

**Subcommittee Meeting of the PAC
Legislative Presentation Workgroup**
January 28th, 2015 | 4:00-5:30 PM
at RISAS

Final Meeting Minutes

In Attendance:

Sandra Del Sesto, Sarah Dinklage, Nancy DeNuccio, Rebecca McGoldrick, Anna Meehan, August Oddleifson (notetaker)

Minutes:

Goal: Plan a Legislative Presentation

How do we get in on the agenda

Who is going to be the sponsor?

Coming from the Governor's Council

15 -20 minutes

Data Needs from BHDDH (Elizabeth Kretchman/Anna Meehan)

1. Budget Amount: Total block grant prevention agenda budget amount and how much goes out to the community (minus BHDDH administrative costs?)
 - a. Elizabeth will poll the NPNs, how many receive state as opposed to federal dollars?
2. Change in Budget: Clarify the actual percentage cuts to the budget and when they occurred
3. Descriptive Statistics: Data concerning the current state of the problem and how it compares to national estimates. I.E. How does Rhode Island rank? Also... what are the economic impacts, correctional system impacts, etc.
 - a. Surveyworks, YRBS, etc.
4. Student Assistance: How many schools have student assistance? What percentage of all schools have student assistance? How are they funded? How long will they be funded? Which student assistance counselors are part time?
5. Prevention Effectiveness: Research on the effectiveness of prevention (RIPRC/BHDDH)

Want to be able to show a correlation in lack of funding with poor outcomes

Want to show the good news as well (better in underage drinking)

Need to ask for "sustained funding" over a period of time

- Saturation funding: What amount of funding over what period of time has measurable impact?
- Not looking for an increase in funding, only looking for level funding
 - Many coalitions are barely able to function on what they have

Several states have regional coalitions with regional state-funded "consultants. These include MN, VT, NH.

Some conversations have occurred around consolidation / regionalization

- Is maintaining 35 coalitions the best delivery method in Rhode Island?
- If we are talking about funding, we need to also talk about delivery methods

How can we succinctly argue that money should be moved back on the block grant?

Overall High Priorities

1. Secure state money
 - a. Invest in evidence-based programs
 - i. Prescription Drug Abuse
 - ii. Marijuana Use (Youth & Young Adults)
 - iii. Binge Drinking
2. Create accountability and supervision
3. Reduce duplication of effort
4. Eliminate underperforming programs

Ultimately, need a systems-level comprehensive plan

- This is not the place to talk about systems
 - But additional funding would allow us to embark on system-level discussions

Should schools be prioritized for Student Assistance services? If so which ones?

- The PFS grant was based on need
- The Marijuana grant wasn't

Legislators are going to ask: What do you want? Why do you want it? And why is what you are getting not enough?

- A federal model, the DFC Grant, says \$120,000 per community
 - Because local/state funding has been eliminated, an unintended but significant negative outcome is that it is much more difficult for coalitions to apply to DFC grants because they require a local match and the block grant does not count as a local match.

Need to make the case that prevention works

- Some still consider prevention soft dollars

Consider the argument:

- Why do we need money?
 - The need. I.E. use rates
- What will the money be used for?
 - Build on existing, inadequate infrastructure
 - Increase evidence-based environmental strategies
 - Create a systems-level plan that focuses on evidence-based strategies
 - Ensure that every community is implementing quality, evidence-based programs
 - Already have an evidence-based strategy registry

Would there be a bill associated with this?

- To create a line item?

Maybe also bring in a credible expert on prevention

- To talk about workforce, academic graduation rates, etc.
 - Perhaps Sue Thau, CADCA
 - Or Jim Prochaska
 - But Sandra Del Sesto is the local, not-funded expert
 - Has the knowledge base to answer questions
 - Nationally recognized expert in the field
 - Experience in the local community and at the national level
 - Really the first choice

Next Steps

- Collect the data
 - Need graphics, bar graphs & charts (RIPRC)
- Determine talking points
- Next meeting: **Monday February 23rd 3:00 PM at RISAS**
 - Sandra will be on the phone