

Treatment and Recovery Support Committee Update

The Treatment and Recovery Support Committee of the Alabama Opioid Overdose and Addiction Council met for the third time on September 19, 2017. The meeting took place at the University Club in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The committee revisited the priority areas it has identified to fulfil its mission of expanding the quality and availability of evidence-based opioid use disorders treatment in Alabama. Those strategies are as follows:

1. Engaging hospitals in cost saving strategies.
2. Promoting SBIRT.
3. Implementing Chronic Disease Model of Addiction.
4. Full implementation of 2008 Parity Act.
5. Broader CPT Code coverage of addiction.
6. Increase the system's treatment capacity.
7. Increase funding for the treatment and recovery support services system.
8. Increase visibility of the system.
9. Encourage more physicians to obtain DATA waivers.
10. Develop minimal standards for DATA waived physicians.
11. Work with state boards to encourage mid-level practitioners to become buprenorphine prescribers.
12. Examine the private community corrections treatment impact.
13. Increase alternative settings/access for substance use disorders treatment, especially primary care access.
14. Bolster the substance use disorders workforce.
15. Bolster support for families.
16. Promote standards of excellence.

The committee discussed the Governor's charge to the Council to develop a strategic plan by December 31, 2017 and the need for this committee's development of goals and objectives that reflect policy, regulations and legislation in relation to the priorities identified. The committee downsized from six (6) to five (5) subcommittees to work on detailed goals and objective related to each of the sixteen (16) priority areas. To allow for uniformity in goal development, a form was drafted to be used by each of the subcommittees in development of their recommended goals for the strategic plan.

Each of the subcommittees will meet as needed during October to address its assigned priorities. The next full meeting of the Treatment and Recovery Support Committee will take place on November 1, 2017 at the Chilton County Treatment Center in Clanton, Alabama. The Committee will also extend an invitation to the chairman of the Prevention and Education Committee to attend our next meeting, as many of the treatment and recovery support priorities identified incorporate a community education component.