



Regional Substance Use Council (RSAC)

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 1, 2021

3:30-4:30pm

Virtual Meeting via MS Teams

Members Present: Gail Wilson, Mike Jackman, Maura Weir, Julia Bateman, Amy Doherty, Gene Mitchell, Heidi Nelson, Lisa Guyon, Noel Sierra, Tonya Kohli, Corrie Vilsaint, Barbara Dominic

Barnstable County Staff: Vaira Harik (voting member), Joseph Pacheco

Guests: Todd Whitridge, Nic Charest, Adzele Benoit, Danielle Alexandrov

Members of the Public: 0

Elected Officials: 0

Assembly of Delegates: 0

County Commissioners: 0

Welcome and Roll Call: The meeting began at 3:30 pm.

Business: The meeting addressed partners' operational issues during and emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussion of the RSAC's priorities continued

1. Welcome, roll call attendance, introduction of Joe Pacheco (new BC Human Services Director).
2. Review and Approval of Minutes from the RSAC meeting of 5/6/21: Vaira requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes; moved by Mike Jackman, seconded by Lisa Guyon, approved 13-0.
3. Open discussion for members regarding the COVID-19 response and other matters.
 - a. Perspective of frontline substance use treatment and harm reduction service providers on operations and activities during the COVID pandemic.
 - b. Observed increased isolation of clients resulting in increased overdoses and deaths. Nationally, opioid-related overdose deaths reached their highest number in 2020—approx. 93,000 (source: NIDA).

- c. Behavioral health providers see increased behavioral health problems among both adults and children. Local community college students have had trouble accessing BH services (the Collegiate Recovery organization may be a good source of information). Regarding elementary/middle/high school students, providers are seeing large increases in anxiety among students, parents, and teachers due to COVID.
- d. BSAS inpatient licensing requirements for detox beds and residential treatment makes it difficult for a facility to adjust in increasing demand for one type of bed vs. another, even if the beds are available.
- e. The RSAC would like to improve its connection to colleagues of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe (which has a seat on the RSAC).
- f. RSAC members voiced interest in continuing to meet virtually, have occasional presentations, and continue the discussion of the impacts of COVID.

Adjournment: Vaira requested a motion to adjourn; moved by Heidi Nelson, seconded by Gene Mitchell, approved 13-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:30pm

Respectfully submitted by: Vaira Harik