

COUNTY OF



SARA INNAMORATO

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ALLEGHENY

**Drug & Alcohol Planning Council Meeting Minutes
Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, October 9, 2024**

Present: Josie Morgano, Christine Naman, Fred Quinn, Anne Cox, Jessica Northcott-Brillati, Daniel Garrighan, Charles Davis, Tonisha Wilson, Gabby Warner, Colleen Sokira, OBH Special Projects Manager; Sarah Bigelow, OBH Special Projects Assistant; Maisha Howze, Assistant Director, Bureau of D&A Services

I. Introductions and Attendance

Colleen Sokira Called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. As of this meeting, all D&A Planning Council Members have been approved. Start with introductions – we're happy and excited that new members are here. Will start with DHS staff and then Planning Council members. Please share your name, what brought you to the Planning Council, and anything else you'd like to share about yourself.

- Christine – bring a parent/loved one perspective
- Fred – elected official perspective from the Mon Valley
- Tonisha – dual-diagnosis population and as a director
- Gabby – harm reduction perspective
- Jessica (Jess) - evidenced-based background
- Charles – learning communities, 30 years of recovery today!
- Josie – both a birds-eye view and one-on-one view of treatment, reducing stigma and supporting marginalized individuals

ERIN DALTON, DIRECTOR

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- Dan – working with other professionals in the field, reducing barriers to care, gaps in care
- Anne – recovery perspective, parent perspective, LGBTQIA perspective

In December – will send all meeting invites for 2025

- About a week before each meeting – members will get the agenda
- Once you get the agenda, it's also publicly posted
- Once it's posted, no changes can be made without a motion
- Agendas are required to include time for public comments
 - For example, if someone on the Council has something to announce that they didn't have time to include on the agenda
- All meetings are public – listed on the DHS website along with council member names

II. Opioid Settlement listening sessions

Two have already occurred. One more will occur in person on October 15 at 6 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Northside. There will also be a virtual session with County Executive Innamorato on October 23. You must RSVP to the virtual session. You can also provide input at engage.alleghenycounty.us.

III. Bylaw Review and Questions

Bylaws were sent out with the September optional meeting so all Council members should have a copy. Please email Colleen if you would like an additional copy. The bylaws were created and approved by the D&A Planning Council in 2008. Voting requires a quorum of members. There is typically not a lot of voting other than approving the minutes at each meeting and leadership elections. Changing the meeting frequency would require a change to the bylaws.

Officers of the Planning Council:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chairperson
- Secretary
- Member-at-Large

The Planning Council has not elected a Secretary in the last few terms. DHS has taken the minutes and is comfortable continuing to do that with the consent of the current Planning Council.

Questions:

- Gabby - has not having a Member at Large slowed down any processes or votes in this group previously?
 - Not in Colleen's experience over the past 2 years. However, the council also has been operating in a response format rather than an active planning format. OBH is hoping for this newly elected council to be a much more interactive experience – members create an agenda *with* the officers in the weeks leading up to the meeting
 - Maisha has also not seen that position filled in the 7+ years she's been here. More support may be better for those who decide to take these positions
- Charles – so these positions only last for one year?
 - Yes, one year
- Josie – would we need to vote on whether to keep the Member at Large position?
 - Not at this time. When we get to nominations next, you all can choose to nominate or not and then one of the first to-dos for the officers in 2025 will be updating the bylaws.
- Anne - as things come up, will you be sending out links and such to catch up on the programming contracted by DHS?
 - In short, yes

- Maisha – yes, when receiving an ask from Colleen about what to cover at the council, her team would put together information to share with the council and they'll be able to get to know the council membership and their skillsets and interests over time
- Email Colleen and she can filter them to Maisha as well as distribute answers to all council members to ensure everyone has access to the same information

Maisha – hope is that this is a working council, where members are willing to be vocal about current initiatives and service gaps as well as strategize about how to address these issues.

Are you comfortable continuing to have these meetings virtually only? Note that in-person would need to be at the DHS building and would need to be in-person only, not hybrid, because of how fickle technology can be. Not trying to sway one way or another, but it is an option

- Maisha – at least one in-person a year would be a good idea
- Virtual meetings – not recorded, but can be recorded if you would like
 - Recordings are required to be published

Govenda

- For the next meeting, Planning Council members will need access to their accounts to vote
- Council members should email Colleen if they have any issues with access
- Next meeting will be the Planning Council's first time using Govenda to vote so it may require some patience

IV. Leadership Nominations

- Charles Davis for Chairperson
- Tonisha Wilson for Vice Chairperson
- Jessica For Vice Chairperson
- Gabby for Member at Large

DHS will continue taking minutes

V. Announcements and Public Comments

Gabby – there are lots of new faces here and lots of connections to be made. Prevention Point Pittsburgh has a Drug User Community Advisory Board and they would like more people to be aware of it.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 pm.

VII. Next Public Meeting

The next public D&A Planning Council meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. on Microsoft Teams.

Colleen Sokira will send out the Teams invite for this meeting the week before. There is also a link posted on the [DHS advisory board webpage](#).