

MINUTES

Monroe County Substance Use Disorder Awareness Commission

June 17, 2022, Noon – 1:00 PM

Meeting Location: Nat U Hill Room, Monroe County Court House

Virtual:

<https://monroecounty-in.zoom.us/j/81256358493?pwd=ZjFKbmhITGRteckViNVkvRVZsLzJwdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 5635 8493 Password: 261790

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) Meeting ID: 812 5635 8493

Attendees: Nick Voyles, Whitney Meeks, Kathy Hewett Steve Malone, Penny Githens. In the absence of Erika Oliphant, Jean Capler, and Sara Larson, the meeting was chaired by Penny Githens

Guest: Melanie Vehslage, Monroe County Health Department

1. Motion to approve minutes of May 20, 2022, made by Steve Malone, seconded by Kathy Hewett. No discussion or amendments. Minutes by a voice vote, 5-0.
2. Brief introduction of Whitney Meeks, returning SUDAC member.
3. Nick Voyles indicated that the Indiana Recovery Alliance (IRA) is serving as a practicum site in the fall in conjunction with the IU School of Public Health. Professor Greg Carter, who briefly served on the SUDAC board, is the contact.
4. Nick indicated that IRA needs to space in order to expand its services. The IRA is interested in working with the City of Bloomington and Monroe County on possibly using some of the Opioid Settlement money coming through the State of Indiana to help purchase a building. Nick reported that the Fagan Stone Building has the desired space and separate rooms. Nick has met with Mayor Hamilton, who indicated there would be no money coming from the City of Bloomington for this purpose.
5. It is unclear if Kass Botts or Carol Weiss-Kennedy will continue to serve on the SUDAC board. Nick Voyles will reach out to Kass and Penny will reach out to Carol.
6. Penny confirmed that a link has been set up for the August 30, 2022, Lunch & Learn with Sam Quinones. In order to publicize this Lunch & Learn, Kathy Hewett moved that we allocate \$100 of money in SUDAC's budget to pay for the printing of flyers. Nick Voyles seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. Nick and Melanie Vehslage will

work on creating the flyer. It was agreed that we should contact various media outlets about the event. It is unclear who has access to the SUDAC Facebook page to post information there.

7. Nick indicated he has not heard back yet from Dr. Cook about a potential Lunch & Learn in November. Nick expects to connect with Dr. Cook in the near future.
8. Kathy Hewett and Melanie Vehslage gave a presentation, with handouts, on the 2021 Monroe County Community Health Assessment and the 2022 Think Tank Summaries. The priorities areas for change are:
 - a. Substance Use and Mental Health
 - b. Affordable Housing, Homelessness & Housing Insecurity
 - c. Poverty and Navigating Health & Social Services
 - d. Inequality, Discrimination & Bias
9. Planning for 2022 Paint the Town Purple is underway. Committee is Jackie Daniels, Kathy Hewett, Erika Oliphant, and Penny Githens. We need to recruit food trucks and look into blocking off spaces on Kirkwood for them.
10. Penny will try to get information on how Opioid Settlement funds can be spent.
11. Kathy Hewett moved to forward the 2021 SUDAC report to the County Commissioners. The motion was seconded by Whitney Meeks. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0. The SUDAC board felt the report should be presented in a Commissioners' meeting, with SUDAC board members alerted to when this happens so that they can also attend.
12. Whitney Meeks asked if SUDAC would be organizing/hosting an Opioid Summit this year. The rationale for switching to Lunch & Learns was explained. Nick indicated this is something we should consider as the IRA is garnering more national attention. Melanie Vehslage indicated that the landscape has changed with the increased use of more designer drugs and where they are being manufactured. There are also new people working in this field who might benefit from such a conference. Nick said there are now Zip Coalitions throughout Indiana which others might want to know about and which could be highlighted at such a conference. The ZIP Coalitions – ZIP = Zero Is Possible – is an initiative to eliminate Hep C in Indiana and end the HIV epidemic. The Southern Harm Coalition is meeting soon in Georgia, and scholarships are available.
13. There is a Community Health Planning meeting scheduled for July 14 from noon to 1:00 PM in the Fountain Square Ballroom. Melanie Vehslage invited people to contact her for more information. Ms. Vehslage was invited to join SUDAC as an official member.

Minutes prepared and respectfully submitted by Penny Githens.