committee – Chandelle Chavez
 - b. Fentanyl Committee – Sophie Andar
 - c. Integrative Pain Management Committee – Michael Pridham
- XVIII. 2020 Advisory Council – Recommendations Finalization
- XIX. Next Meeting - TBD

Overdose Prevention and Pain Management Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 13th, 2020 | 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Location: Zoom

COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDANCE	
PRESENT:	ABSENT:
1. Ernie Dole	1. Bill Barkman
2. Steve Jenkusky	2. Jason Flores
3. Frances Lovett	3. Joanna Katzman
4. Ralph McClish	
5. Cheranne McCracken	
6. Michael Pendleton	
7. Clare Romero	
8. Brandon Warrick	
9. Troy Weisler	
10. Jennifer Weiss-Burke	

QUORUM: Yes

Other attendees: Erica Abetya, Sophie Andar, Paul Balderamos, Danelle Callan, Alisha Campbell, Flor Cano-Soto, Chandelle Chavez, Karen Cheman, Jaime Crowell, Jim Davis, Megan Deissinger, Victor Ekpe, Sharon Finarelli, Celia Fisher, Angela Fietze, Phil Fiuty, Evonne Gantz, Roxanne Grajeda, Brian Guterrez, Athena Huckaby, Lisa Jackson, LaShai Jake, Robert Kelly, Laurie Kerr, Rebecca Leppala, Kathryn Lowerre, Andrea Lohse, Christy McAuley, Brooke Parish, Roberta Perea, Hayley Peterson, Janet Popp, Galina Priloutskaya, Michael Pridham, Robert Rhyne, Ashley Riley, Toby Rosenblatt, Sindy Sacoman, Brad Scoggins, Hilary Stim, Kevin Taylor, Chris Trujillo, Desiree Valdez

MEETING MINUTES

XII. Introductions

XIII. Review of September 18th, 2020 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes - Approved

XIV. Review of Agenda – Approved

XV. Council Membership Status

- a. Council members were sent the current list of members to review. Questions and comments were welcomed by Toby. He asked the councilors for corrections and revisions to the list.
- b. Toby recounted the Advisory Council is still waiting for appointments to the Council from the Governor’s Office and shared that the Governor’s Office has not approved the new applicants yet. An email was sent to the Boards and Commission appointments office to inquire about the status of the applications and as of Nov. 13th, there has not been a response. They did agree however that previous appointees who no longer qualify for the seats they were appointed to (such as if they are no longer working for those organizations or have moved out of state) are no longer qualified to be in those Council seats.
- c. Achieving a quorum is challenging when some of the seats are vacant at this time. The bylaws can be revised to provide ease of achieving a quorum going forward.

XVI. Bylaws Update

- a. Toby proposed and explained changes that could be made to update the name of the council, changing how a quorum is defined, and allowing virtual meetings in the applicable sections of the bylaws.
- b. There was discussion about lack of presence from the Governor's Office at this meeting over the past couple years. Toby mentioned he shared the request for the legislative and executive branch presence at the Advisory Council meeting to the DOH Cabinet Secretary and is awaiting a response. There are other boards and councils who have not gotten all their appointments made too, so everyone is having to navigate the same situation as this Advisory Council.
- c. Discussion took place about the changes and the Council voted to approve the changes as written.
- d. Dr. Steven Jenkusky made a motion to accept all the changes to the bylaws as written. Ralph McClish seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. **Votes:** In favor: Steve Jenkusky, Cheranne McCracken, Michael Pendelton, Ernie Dole, Brandon Warrick, Ralph McClish, Jennifer Weiss, and Troy Weisler. Opposed: None; Abstained: Frances Lovett.

XVII. 2019 Drug Overdose Mortality Data Presentation – Megan Deissinger

- a. Megan provided a brief update on the final 2019 data on drug overdose mortality in the state.
- b. The main issue now has become overdose death caused by illicit substances like heroin, methamphetamine, and illicit fentanyl.
- c. Discussion was had about the influx of fentanyl from Mexico (which does not appear to have been decreasing due to construction of the border wall), the ability to access mortality data in IBIS, and how polysubstance use complicates mortality data. Jim reported that all drugs involved in deaths are included, meaning that more causes of death are included than deaths.

XVIII. Quarterly Measures Recap Presentation – Jim Davis

- a. Jim reviewed items of some concern: the number of folks using benzodiazepines and benzodiazepines & opioids is declining, but this number could decline faster. These folks are also chronic users and it is more challenging to reduce use for them.
- b. All the measures are moving down, which is good, but the benzos are moving more slowly. Academic detailing can educate the prescribing community about the issues with benzodiazepine use.
- c. There was discussion about increasing enforcement of PMP use rules, such as creating fines for providers not using the PMP and using prescribing patterns to help educate providers.

XIX. Subcommittee Updates and Recommendations

- a. **Methamphetamine Committee – Chandelle Chavez**
 - i. Chandelle shared the committee's discussion about seeking treatment and developing effective treatments. One recommendation the committee is working on is long term residential treatment for methamphetamine that lasts longer than 90 days. They will research this topic more, among others, before presenting to the council.
 - ii. She shared a recommendation for 2020: The legislature should fund the Drug and DWI courts to establish case managers who can connect folks to services.
- b. **Fentanyl Committee – Sophie Andar**
 - i. Sophie shared that Bernadette Read has moved into a new position and Sophie is now facilitating the committee. They are meeting on Nov. 23rd at 10AM. E-mail Sophie for more information: sophie.andar@state.nm.us
- c. **Integrative Pain Management Committee – Michael Pridham**
 - i. Michael shared it has been a challenge for the committee to meet, but he has met with individual members of the committee to discuss their concerns. They will meet on Dec. 4th at 2:30PM. E-mail Michael for more information: michael@drpridham.com

- ii. HSD has allowed Medicaid to include naprapathy for pain management. He also shared information, therapies, and techniques to help with pain management that should be included in Medicaid plans.

XX. 2020 Recommendations Review

- a. Toby called for a consent counter approach to approve or disapprove the recommendations below:

- i. **Recommendations:** #1. Integrative Medicine in Medicaid and Centennial Care, #2. Drug and DWI Court Case Management, #4. Physical Therapy Practice Act Update, and #5. Increase Availability of Fentanyl Test Strips

- 1. **Comments:** Phil Fiuty shared he feels the Advisory Council should recommend the same measures the Harm Reduction Program is pursuing during the session for recommendation #5. The program has provided language about the exemptions to the harm reduction statute to give immunity for the supplies the program provides, which includes fentanyl test strips.

- Votes:** Dr. Steve Jenkusky moved to approve recommendations #1, #2, #4, and #5 by the Council. Ernie Dole seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. **Votes:** In favor: Steve Jenkusky, Cheranne McCracken, Michael Pendelton, Brandon Warrick, Ernie Dole, Ralph McClish, and Troy Weisler. Opposed: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Frances Lovett, Clare Romero, and Jennifer Weiss.

Recommendation: #6. Syringe Safe Disposal

- 2. **Comments:** Toby and Phil agreed that the language for this recommendation needs to be rewritten based on recommendations by Phil Fiuty and the Harm Reduction Program. The principle of the summary is the same, but the language needs to be modified. Toby asked for a motion to reword the summary to: “to provide immunity from prosecution for sale or possession of items necessary for safe consumption of controlled substances.” Phil provided information about how harm reduction works in different parts of the state and the protocols that are adhered to in order to comply with laws. Council Members were concerned about the proposed rewrite for this recommendation. Council members made points about how broad the “elimination” should be and whether it should be limited to classification of syringes and needles as drug paraphernalia, or whether it should be made more broadly to include other items.

- 3. **Votes:** Dr. Brandon Warrick moved to approve the rewording of the summary change and Dr. Steve Jenkusky seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. **Votes:** In favor: Dr. Steven Jenkusky, Dr. Brandon Warrick, and Ernie Dole. Opposed: : Cheranne McCracken, Dr. Michael Pendleton, Troy Weisler, and Ralph McClish. Abstain: None. Absent: Clare Romero, Frances Lovett, and Jennifer Weiss. This recommendation was not approved.

Recommendation: #7. Prescription Monitoring Program Checks

- 4. **Comments:** Chris Trujillo reviewed this recommendation for the Council. It was taking the original law and adding benzodiazepines to it. Dr. Jenkusky says many medical boards require benzodiazepines be checked already as part of licensing board regulations. Paul Balderamos from the Board of Dental Health shared the dental health

community has been exemplary in using PMP and advancing education for their providers. His concern with recommendations #7 and #8 is the burden of checking initial opioid prescriptions for their patients. Dr. Jenkusky asked how often dentists prescribe more than 4 days of benzodiazepines. Paul said they never do, but that they would be forced to check the PMP for prescriptions that aren't more than 3 days of use, which would be a burden for dentists. Dr. Jenkusky asked the council members if they would be open to changing the phrasing around "initial prescription" to "opioid and benzodiazepine prescriptions more than 4 days of use." Dr. Warrick proposed tabling this discussion due to questions he has about the wording, too.

5. **Votes:** Ralph moved to table this discussion. Dr. Warrick and Dr. Jenkusky agreed to table it. This recommendation has been tabled.

ii. **Recommendation: #8.** Prescribing Limits

1. **Comments:** Toby summarized this recommendation about the legislature setting prescribing limits. Dr. Warrick disagreed with this recommendation due to the logistics being a burden on providers and will treat pain and even addiction inadequately. Ernie agreed with this and said it would provide undue burden for patients and providers. Paul shared his thoughts on this, too, supporting Dr. Warrick and Ernie's ideas.
2. **Votes:** Troy moved to vote on the recommendation as written. Dr. Warrick seconded this motion. The council members voted unanimously to disapprove this recommendation.

iii. **Recommendation: #9.** Pharmacy Training

1. **Comments:** Chris Trujillo shared this recommendation is based on info from UNM stating pharmacists and pharmacy techs need to be trained in Naloxone use regularly due to high turnover rates in pharmacies. Dr. Warrick shared his thoughts on pharmacies not being stocked regularly with buprenorphine and this causing a problem for clients. Chris stated he could revise the summary to include buprenorphine. He shared a new summary in the chat. Cheranne shared that pharmacy staff are currently required to do 2 hours of education on Naloxone. The new wording is "Community pharmacies should stock sufficient quantities of buprenorphine to dispense within four hours of a valid prescription and should require buprenorphine training for current pharmacists and pharmacy technicians."
2. **Votes:** No motion to vote on #9.

- b. Sophie asked if this is the final list of the recommendations for 2020 and Toby said the Council can return to these recommendations in January.

- XXI. Future agenda items:** Toby proposed a presentation from the Drug Policy Alliance about decriminalization, citing recent changes of applicable laws in Oregon, the tenth anniversary of decriminalization in Portugal, and the trend toward decriminalization in other European countries. Folks were open to receive this presentation in the future.
- XXII.** Dr. Jenkusky proposed getting a review for relevant bills in the legislative session.
- XXIII. Next Meeting** – January 15th, 2021 @1:30 – 3:30 PM – Webex meeting

