

State Prevention Advisory Board (SPAB)/ Alabama Epidemiological Outcomes  
Workgroup (AEOW) Combined Meeting  
January 18, 2013  
Federal Reserve Building, Birmingham, AL

**Attendees**

Angene Coleman  
Beverly Johnson  
Carol Williams  
Catherine Rice  
Catina James  
Celeste Bradshaw  
Charon Douglass  
CMSgt. Dave Peterson  
Erica Harris-Green  
Erin Burleson  
Jean Hernandez  
Jean Spicer  
Jessica White  
June Myers  
Katie Whiteley  
Lauren Blanding  
Louis Zook  
Maranda Brown  
Penny Deavers  
Richard Bonds  
Ronada Anderson  
Sandor Cheka  
Sharon Camp  
Tafeni English

**Agency**

Olivia's House  
Department of Mental Health  
Addiction Coalition  
Hoover Coalition Hoover City Schools  
Department of Mental Health  
East Alabama Mental Health  
North Regional Clearinghouse (ASAP)  
Alabama National Guard Counterdrug  
Olivia's House  
South Regional Clearinghouse (Drug Education Council)  
AIDS Alabama  
East Alabama Mental Health  
Alethia House  
ECPFC  
Department of Mental Health  
Department of Mental Health  
Alabama Attorney General Office  
Department of Mental Health  
Southern Prevention Associates  
Cheaha Mental Health Center  
Department of Public Health  
Addiction Coalition  
Addiction Coalition  
Eve's Circle

**Welcome & Introductions**

The meeting is opened at 10:14AM by CMSgt. Dave Peterson. He welcomes all attendees and thanks Sandor Cheka and the Addiction Coalition for hosting the quarterly meeting. He asks all those in attendance to go around and introduce themselves by providing their name and agency/program.

**SPF-SIG Updates**

Beverly Johnson thanks CMSgt. Peterson for the warm introductions and Sandor Cheka for being the hosting site. She gives thanks for all of those in attendance. Beverly states that Alabama is now in the implementation phase of Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)- State Incentive Grant (SIG). The strategic plan was approved by project officer Tonia Shaffer on Friday, November 16, 2012, and the request for proposal (RFP) has been approved and released for communities. The RFP will be due to the Department of Mental Health's Office of Contracts on Friday, February 8, 2013. All questions

concerning the RFP were to be submitted to Leola Rogers by Friday, January 11, 2013. A SPF-SIG Orientation for Newcomer's was held on Thursday, December 20, 2012. Beverly states that the original plan was to conduct RFP workshops for those seeking application, but issues with the Department of Mental Health's Contract Office have given way. Those in the contracts office believe that the directions were explained well enough in RFP application; therefore we are unable to answer any further questions. Beverly also acknowledges that there must be a collaborative effort with a certified prevention provider agency in the 20 eligible counties during this process. Visit <http://mh.alabama.gov> for a listing of these certified providers. Implementation phase trainings will begin in April 2013 once the SPF-SIG sub-recipients are identified. Beverly explains to attendees that organization capacity and leadership will be discussed, and that during this process engaging additional stakeholders will be necessary. She notifies those in attendance that she is required to submit quarterly progress reports to SAMHSA throughout the SPF-SIG process. Beverly makes a point to ask SPAB Chairman, CMSgt. Dave Peterson about the establishment by-laws for SPAB. There is already a charter in place for AEOW, but a missing piece for the advisory board. Beverly asks CMSgt. Peterson to consider the recommendation of SPAB by-laws. At the conclusion of her update, Beverly states that she will keep everyone informed on how many applications are received for the SPF-SIG funding.

Dr. Maranda Brown notifies all that there are two contractual positions that will become available during this process (Mental Health Specialist II). Persons filling these positions will be working alongside the prevention consultants, Erin Burleson and Charon Douglass. She also tells everyone that The Office of Prevention now has its separate page on Mental Health's website. This website will be used as a resource guide to community members, federal agencies, etc.

### **SPF Workgroups**

Dr. Katherine Whiteley explains that there are five workgroup areas in need of support for the SPF-SIG process. These include: (1) Training & Technical Assistance; (2) SPF Project Management Team; (3) Evidence-Based Programs, Practices, and Policies; (4) Monitoring & Evaluation; and (5) Technology Support. She asks that all of those that are interested in participating in either of these workgroups to contact her at [whitelek@bellsouth.net](mailto:whitelek@bellsouth.net) or 251-476-5817. When contacting Dr. Whiteley, she will inform you of the commitment and outcome involved for the workgroup(s) that you are interested in. All workgroups need to be functioning by the time SPF-SIG awards are made. Dr. Whiteley states that her goal is to be efficient and effective as possible. Workgroups will meet face-to-face no more than four times per year; meetings will also be held via conference calls and through email.

Charon Douglass asks that if members are intending to apply for SPF-SIG funding, should you contact Dr. Whiteley about participating in the workgroups. Beverly and Dr. Maranda Brown both agree that members are allowed to be in either of the workgroups, but if their respective community receives SPF-SIG funding then you should remove yourself from the workgroup to avoid conflict.

### **Information Session**

Epidemiologist, Catina James states that the AEWOW charter is in the strategic plan available online. Catina will be sending out an email in regards to the Charter. More statistics will be available in the future.

The strategic plan can be found at [www.mh.alabama.gov/sapv](http://www.mh.alabama.gov/sapv)

Catina asked for participants to take the Golf Coast High Drug Trafficking Areas (GC HIDTA) Drug Treatment/Prevention Survey. The survey is administered in multiple states and helps identify illegal drug activity. The survey is available online and should be completed by January 25, 2013.

### **Unfinished Business**

CMSgt. Dave Peterson announced the AADAA Conference will be held August 8-10. He also announced the agencies registered for Drug Facts Week which will be held January 28-February 3. The Drug Education Council will be hosting a Prescription Drug Abuse Summit. For more information visit [www.drugeducation.org](http://www.drugeducation.org)

CMSgt. Peterson announced that the upcoming trainings that will be provided by the clearinghouses which are listed in the SPAB newsletter.

There are two clearinghouses. The North Clearinghouse, managed by ASAP located in Anniston and the South Clearinghouse managed by the Drug Education Council located in Mobile. Charon is assigned to the North Clearinghouse and Erin is with the South Clearinghouse. The clearinghouses are available for training purposes and also provide information for providers and the community regarding substance abuse.

### **New Business**

Louis Zook with the Alabama Office of the Attorney General informs attendees that the Alabama Drug Abuse Task Force is up and running, with 30 members total. There will be a public hearing on Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 2:00PM-4:00PM in the Capitol Auditorium. During this time community members will be allowed to speak publicly about drug abuse issues going across the state. A report from this hearing will be given to the legislature for their opening session on Tuesday, February 5, 2013. The Chairman of the drug abuse task force is Barry Matson (334-242-4191) with the Alabama District Attorney Association. Louis also recognizes Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Last year there were over 8,000 pounds of medication documented for the state. He asks that we all go into our respective communities and solicit the help of the local law enforcement so that upcoming Take Back days can be more successful. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 10:00AM-2:00PM. He explains that it is in fact possible to do a stand alone event, but law enforcement must be present wherever a collection site is taking place. Louis notifies attendees that the drug enforcement agency (DEA) has submitted new regulations in which pharmacies have the ability to collect unused medications, a means of collection outside of the take back day. He asks that if any

community member(s) see this as an issue of concern, to let your legislature know. This was only brought about because there is not a way outside of the general take back day for individuals to safely dispose of medications. A blue lock box is an alternative way to collect on other days throughout the year. Gulf Shores and Prattville are two of the cities in the state that participate in this way. Louis states that one of the concerns is that information is out and available for an individual to get, but exactly how do we get this information to the people who need it?

Charon Douglass asks Dr. Maranda Brown is it possible to get some of this information on the Department of Mental Health website. She discusses this with Catina James, with the conclusion that this will be a question for the Department's Office of Public Information. Richard Bonds ask if agencies can purchase take back day boxes (i.e., Sylacauga). Louis explains that the only stipulation is that law enforcement must be present wherever the collection site is located.

CMSgt. Dave Peterson gets those individuals who joined the meeting after the start time to introduce themselves. He also asks to make sure that the next meeting has detailed directions for the hosting agency attached to the email that will be sent out. CMSgt. Peterson also directs all attendees' attention to the training opportunities that are available in the SPAB newsletter. These trainings will be available in February.

### **Guest Speaker**

Jean Hernandez tells all that she works for AIDS Alabama coordinating the Latino coalition. She informs all that there is a big difference between what the Census says and what is actually going on in this target population. Jean gives the group key points and information on the Hispanic population. Hispanics are coming to the South because of jobs and better opportunities. Dynamics are changing along with socioeconomic status. The annual earning is \$17,000 vs. \$39,000 for a non-Hispanic. There is limited access for the Hispanic population, which brings about several problems. Concerns are first generation immigrants (lacking skill set) and health disparity. Most of the immigrants are primarily from Mexico and Central America. There is also a problem with geographic isolation, so it is imperative that workers go into the Hispanic community with the information. There is also a lack of support groups. There is frustration because the clinic in Cooper Green Hospital is closing its doors which is going to cause a transition issue. Jean suggests that more items become available in Spanish (i.e., handouts, brochures, flyers, etc.). Jean's contact information is as follows: [jean.hernandez@aidسالabama.org](mailto:jean.hernandez@aidسالabama.org) or 205-324-9822 (office); 510-862-5533 (cell). She announces that there will be Alabama Latino AIDS Coalition meeting on Thursday, January 24, 2013 from 11:30AM-1:00PM at AIDS Alabama in Birmingham.

### **Open Business**

Sandor Cheka informs guests that the Addiction Coalition was contacted by CBS42 news station on the drug Kratom Derivatum (mimics heroin) which is available under the name Vicozen. He states that it is available in a shot bottle for \$10, similar to a five hour energy drink. Sandor was just interested to know if any of the other members received information or read reports on this drug.

Beverly Johnson thanks Jean Hernandez for presentation and representation for AIDS Alabama. She reminds members that the SPF-SIG seeks cultural competency as a component, so the presentation came hand-in-hand. Beverly also states that when those individuals are signing up for the SPF workgroups, cultural competence will be looked at in this aspect as well. She asks CMSgt. Dave Peterson and board members to invite an ABC Board Member (representative) to sit on SPAB (or to be at the next quarterly meeting). Another Epidemiologist available for AEOW may also be beneficial for Catina James.

Louis Zook enters the conversation after finding more information about the drug, Kratom Derivatum. He states that Kratom is unconfirmed right now about falling under the statute. If you hear about these synthetic drugs, it is important to notify your local law enforcement. He tells all that Mobile, Florence, and Huntsville have been experiencing large amounts of seizures because of access to the drug. Most synthetic drugs are not always available on the countertops; they are also located behind the counter. Louis tells members that sales tax is not always being collected on these drugs which are a Department of Revenue issue.

CMSgt. discusses the SPAB Spotlight, and then reviews the prevention trivia.

### **Agency Spotlight**

Sandor Cheka explains that the Addiction Coalition started five years ago, with a focus mainly on treatment. The Addiction Coalition has a resource directory available online at [www.thefreedomsources.com](http://www.thefreedomsources.com). The coalition's goal is to be reactive instead of proactive. For one year, they asked students what would work in order to be successful, and have been doing this for the past two years. The coalition started working with students at Center Point and Alabama School of Fine Arts. They have also partnered with the Youth Development Leadership Program to develop insightful techniques and programs. The founder of the Addiction Coalition is Steve Bricks. Contact information for Addiction Coalition is [www.addictioncoalition.org](http://www.addictioncoalition.org) or 205-874-8498.

### **Next Meeting**

The next SPAB/AEOW combined meeting will take place on April 26, 2013 at 10:00AM (or 11:00AM if in the Northern part of the state for travel purposes). The location for the next meeting is TBA. If there is no volunteer hosting agency, the default locations will be either Montgomery or Clanton.

The meeting was adjourned by CMSgt. Dave Peterson at 11:59AM.