



Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022– 3:00 – 4:00 pm – Zoom

*We begin each meeting with a moment of silence to honor all the people we have lost to deaths of despair (suicide, drug overdose, and alcoholism), all of those currently struggling with Behavioral Health (Substance Use Disorder, Mental Illness), those who are bravely walking the recovery path, and all the families, friends, community members, and supports impacted.*

## Notes

### Participants:

- Amber Jochem with Mn Adult & Teen Challenge, [amber.jochem@mntc.org](mailto:amber.jochem@mntc.org)
- Annie Stockland, Care Facilitator with Duluth Family Medicine Clinic
- Beth Elstad, Recovery Alliance Duluth
- Dan Lew, Chief Public Defender
- Daniel Wilson- UnitedHealthcare
- Erin Bolton Supervisor Substance Use and Recovery Unit SLC North and South Health
- Gena Bossart, SLC Behavioral Health
- Jake Lewis with NUWAY, [jake.lewis@nuway.org](mailto:jake.lewis@nuway.org), 763-390-0107
- Jenny Swanson, RAD
- Jess Nickila - Coordinator/Peer Recovery Specialist SURT
- Katie Onofrechuk, Chief Clinical Officer - Human Development Center
- Kelly Black - Essentia Health Opioid Program, [kelly.black@essentiahealth.org](mailto:kelly.black@essentiahealth.org)
- Kyle Heyeson, SLC PHHS
- Laura Bennett, NE MN Regional Prevention Coordinator for substance misuse prevention, [BennettL2@communityhealthboard.org](mailto:BennettL2@communityhealthboard.org)
- Leon Flack, Community & Provider Liaison, Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services, UCare
- Lisa Fulton, Duluth Bethel
- Marcia Gurno Rural AIDS Action Network [marcia@raan.org](mailto:marcia@raan.org)
- Olivia Krejcarek, Research Project Coordinator with Essentia Health
- Randy Musch, Duluth Bethel
- Seth Currier, Damiano Center
- Stephanie Schmidt, SLC Corrections
- Sue Purchase, Harm Reduction Sisters
- Tina Silverness, CADT [Tina@cadt.org](mailto:Tina@cadt.org)
- Victor Fields, United Health Care

Note: Community Solutions for Substance Use and Recovery (Community Solutions for short) is a network formed from the marriage of the previous OARS and SUD Reform group. We now have an established structure comprised of the larger full group that meets quarterly, with multiple action-based work groups meeting monthly.



## I. Updates:

### Recovery Alliance Duluth (RAD):

- Has 10 Peer Recovery Specialists currently serving St Louis County and surrounding areas. Our current challenge is due to number of staff out with Covid.
- Received one of the Opioid Epidemic Response grants. The grant project focuses on expansion of PRS services, particularly in housing and treatment settings and working with justice involved individuals. Part of the grant project will be a stigma campaign including billboards, PSAs, social media, etc. Once the contract is in place with DHS, RAD will reach out to partners to collaborate on a stigma reduction campaign. This might be a good project for the Community Awareness Workgroup.
- Continues to have well attended recovery events, even with Covid. To be safe, the events are outside. The most recent one was on January 30<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln Park.
- One continued barrier for employment are background checks. RAD is working with other organizations to create an advocacy letter to representatives, DHS, governor, etc. for reconsideration of background processes with the state. Background waivers are required for people with records for work, school, and practicums. The process takes so long that it creates a significant barrier for people trying to work during a period of critical workforce shortage. Contact Beth ([beth.e@recoveryallianceduluth.org](mailto:beth.e@recoveryallianceduluth.org)) if you are interested in being part of this advocacy effort.
- Everyone in our community is doing more with less right now in a challenging situation. Thank you for continuing to collaborate and be flexible.

### St. Louis County updates:

- The PHHS Advisory committee has 8 openings. They want community members to join to advise the county on service provision. To see the news release, go to <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNSTLOUIS/bulletins/3068706>. Clerk Chapman has updated the citizen advisory board application; it is available at the courthouse in Duluth and Virginia as well as online – go to [www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk](http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/clerk) and click “Application for Citizen Advisory Committee.”
- SLC PHHS is open for business as usual and is still providing services.
- Child Protection (CP) Opioid Fund Update- \$447,731 awarded. The new allocation is for 12 months starting in 2022. Funding awards are based on out-of-home child placement numbers and are provided to help us reduce our high numbers. The county is collaborating with community partners to increase access to culturally response services, high fidelity wrap-around care, Circle of Parents support groups, and to help people impacted by SUD to join the recovery path in order to prevent and reduce out of home placements
- COSAAP grant (RAD/County collaboration) – Jenny Swanson
  - The COSSAP grant is a collaboration among the SLC Jail, RAD, HDC, and DFMC to provide MAT/Recovery services within the jail and to ensure people receive coordination and connection when transitioning back into the community or to other facilities.



- The project lasts through September 30, 2023
- We are currently working to replace the jail MAT RN supported by the grant. In the meantime, current MEnD staff are working together to continue providing MAT services in the jail. A RAD PRS provides PRS services virtually in the jail three days per week and one day per week to NERCC. HDC has a PRS providing community outreach (this was Brad Hoder, but he is transitioning into another role in HDC). At DFMC, Annie Stockland is providing care facilitation services to people receiving MAT in the clinic.
- There will be a 1.5-day Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshop late March/ early May. It will include stakeholders throughout St Louis County. There is a workshop Planning Group made up of representatives from crisis intervention/ first responders, mental health, substance use services, healthcare, justice system, and social services. The planning group is finalizing an invite list and will be saving a save the date email out. [See attached PowerPoint introducing the SIM workshop.]
- The County Behavioral Health division is continuing to work on getting a location for the Clarity Project hub. The plan is for this hub to have co-located services of primary care, dental, and behavioral health serving the entire region.
- Crisis Response: In Northern SLC there is no change to our crisis response system, with RMHC as the provider. In southern SLC, the crisis response system has changed as of December 2021. Phones are being answered by First Call 211 and in person crisis response is provided by HDC. So far, they have been very busy. They are currently working with a group to create a resources publication. They will look to include Jess Nickila and her Substance Use Response Team (SURT) as well as the CORE (co-responder) unit.
- Substance Use division update. They are providing services in the community more than they have in the past to meet people where they are at. Assessors are providing services at Steve O'Neil Apartments, CHUM, Warming Centers, AICHO, etc. It has been a great experience and reduces the barriers to care due to fear of coming to the County building and lack of transportation. They hired a new LADC on their staff who is starting at the end of the month (January). With the DA, they had a slight uptick in assessments for 2021. With the SUD reform changes, they are still trying to figure out the county footprint for assessments.
- Website/webpage for CSSUR update: <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/cssur>
  - We are in the rebranding, renaming, restructuring process
  - Since the idea is for CSSUR to be community based, the decision was to transition webpage hosting from the county to a community partner (RAD). We are currently working on the transition and are implementing branding work (e.g., new logo) done by a local PR firm.
  - Logo and webpage (on RAD's website) development:
    - The main info is completed.
    - We have the framework for the webpage as well as the new logo.
    - We are finishing with the workgroup info.
    - The challenge is making the page interactive without the need for content changes.



- The plan is to have the page be a depository for meeting agendas and meeting minutes.
- The original goal was to have the new page live by 1/31. It should be available by mid-February.

**II. Community Solutions Workgroups** (Please invite people to join the groups. If you are already in CSSUR, and we hope that everyone will engage in at least one workgroup):

- Community Awareness Workgroup (Jake Lewis, [jake.lewis@nuway.org](mailto:jake.lewis@nuway.org), NuWay) – Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 11am via zoom.
  - The most recent meeting was 1/24. They are planning an event like the Fall Range Recovery Night to launch the new CSSUR logo and to talk about the great community work being done. Contact Jake via email if you want to join the group.
- Recovery Workgroup (Julie Vena, [julie.v@recoveryallianceduluth.org](mailto:julie.v@recoveryallianceduluth.org) and Beth Elstad [beth.e@recoveryallianceduluth.org](mailto:beth.e@recoveryallianceduluth.org) RAD) – Meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 1pm
  - The next meeting is 2/2/2022. They are working to develop a list of behavioral health resources and info. To join this group and/or take part in recovery event planning, contact Beth or Julie.
- Policy Workgroup (Laura, Community Health Board (Laura Bennet [bennettl2@communityhealthboard.org](mailto:bennettl2@communityhealthboard.org) and Ray Jobe, [jober@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:jober@stlouiscountymn.gov)) - Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month 10am-11am
  - The next meeting is 2/8. Ray has transitioned to full facilitation from Laura B. They are keeping an eye on and sending out info on grant opportunities job openings, referral options, and other opportunities like the OMNI Workforce grant. In 2022, they will perform a quick regroup, i.e., what are our goals for 2022, gaps, education wanted, etc.
- Opioid Workgroup (Melissa Latimore Director of Operations, [mlatimore@CADT.org](mailto:mlatimore@CADT.org), CADT) – Meets the 3rd Thursday of the month.
  - They are transitioning facilitation from Rachel to Melissa and are currently gathering historical info for Melissa to schedule the next meeting.
  - Let any of the Community Solutions facilitators know if you want to join the group and we will get that info to Melissa.

### III. Other updates:

- We are working to solidify who oversees different administrative aspects of the Community Solutions group (scheduling and sending out meeting invitations, email list, agendas, meeting minutes, etc.).
- Per Laura B: The Regional Prevention Coordinators at the MN Prevention Resource Center are hosting 2 free trainings January 26 and February 23 with Rebecca Slaby of AMAZEworks. Trainings are listed on MN Prevention Resource Center website <https://mnprc.org/> or you can register directly at Eventbrite for Feb 23 10:30-12:30 training via Zoom: Responding to



Microaggressions, Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/responding-to-microaggressions-registration-1674978114634:30pm>.

- Per Sue P: HRS administered a point in time survey looking at participants' October-November 2021 in collaboration University of Washington with TA through the CDC. They completed 96 surveys and are looking forward to the data being processed and analyzed. The survey looked at people's injecting practices and condom use. They will share the results when available.
- Per Jenny S: There is an offshoot of the Opioid Workgroup group working on advocating for Overdose Prevention Centers (language change from safe injection sites) and other harm reduction strategies which meets at 11am on the first Monday of every month (next meeting is 2/7). Contact Jenny Swanson at [jenny.s@recoveryallianceDuluth.org](mailto:jenny.s@recoveryallianceDuluth.org) if you have any questions about or want to join the group. [See attached report from the US DHHS, NIH, and NIDA about OPCs.]
- Per Seth C: The Damiano Center had a Community Connect event on 1/28/2022. Due to Covid surge, they didn't have any tabling this time. The event offered free services to the community including warrant resolution, hair trims, Minnesota birth certificates, lunch, foot care, a point in time count, COVID vaccines, testing for covid, and Flu vaccines.
- Per Amber J: MN Adult and Teen challenge has a newly remodeled space and new outpatient hours- Monday through Thursday, 9am to 12pm.
- Per Jake L: NuWay reverted to 100% virtual for intensive outpatient services. If participants don't have technology access, they can come on site through Feb 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Per Jess N: The Duluth Police Department (DPD) Substance Use Response Team (SURT) just received a 3-year COSSAP grant, in addition to their current CSSAP grant project. Once the City Council approves the funding award, they will be posting to hire a Peer Recovery Specialist and a Case Manager. They are currently looking for a replacement Assessor as well. Note: It used to very rare to see an overdose due to smoking Fentanyl. Now they are seeing a couple of a smoking overdoses each week.
- Per Melissa L: The CADT Opioid treatment program, Clearpath has been giving people Fentanyl test strips, through a grant through the University of Minnesota.

**Next meeting:** On-going meetings will be quarterly (April 21, July 21, October 20, January 19) the third Thursday of the month from 3:00-4:30 pm.