

SUDAC MEETING MINUTES: 01/15/2021

Members in Attendance:

Jean Capler; Greg Carter; Penny Githens; Andrea Havill; Kathy Hewitt/Melanie Vehslage; Peter Iversen; Erika Oliphant; John Simmons ; Nick Voyles

Members Absent:

Kass Botts; Beverly Calendar-Anderson; Steve Malone; John Pritchett; Carol Weiss-Kennedy

Location:

Zoom (link posted on Monroe County website)

Approval of Minutes for December Meeting

Erika motioned to approve the December minutes, seconded by Greg.

Minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Lunch & Learn Update

Greg said he is having trouble finding a speaker of color for our Black History Month Lunch & Learn.

A discussion then followed, where it was decided that – in order to better connect our February Lunch & Learn with Black History Month – the February Lunch & Learn should feature a panel discussion with 1-to-3 people of color with lived experience - moderated by a facilitator of color, to supplement what the research shows.

Greg offered to contact Mr. William Hosea, co-host of WHFB's Bring It On. Greg also suggested Beverly Calendar-Anderson as the Lunch & Learn's moderator.

Nick offered to help find people of color with lived experience for the February Lunch & Learn.

Jean said that we need to establish a firm date for the February Lunch & Learn, setting a date that works for our panelists and moderator. We need to do this quickly, because the first round of invitations should be sent out NO LATER than Friday, 1/29. The meeting minutes from the December meeting outline which SUDAC members will be sending out the invitations and to which groups.

John is completing the template for the Lunch & Learn announcements and feels we also need the URL for the February Lunch & Learn by 1/29/21.

Jean suggested that we do the Lunch & Learns as a Webinar – with a repeating link that MCD TD confirmed can be used over and over again – and also livestream the Lunch & Learns on our Facebook site.

Jean suggested that we go on WFHB's *Bring It On* to publicize the February Lunch & Learn. Erika volunteered to go on, along with Beverly. Greg to draft wording for the emailed invitation; John to develop the invitation; Jean to distribute to the SUDAC Commission members.

Request for Funds for Public Support Campaign

Jean said that Angie Purdy suggests that we add \$1,500 (\$2,000 total) to our Request for Funds to cover additional marketing and production costs for all 2021 SUDAC-sponsored events, including the quarterly Lunch & Learns, stigma reduction campaigns, symposia, etc.

Nick motioned to approve the increase; Kathy seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Progress on Public Support Campaign

Jean reviewed the details of the campaign with its five posters and tri-fold brochure.

Jean is putting finishing touches on the brochure, which will then be reviewed by the SUDAC members and turned over to designer Lori Raffel. Poster drafts with messages will need to be reviewed by a focus group of people with lived experience for edits and final approval. Nick and Kass will set up the focus group, with Kass being the lead on this.

Upon completion of the posters and brochure, we will discuss where & how to distribute them.

Planning for 2021

Jean reviewed SUDAC's efforts in sending a letter to the Herald-Times re: the Mayor's statement about the use of syringes in Seminary Park and in conducting our first Lunch & Learn in November: "We did okay in 2020 despite COVID!"

Basics of membership:

Kass, Andrea, Erika, John, and Kathy have been reappointed to SUDAC. Nick has been appointed to SUDAC. There are currently no vacancies on the Commission.

Penny suggested that Commission members share contact information with one another.

SUDAC will meet regularly on the 3rd Friday of each month, with the dates to be posted on the Monroe County website.

Measuring the effectiveness of SUDAC Strategic Plan

Jean outlined the 4 goals contained in the SUDAC Strategic Plan and asked: "What actions should we take, and how do we track their effectiveness (which seems daunting)?"

1. ADDRESS STIGMA
2. REDUCE HARM
3. PROVIDE TREATMENT & SUPPORT
4. OFFER DIVERSION (INSTEAD OF JAIL TIME)

Jean felt that we should devote a portion of each of our next 4 meetings to discussing the actions needed to achieve each of the 4 goals and to have a subcommittee meet to develop approaches for tracking their effectiveness.

An open discussion followed.

Erika said that her position as Monroe County Prosecutor is the only one that can realistically impact diversion and provide statistics on effectiveness. Jean suggested that Erika provide the SUDAC members with an overview of the diversion process and how STRIDE figures in. Erika said that, ideally, she could present to the Commission in March.

Penny said that the Indiana House of Representatives will be hearing on a bill (HB 1203) to extend the Syringe Services Program (SSP) sunset date to July 2030, a 10-

year extension. The hearing for HB 1230 is Jan 20 at 3:30 pm. Testimony in support of the bill can be given in-person at the Statehouse or in writing.

Stating our support for the SSP would fall under “Harm Reduction”. After a discussion, it was decided the Peter would draft our SUDAC letter of support, with Jean and John to review & edit before sending to all of the SUDAC members for final review & approval. Penny suggested that we include our letter to the Herald-Times with the letter of support.

Tracking Effectiveness

It was decided that, in our February meeting, we would look at harm reduction; at the April meeting, we would review reducing stigma; and in May, we would discuss how best to support the provision of treatment and support.

But how do we track progress? Jean suggested a subcommittee to take a deep look at this. John felt that we should use different people on the subcommittee, depending on the goal being tracked.

Erika said that “we can track what we do, but tracking progress will be difficult.”

Peter said that the county has data points that track some of these items (for example, we might have data on sentences diverted and deaths avoided), “but is it correlation or causation?” He suggested that IU might be able to help with this. Nick agreed, citing his union as an example.

Jean also suggested that we track attendance at our Lunch & Learns, the number of visits to our Facebook site, the number of people who access the QR code on our Public Support Campaign brochure, and the number of brochures distributed as other measures of the effectiveness of our efforts.

The meeting then adjourned at 1:02 pm.

The next SUDAC meeting will be held on February 19, 2021 with discussion to focus on the action steps needed to address one of our four 2021 strategic goals: Harm Reduction.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Capler, John Simmons