

Meeting Summary for GBPS ROSC Council Meeting

Dec 02, 2024, 10:55 AM Central Time (US and Canada) ID: 840 6216 2774

ATTENDANCE: Aviance Jones, Johanna Gonzalez, Kami Garrison, Elizabeth Kellogg, Bahiyyah Khalilallah, Aimee Potter, Tomi Moore Henry Scott, Cecilia Butler, Kari Knapp

This Meeting was held on December 2, 2024, due to technical difficulties on November 25, 2024.

Quick recap

The meeting began with a team check-in to discuss holiday experiences and current moods. The group then delved into discussions about youth substance abuse, mental health stigma, and the increasing use of marijuana and other drugs among young people. The team explored harm reduction methods, the rise of Fentanyl usage, and challenges in transitional housing facilities, concluding with suggestions for mobile prevention services.

Next steps

Aviance is to provide Elizabeth with information about the mobile unit that offers substance misuse prevention services and testing.

Tomi to make changes to the next meeting date, scheduling it for December 23rd from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Aviance to prepare the topic for the next meeting and communicate it to Tomi.

All attendees to consider ways to incorporate substance use prevention education in local area schools.

Elizabeth to follow up with the transitional housing residents about their concerns regarding lack of services.

Summary

Team Holiday Check-in and Satisfaction

In the meeting, Aviance initiated a check-in session to gauge the team's holiday experiences and current moods. Elizabeth, from Grand Boulevard Prevention Services, expressed a high level of satisfaction with her holiday, rating it a 10. Bahiyyah, the community outreach coordinator for Statewide ROSC, rated her holiday an 8 or 9, while Kami, the technical assistant, also rated hers an 8 or 9. Johanna, from the Illinois Department of Human Services, rated her holiday an 8. Aimee, a social worker at Jesse Brown, VA, also rated her holiday an 8. Tomi, from Grand Boulevard Prevention Services, rated her holiday a 6 due to her ongoing health issues. Aviance, the Project Coordinator for GBPS, rated her holiday an 8, expressing optimism for the day's events. The team appreciated the check-in session and the opportunity to connect after the holiday.

Addressing Youth Substance Abuse

Aviance shared a personal experience of saving a 19-year-old's life by administering Narcan after an overdose. She emphasized the importance of her training in preventing youth substance abuse and reducing addiction. Aviance discussed the rise in opioid use among youth, particularly in Illinois, and the connection between youth addiction and negative behaviors. She highlighted warning signs of addiction, such as physical and emotional cues, falling behind in daily activities, and missing medication. Aviance also discussed risk factors for youth substance use, including lack of parental supervision, academic problems,

undiagnosed mental illness, and peer pressure. The conversation ended with Aviance encouraging open dialogue and discussion on the topic.

Addressing Mental Illness Stigma

The discussion revolved around the stigma and lack of understanding surrounding mental illness, particularly among youth. The participants agreed that a lack of education and fear of mental illness contribute to this issue. They also discussed the challenges of addressing attention deficit disorder and the potential consequences of self-medicating with drugs. The conversation concluded with a discussion on the use of psychotropics in conjunction with clinical therapy, with the participants expressing mixed views on the subject.

Youth Substance Use Regulation Discussion

The team discussed the increasing use of marijuana and other substances among the youth population, particularly those aged 15 to 24. They agreed that the substance should be regulated and monitored, especially for those with medical conditions. The team also discussed the potential for marijuana to be a gateway drug but noted that some individuals may have a natural desire to try new things. They suggested that better communication and education about the risks of substance use could help prevent misuse. The team also discussed the need for stricter age restrictions and better regulation of dispensaries. They concluded that successful strategies used to reduce alcohol and cigarette use could be applied to substance use prevention.

Harm Reduction and Addiction Prevention

Aviance discussed the effectiveness of harm reduction methods in preventing addiction, particularly in light of recent overdoses. Johanna supported the idea, emphasizing that harm reduction should be a broad approach that accommodates different recovery methods and does not police individuals' choices. She also highlighted the goal of reducing overdoses and promoting health and safety. The team agreed on the importance of harm reduction, but there was no clear decision, or the next steps outlined in the meeting.

Fentanyl Use and Harm Reduction

Johanna and Aviance discussed the increasing usage of Fentanyl in their communities, particularly among youth. Aviance highlighted the importance of community engagement and harm reduction methods, including parental involvement and education on signs of overdose. They also discussed the need for training on Narcan and Fentanyl test strips in schools and other community settings. Johanna suggested the potential for substance use prevention to be included in school curricula. Aviance emphasized the importance of education for all individuals, regardless of their profession, to recognize and respond to overdose situations.

Addressing Substance Misuse Challenges

Elizabeth discussed the challenges faced by residents in a transitional housing facility for substance misuse. She expressed concern about the lack of services provided to prevent relapses. Aviance suggested a mobile unit that provides substance misuse prevention services and distributes Narcan and test strips. The mobile unit had previously been stationed in a Lawndale community during the holiday season. Aviance also mentioned her personal experience with addiction and emphasized the importance of not assuming someone's addiction status based on appearance. The team agreed to change the date of their next meeting to December 23rd, and Aviance encouraged the team to provide feedback for future Council Meetings.