



COUNTY OF

SARA INNAMORATO

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ALLEGHENY

**Drug & Alcohol Planning Council Meeting Minutes
Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

Present: Daniel Garrighan, Josie Morgano, Mario Browne, Christine Naman, Jessica “Jess” Lynn Northcott-Brillati, Melissa DiMatteo, Anne Cox, OCYF Records Management Division Manager; Lacey Agresta, OBH Community Wellness Team Manager; Gabby Warner, Tonisha Wilson, Anitra Lyles, Colleen Sokira, OBH Special Projects Manager; Leah Bailey, OBH Special Projects Project Specialist; Michelle Lee, Bureau of D&A Services Clerk Typist 2

I. Introductions and Attendance

Colleen Sokira called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. As of this meeting, D&A Planning Council member candidates were in the process of having their membership reviewed and approved by the county council.

ERIN DALTON, DIRECTOR

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II. Presentation by ACCR (Allegheny County Coalition for Recovery)-Lacey Agresta, *Please see the attached PowerPoint for further information.*

Lacey Agresta, the OBH Community Wellness Team manager, gave a presentation on ACCR.

III. Announcements-Colleen Sokira

Updates on the Process of Appointing D&A Planning Council Members

Colleen Sokira said that within the last 2 wks. she had heard back from the DHS/OEE (Office of Equity and Engagement) that the Allegheny County executive's office, who must make nominations for members to the D&A Planning Council to the Allegheny County Council, is planning to start to send the nomination requests in August. As of this meeting, Colleen Sokira was not sure if the Allegheny County executive's office would be sending all the D&A Planning Council membership application requests at one time or if they would send some requests from the D&A Planning Council and some requests from other county boards. Hopefully, the Allegheny County Council will be able to appoint some D&A Planning Council members during their August meeting and will continue to appoint members through the fall. From Colleen Sokira's understanding of the process, once the Allegheny County Council appoints a person to the D&A Planning Council, the appointee will receive an email letter from either Jessica Ruffin, DHS/OEE Director, or Adriana Sanchez-Solis, DHS/OEE Community Engagement in Integrated Program Services Senior Manager, congratulating them on being appointed to the D&A Planning Council. The letter will include some background information on the D&A Planning Council, DHS' priorities, and a way to access DHS Director Erin Dalton's State of the Human Services 2024 presentation video. The purpose of the information provided in this letter is to ensure that D&A Planning Council members understand Allegheny County's goals as they relate to DHS and to Allegheny County. There will also be some homework assignments in the letter for D&A Planning Council appointees to complete. Once Colleen Sokira has a complete list of the D&A Planning Council members, who have been approved by the Allegheny County Council, she will reach out individually to them to set up an orientation meeting. During the orientation meeting, they will go over the D&A Planning Council's bylaws, how to use the Govenda website, which is used to post agendas and meeting minutes for D&A Planning Council meetings, along with voting on certain things. Colleen Sokira said she could try to troubleshoot with D&A Planning Council members over any technical issues with Govenda they encounter. After all members are appointed to the D&A Planning Council, the D&A Planning Council will need to vote for which members will serve in specific leadership roles detailed in the D&A Planning Council's bylaws. After the leadership roles are filled, Colleen Sokira will work with those in these leadership roles to develop the agendas for the forthcoming D&A Planning Council meetings by bringing information that DHS/OBH would like to share and would like to receive feedback on. Then those in leadership positions in the D&A Planning Council can decide what they want to focus on.

Tonisha Wilson asked how many people would be appointed to the D&A Planning Council.

Colleen Sokira said the D&A Planning Council would have up to 13 members. The D&A Planning Council's bylaws set certain requirements for some of the members. For instance, there is a membership spot for someone, who is under 25 yrs. old. There is at least 1 other membership spot specifically designated for a member who has lived experience. There is a requirement that the D&A Planning Council's membership have at least a 60/40 gender split. There are other requirements for members. If there are not enough applicants or we are unable to find someone, who fulfills a specific membership requirement listed in the bylaws, then the Allegheny County executive's office can nominate a person or people to fill any empty slot(s).

Anne Cox asked if DHS/OEE has any further involvement with the D&A Planning Council after the selection process is completed. She asked if the D&A Planning Council is then overseen by DHS/OBH. Colleen Sokira said that the D&A Planning Council is overseen by DHS/OBH. DHS/OEE is involved with managing the Govenda system, so they will work with D&A Planning Council members, who have issues with getting locked out of Govenda, needing to reset their passwords, etc. If a D&A Planning Council member wants to reapply at the end of their term for the D&A Planning Council, the reapplication process is through DHS/OEE.

Colleen Sokira said DHS/OBH hopes to build a very strong D&A Planning Council and to bring some excellent work to the table, so DHS/OBH and the community can work cooperatively to help Allegheny County to take steps forward with the services provided for our community. If anyone has any questions, **they can email Colleen Sokira at:**
Colleen.Sokira@AlleghenyCounty.US.

IV. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

V. Next Public Meeting

The next public D&A Planning Council meeting will be a joint meeting with the Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities (MH/IDD) Advisory Board on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

**Colleen Sokira said that if all the D&A Planning Council's members are appointed before the September 11th meeting, then there will be separate meetings for the MH/IDD Advisory Board and the D&A Planning Council. If this is not the case, then the September 11th meeting will be an informational meeting with both the D&A Planning Council and the MH/IDD Advisory Board.*