**Statewide Epidemiology Organization Workgroup (SEOW)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, August 25, 2022**

1. Members In Attendance: Helen See (Chair), Elyse Monroy (Chair-Elect), Jennifer Thompson (Past-Chair) Amy Lucas Proxy, Ingrid Mburia, Eric Ohlson, Richard Egan, Trey Delap, Wei Yang, Yenh Long, Linda Lang, Brandon Delise, Marco Mendez, James Kuzhippala,

Members Absent: Amber Batchelor, Pauline Salla

Quorum is established.

1. Public comment

Mrs. Antonia Capparelli-Twait states to Madam Chair, this is Antonia Capparelli Twait with SAPTA. I just wanted to make an announcement within regard to the technical issues on the hyperlink of the agenda and the posting we have, we are aware of this issue, and we have placed a ticket, so hopefully going forward will be able to have that hyperlink up and going. And the conference line that the public can call into this meeting. So, we are within compliance, and I just wanted to say that and address it on the recording. Item 2 closed, item 3 open.

1. Approval of minutes for March 10, 2022, Meeting – Helen See (Chair).

(*For Possible Action*)

Ms. See asks if all members have had a chance to review the draft minutes from March 10, 2022, and if anyone has any changes or revisions. No comments are made.

Mr. Marco Mendez makes a motion to approve the December minutes.

Ms. Mburia seconds’ motion.

Opposed: none. Abstention: None.

Motion Passes.

Item 3 closed. Item 4 open.

1. Approval of minutes for May 26, 2022, Meeting – Helen See (Chair)

(*For Possible Action*)

Ms. See asks if all members have had a chance to review the draft minutes from May 26, 2022, and if anyone has any changes or revisions. No comments are made.

Dr. Wei Yang makes a motion to approve the December minutes.

Mr. Richard Egan seconds’ motion.

Opposed: none. Abstention: None.

Motion Passes.

Item 4 closed. Item 5 open.

1. Multidisciplinary Prevention Advisory Committee (MPAC) has been Dissolved – Shannon Bennett, Bureau Chief - Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention

*(Informational)*

* 1. New SAPTA Flowchart

Ms. Bennett stated that the state epidemiological organization work group will review the data that we have available to us for our behavioral health programs across the Bureau. I think it needs to do a lot more than what it's done in the past and focus my take is that it's focused primarily on prevention because it's a requirement of the PFS grant. But just because it's a requirement of the PFS grant, we all understand and know that the intricacies of how all these programs work together. What we have put together here is our plan to go forward is that the state epidemiological organization work group will review all the data available to us for all of our behavioral health programs and they will inform the programs via their advisory boards regarding the data. We have five advisory boards in our Bureau and the Bureau Behavior, Health, Wellness, and prevention. This is one of them.

The other four are the substance abuse prevention and Treatment Agency Advisory Board. We have the behavioral health planning and Advisory Council, the BPAC, the primary purpose of this particular one is to serve as the convener. It's a requirement similar to how the SEOW is a requirement of PFS. The BPAC is a requirement of the mental health block grant, the Advisory Committee on Problem Gambling is another one that advises the problem gambling program and the Committee to review suicide fatalities as well. Again, another very data heavy Advisory Board that is required in the Bureau. So, moving forward, what is going to be helpful is if we begin to think of this group as the ones who should be having the conversations about the data.

The other boards of what they're finding in their trends, the ultimate goal is to ensure that our programs are using data to drive their programs forward. We all know, and we all understand. That that data is the foundation of all of our programs, and we really should be using data to target and to develop and implement our programs. It's a very simplistic thing, but that's what I drew out here. Staff and Ms. Bennett completely understand that this may not be exactly where we're at right now and we will be working with, Ms. Bennett would imagine it will take a year or so to kind of get us in this position to be ready. And our anticipation is to work with the to hear data as it impacts other programs. Ms. Bennett sense is that perhaps the SEOW really haven't been involved in maybe some of the data aspects from problem gambling, for instance, and maybe we can have problem gambling just as an example. Do some presentations for the SEOW, so you can see some of that and that you can start to have discussions about the data that you're seeing and ultimately make some recommendations of data that you think should be addressed in the programming.

Ms. Bennett’s understanding coming into this role that the Bureau has had numerous advisory boards and numerous groups. And there seem to be quite a bit of duplication of effort. That is why we decided to dissolve the MPAC. We will get our advisory boards, all of them really having meaty discussions about the programmatic content area that they are charged with. That's the goal. That is why we're moving in this direction and that is why we're trying to be, of course, respectful of all of our partners. We appreciate the time, you're putting into this and being here with us, but really making it meaningful, very meaningful discussion for the programs that you are.

Ms. See thanked Ms. Bennett and open the floor for questions or discussion

Mr. Ohlson asked if Ms. Bennett is envisioning this as a fairly linear flow between our work group (the SEOW) and the advisory boards where we're kind of identifying significant trends and priorities that we would suggest. Or if Ms. Bennett is envisioning more of a circular flow where there are times where we would have feedback from the various advisory groups that could then help us? Possibly adjust some of the methods that we're using.

Ms. Bennett thinks at the beginning it would be the first. We should be taking this information to those advisory boards and establishing that report and not relationship with them. She thinks in the longer term though, that would be a fantastic goal to have been that reciprocal discussion and what that looked like might be rather organic. If this Advisory Board presents at the BPAC for instance, that might be quite organic because some of that feedback might be actually just within that conversation, perhaps, but if it if there is need for more of it, she thinks we could build that in so then they can come back and have discussions with you (the SEOW). So really, we should just be making sure that data is considered across all of the situations bidirectionally. She thinks it's a great point.

Ms. See asked Ms. Bennett that knowing that the goal is to work with other advisory committees, will we (the SEOW) get the information updates about other meetings or about their kind of goals or what they’re working toward?

Ms. Bennett replied that SAPTA absolutely can. That we (SAPTA) would like for the SEOW to focus on the comprehensive data for all the Bureau’s programs and that is the first goal. That SAPTA can begin to make sure that the SEOW are aware and connected in with those other advisory boards.

Dr. Yang asked if the SEOW was going to be engaged with other boards such as the maternal and child health advisory board?

Ms. Bennett responded that perhaps SAPTA does function in a silo, but that SAPTA shouldn’t function that way and that we should be assessing and recognizing and utilizing all data available to us that gets to the meat of the programming. That the data in params, should be utilized. If there is an opportunity to engage with maternal child health advisory board, then that we should do it and SAPTA can work internally.

Dr. Yang thanked Ms. Bennett.

Ms. Monroy asked Ms. Bennett about the SEOW Workflow and that it needs to continue to be the structure of the statewide EPI working group, or if we can think beyond what this group can function as, and that it is on the agenda today, we'll be looking at some of our fatality data that the overdose data to a program and then I have added a couple slides to talk about gaps in data systems that are group has identified. She asked if this committee could it be in a place where we can be looking at the comprehensiveness of the data sets that have been recommendation to policy committees to fix those things.

Ms. Bennett explained the office of analytics is the subject matter expert on data sets and intricacies of data sets itself. That in her experience working with them that it is a fantastic resource and that the program staff and Bureau need to understand that data and that program staff should be receiving recommendations from the SEOW on things to dive into. The program staff need to understand the intricacies of the data and be able to understand how, when, what to ask for in the data to be able to best understand their population that they’re serving. To be able to design their programs around it. That we are moving toward a place where the SEOW provides recommendations off the data. Ms. Bennett continues to state that utilizing that data, that recommendation could be this trend is really alarming or there is a gap here that Ms. Bennett thinks we need to figure out how to address this particular gap because I don't have a way to analyze this any further from a different angle and I need to. So that is what I'm hoping to get to. Ms. Bennett would like to continue to see the SEOW inform the EPIC profile that that makes sense. Some of the heavier lifting work of how that works and how those functions and how that's pulled together though, Ms. Bennett thinks this should be done between the Bureau staff and Office of Analytics.

Ms. Monroy provided an example of the fentanyl deaths that are on the rise, but hospitals are not looking for testing for fentanyl in the emergency room in a standardized way. That she thinks that is a problem.

Ms. Bennett responded that the SEOW would analyze what data that is available for the fentanyl overdoses, fentanyl deaths, and analyze the gaps, document it, and come up with a couple of solutions that the SEOW would think would be viable.

Mr. Egan explained that the SEOW has used the epi profile and it has helped that organization because when epi profile report is finished that he takes the profile over to the Fatality Review Committee. Then they talk about it, and the SEOW looks at the cases now what I think you're envisioning is now that we do our report that go to the Director's office that that report comes back to this group, and SEOW have a discussion. So, it has that full circle instead of just going to the director, it comes back to this group and speaks. We looked at these age groups, SEOW saw these things, this group over here went and delved into the suicides over the past year. And now here's our report and let's review that report so that SEOW can bring it all the way. Full circle. Mr. Egan asked if that was correct and is that what he is hearing?

Ms. Bennett replies that yes, and that is a good example of how to utilize the data to inform something and explore all the gaps.

Mr. Delap stated that the SAPTA flow chart needed to be revised. That the MPAC provided ongoing advice and guidance to SAPTA, and it encouraged to create subcommittees, create a comprehensive prevention strategy, maximize all prevention resources, remove state barriers to enhancing the delivery of effective local substance abuse prevention services that are culturally relevant, and target populations of need. Develop shared responsibilities with state and local governmental units. Promote the prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug abuse and made recommendations related to grants or SAPTA. Will the SEOW pick up all of that or will it be distributed over?

Ms. Bennett stated that right now the SAPTA Advisory Board primarily talks about treatment a lot about certifications and a lot about treatment. That she would like to bring prevention into the fold of the advisory board. That SAPTA needs to get the right people to the table for the right conversations and create more advisory boards and that the data piece of the conversations are to be with the SEOW. The programmatic conversations should be at the SAB, the SAPTA Advisory Board.

Mr. Delap thanked Ms. Bennett.

Ms. See asked if there were any other comments or discussion points for agenda item 5? Ms. See thanked Ms. Bennett. Closed out agenda item 5 and opened agenda item 6.

1. Discuss State Administrative Support Standardized Workflow – Shannon Bennett, Bureau Chief - Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention requested that Stacy McCool provide the presentation.

*(Informational)*

* 1. Timeline
  2. Remediation

Mr. Delap asked for the copies of the presentation.

Ms. McCool stated they were going to be sent out.

Ms. See closed item 6 and opened item 7.

1. Discussion of 2023 Epidemiological Profile data and whether further information is needed.  –  Amy Lucas, Office of Analytics - Health Program Specialist

*(Informational)*

* 1. Office of Analytics Outline/Table of Content for Report

Ms. Lucas explained the updates to the epidemiological profile.

Dr. Yang explained that the BRFSS is still there, and that the sexual identity question is a module and he offered to meet after the meeting to show Ms. Thompson and Ms. Lucas.

Ms. See requested that the epi profile review be a quick summary and the profile include the pre and post COVID data split, to show the up kicks in the mental health or substance use data.

Ms. Monroy asked about the DUI data and provided information on how to obtain that information for the epi profile.

Ms. Thompson explained the next steps on getting the data and building the profile, obtaining suggestions from the SEOW. That she is reaching out and working with different people too.

Ms. See closed item 7 and opened item 8.

1. Discuss Open Meeting Law Training – Ben Trevino (Health Program Specialist I)

*(Informational)*

* 1. Training

1. Self-Paced – eMaterials Provided, Attorney General’s Office invited to next meeting to Answer Questions.

ii. Included at Meeting – Attorney Generals asked to Attend Meeting to Lead Training.

iii. Additional meeting - Attorney Generals asked to Attend Meeting Lead Training.

Ms. See closed item 8 and opened item 9.

1. Biannual State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) Presentation – Elyse Monroy (Chair-Elect)

*(Informational)*

Ms. See closed item 9 and opened item 10.

1. Discuss the possible development of SEOW Strategic Plan – Antonia Capparelli-Twait (Health Program Specialist I) and Helen See (Chair)

*(For Possible Action)*

* 1. Discussion and possible vote for Subcommittee.

Ms. Monroy made a motion to create the subcommittee

Mr. Richard second the motion.

Motion approved. Ms. See closed item 10 and opened item 11.

1. Open Discussion – Stories from the Public or SEOW members on Data/Reports have impact on decisions. – Helen See (Chair)

(Informational)

Mr. Delap explained that the epi profile is critical during legislative session. That every time an issue is brought up the first question is what does the data show, and it is all data driven for the policymakers to create bills and he provided the example of Narcan in schools, AB205 last session.

Dr. Gardner explained that the 10 prevention coalitions use this for their monitoring and compliance of the annual outcomes.

Ms. Oslund explained that the great data is how they write their grants.

Ms. See closed item 11 and opened item 12.

1. Public Comment

*(Action may not be taken on any matter brought up under this agenda item until scheduled on**an agenda for a later meeting)*

Mrs. Capparelli-Twait stated that there were several presentations with presented documentation that she will need to upload it on our site and produce to everybody. So, if the SEOW would please provide her with everything that was presented today for all our presenters.

Ms. See closed item 12, and adjournment 11:41 am.