



OPIOID ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission
Prevention Subcommittee
October 4, 2022

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. The Prevention Subcommittee convened at 2:00 pm with three members attending. The members in attendance were Von Purdy, Carlos Cameron, and Eric Friedlander.

II. MINUTES

1. August 29, 2022, Subcommittee Meeting
 - a. The minutes for August 29, 2022, were not discussed or voted on.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Statutory changes for Prevention
 - a. Statute KRS 156.095 can be edited to include language in favor of adding preventative measures to help mitigate the risks of opioids.
 - b. Eric Friedlander discussed fentanyl test strips and that they have been proven to prevent overdoses. Additionally, he mentioned that it is currently a misdemeanor to be in possession of fentanyl test strips since they fall under the definition of drug paraphernalia.
 - c. Carlos Cameron discussed the possibility of creating prevention courses and mandating them in the public school system much like KRS 156. 095, as there is currently no mandatory curriculum for drug education.
 - d. Von Purdy discussed various districts where the sports programs are required to test for drugs and the possibility of providing education to those specific sports programs. Additionally, she spoke about the power of bringing this education into churches.



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- e. Eric Friedlander briefly discussed education is also needed in the healthcare system.
2. Regulatory Changes for Prevention
 - a. Several factors were discussed on how to help mitigate access and provide preventative measures.
 1. Consider access – where are opioids coming into schools and communities?
 2. Look at what’s currently being done.
 3. Are current ideas working? (Removing fentanyl access).
 4. Utilize healthcare providers in the language of prevention.
 5. Make sure healthcare providers are active in mitigating use of opioids – consider stronger fines for misuse.
 6. Is Suboxone Treatment being used properly? Or is there misuse? Consider changing policy as needed.
 7. Look at chronic need vs. usage.
 8. Review policies of Department of Insurance/Medicaid and American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines.
 9. Look at Court System of criminals before the bench to see if rehabilitation needs to include treatment and prevention to regain custody of children (in case of neglect and abuse in the child welfare system – i.e., in case of CASA clients).
 3. Policy Changes for Prevention
 - a. Several factors were discussed on how to help mitigate access and provide preventative measures.
 1. Education (Public systems) impacting current climate.
 2. Consider curriculum mandates (per public and private schools).
 3. DARE curriculum can be expanded to include opioid prevention and tips.



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4. Create preventative classes or after-school programs in conjunction with YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, churches, public spaces with access Eastern parts of the state (rural and urban areas).
5. Combine with Suicide prevention (in public schools and not private).
6. How early to target kids? (11-18 years).
7. Guidance counselors, nurses, and coaches (sports) can be a gateway to education on prevention.
8. Videos in the Health Curriculum of schools.
9. Impactful evidenced-based pamphlet and information to address critics.
10. Mental Health component to address issues with self-esteem.
11. Operation Unite, National Guard.
12. Goal to prevent the First Use of Opioids – 3-day limit to level off # of prescriptions prescribed by physicians.
13. Utilize KHSSA policy changes to target reach and resources for athletes.
14. Create Resource Guidelines for use in schools, courts, public spaces.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND REMARKS

- a. Additional issues discussed included the lack of resources and transportation in rural communities, Project ECHO, Court system mandates, proper use of Suboxone, Medicare and Medicaid in this and misuse of prescriptions, and look at the reason for ones addiction; a patients mental health.



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- b. Shannon Moody explained how grateful she is for the committee and excited for the work they are doing.
- c. Sydney Cox discussed alternate options for opiates when treating pain like suboxone. She also discussed the issue of transportation in more rural counties.
- d. Jill Seyfred would like to see the commission help children who are grieving their parent's death due to overdose.
- e. Julie Stephens added that there is much to be done on the education side of things. She also mentioned how grateful she was for the commission.

V. ADJOURNMENT

2:55 p.m. – Eric Friedlander motioned to adjourn the subcommittee. Von Purdy seconded. Motion to adjourn was unanimous.