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Administrator

Ihsan Azzam,
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Chief Medical Officer

Statewide Epidemiology Outcome Workgroup (SEOW) Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 24, 2023

9:00 a.m. – Adjournment

Microsoft Teams meeting

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SEOW Members:

Elyse Monroy (Chair), Helen See (Past-Chair), Amber Batchelor, Ingrid Mburia, Eric Ohlson, James Kuzhippala, Pauline Salla, Richard Egan, Trey Delap, Wei Yang, Yen Long, Brandon Delise, Marco Mendez, Anne-Elizabeth Northan, Amy Lucas, Antonia Capparelli-Twait

Key Discussion Points:

1. The need to improve tribal data access and data sharing agreements was highlighted by Elyse. She mentioned attending a tribal meeting with the tribal liaison and state agency. The state is currently researching the data sharing agreement and considering a reevaluation.
2. Trey suggested collaborating with prevention coalitions like Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN) to work around the data access issues. The Reno Sparks Indian Colony is already working with JTNN.
3. Elyse emphasized the importance of building relationships with tribes before focusing on the special epidemiological report. She suggested looking into community issues and understanding their root causes. She acknowledged the historical disrespect towards tribes and the misuse of their data.
4. Dr. Yang emphasized that as public health professionals, it is important to report data to address health issues effectively. James added that the SEOW is there to review data and create connections, but more work needs to be done to build these relationships.

5. Richard and Amber suggested involving someone from the tribal community in the SEOW to represent their interests and provide insights.
6. Elyse recommended focusing on the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) reports for the special epidemiological report. James, who has access to CCBHC data, suggested comparing CCBHCs to non-CCBHCs and analyzing billing and outcomes.
7. Antonia mentioned the possibility of funding support for the special report and noted that the SEOW currently has funding for data collection and reporting.
8. Helen suggested that if James has metric definitions he is already using for his reports and if he is willing to share those metric definitions, that Helen could bring those back to her leadership at Renown. That Renown could recreate those metrics based on James' definitions so that Renown's data could be comparable to the CCBHC report. They wanted to explore the savings and positive outcomes of CCBHCs, such as preventing people from going to jail and what the outcome savings would be for taxpayers.
9. Elyse proposed working with James and Helen to create the report, focusing on services provided and setting a deadline of March 2024. Quality metrics were identified as a challenge.
10. Amy informed the group that tribal data is included in the Nevada Minority Health Report 2023 and encouraged them to reach out if they have any questions.
11. Elyse announced her decision to step down as chair but expressed a desire to remain on the workgroup. She expressed confidence in the positive direction of the SEOW.
12. Antonia confirmed that the SEOW will continue to meet quarterly, with presentations from different members on data sources and resources, aimed at disseminating information to the communities.