



Meeting Notes

Thursday, October 21, 2021– 3:00 – 4:30 pm – WebEx

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.

Participants: Beth Elstad, RAD; Erin Bolton, SLH; Gena Bossert, SLH; Kyle Heyesen, SLH; Keri Hager, CADT & UMNCoP; Leon Flack, UCare; Matthew Johnson, SLC; Lisa Fulton, Duluth Bethel; Mike Clabaugh; Marcia Gurno, SLC; Katie Peck, Wilderness Health; Jenny Swanson, RAD; Nathaniel Chen; and Zomi Bloom, Wilderness Health

Introduction: RAD and St Louis County (SLC) Co-chair the CSSUR group. Beth Elstad is a person in recovery. She is the co-creator of RAD and works for people in recovery or seeking recovery.

Note taker: Jenny Swanson

Updates:

Recovery Alliance Duluth (RAD):

- They had a successful recovery month campaign which included billboards, a recovery walk, and many community events. The difference this year was the increased engagement of Northern SLC. In Virginia, they engaged the police department and other community organizations and stakeholders to put on a Recovery event, which was attended by over 500 people. The event was both informational and recovery focused. Over 600 people participated in the annual recovery walk at Leif Erickson Park in Duluth, followed by a concert and food in the park.
- RAD will continue a recovery campaign throughout the year, with the message “No shame, no stigma, recovery is everywhere.” The goal is to normalize recovery. Recovery events are going well with almost one every weekend. The most recent event was Boo at the Zoo which 126 people attended.
- RAD is adding 20 hours per week of Peer Recovery Support at CHUM starting November 1st. They piloted PRS at CHUM for a few hours at least once weekly and had a positive response.
- RAD now has 13 employees and is continuing to grow and meet the need. They are continuing to find great collaborations in the community.

St. Louis County updates:

- Safe Babies Court Team



- Started the new funding year. They have 2 sites: one in north SLC and one in south SLC. The program is going well. Services provided to families in Safe Babies Court include MN One Stop which does parent mentoring for children in need of services and protection court.
- After Dec 2022, they will need to apply for more funding to maintain or expand those sites.
- Through the opioid epidemic response fund, they received 18 months of funding which closes out on Dec 31, 2021. For 2022 they are receiving child protection funds to reduce out of home placement.

SLC Jail COSSAP project:

- The project just completed its first year on September 30, 2021. Funded by the project, Annie Stockland is providing care facilitation services at DFMC to MAT patients, Racheal Petty (RAD) is providing peer recovery support to individuals in the jail via telehealth, Brad Hoder (HDC) is providing peer recovery support services and outreach to justice involved individuals, and a MAT Nurse (MEnD) is providing MAT services in the SLC jail. At the jail, MAT use has been much higher than we anticipated. There is a worker shortage for people on the weekends to give the meds for the need we are seeing. Be on the lookout for funding sources to hire more of these weekend staff. Note: MEnD is now the MAT provider for SLC Jail, Douglas County Jail, and NERCC and they often share staff across all three locations.
- We submitted a grant application for another COSSAP grant project that was supposed to start October 1st. So far, no grants have been awarded as far as we know. This grant was to continue supporting staff from the ending COAP grant. For now, the RAD peer recovery specialists are supported at a lesser extent, and the MAT Navigator role is supported through December 31st.
- Keri provided a link to a forecasted SAMHSA MAT grant opportunity:
<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=TI-22-013>.

Discussions:

Reimagining Crisis Response:

- Gena is leading a behavioral health group in reimagining crisis response. In St. Louis County, intercepts exist along the justice continuum to intervene, when appropriate, to divert individuals away from entering or cycling through the criminal justice system and into community-based programming. We aim to prevent crises from occurring or re-occurring if they are led by emergency response agencies to minimize unnecessary engagement of law enforcement in non-criminal or medical matters and, if engaged, improve the nature of the response.



- In the 2022 budget, Duluth's mayor is seeking a Levy increase of \$600,000/year ongoing to supplement crisis response to have a more robust system. The NAACP, Democratic Socialists of America, and Duluth Initiative are meeting with the City and County to talk about different ideas on how to enable the HDC crisis response group to expand and to respond to more events.
- A link to a guidebook on Reimagining crisis response:
https://www.opioidlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/reimagining-crisis-response_20200911-final.pdf. It helps communities and organizations follow a logic model to evaluate what they are doing. It also provides great examples on what people are doing across the country.
- Update on Crisis Response Teams (CRTs): We have a lot of imbedded positions in Duluth and Virginia. The CRT process will change starting on December 7th in the Duluth area. The calls will go to Itasca Crisis Response which currently serves 23 counties in MN. They will answer and triage calls and HDC will be the in-person crisis response provider. They are currently trying to work with law enforcement and dispatch to figure out the system. It is complicated because dispatch comes through the sheriff's office and serves a large area with many different first responders.
- We have an opportunity through the current SLC COSSAP grant to have a fully paid for Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) workshop provided by Policy Research Associates. We would only need to provide the meeting place, equipment, and any refreshments. Details include:
 - This is a collaboration between RAD and SLC. Jenny Swanson is the liaison with PRA and the SLC PROD unit will be scheduling the workshop and managing the invite list.
 - The workshop takes 1.5 days. We hope to have it in person in Late January/early February.
 - The workshop is a strategic planning process that produces a map of where everyone is on the crisis care continuum, identifies gaps and opportunities, and results in a strategic plan including goals, objectives, and action steps.
 - We are creating a planning group in early November. We will be creating the invite list and sending a save the date announcement.
 - It was noted that 1.5 days is a large time commitment and potential value was discussed. Some ideas of its value included getting an updated gaps analysis, coming out with a unified vision and plan for SLC, and having clear priorities identified for future funding opportunities. Jeff Kazel reiterated concern that the value would not be enough to counteract time commitment. Next steps: Carlton County is conducting a SIM by PRA in October. Jenny will contact the participants and get their feedback on the process and bring that back to the group.

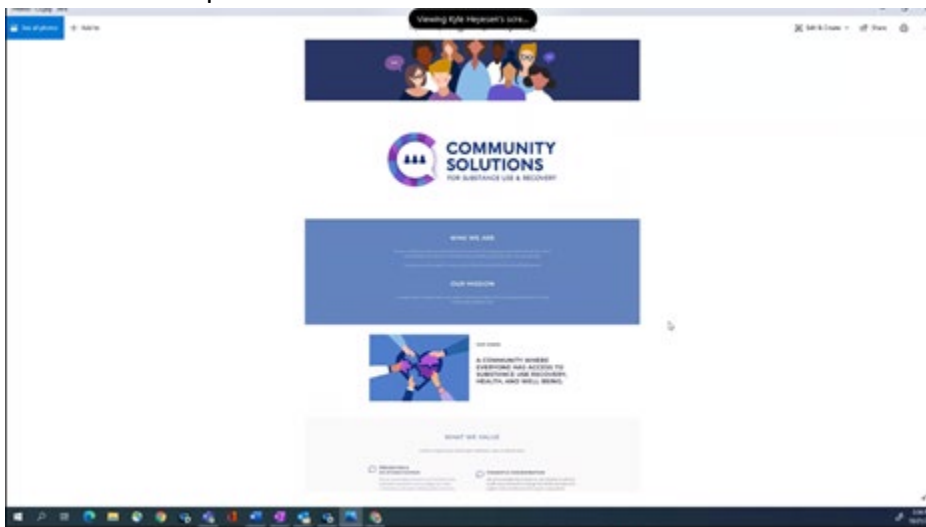


- See attached PowerPoint for more info on the SIM process.

Community Solutions Workgroups Updates:

Community Awareness Workgroup (Jake Lewis jake.lewis@nuway.org, NuWay) - 3rd Friday of the month at 11am

- They are currently working on the logo and website development for CSSUR <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/cssur>
- They are working on who holds the Community Solutions group (scheduling and sending out meeting invitations, email list, agendas, and meeting minutes, etc.). Currently, this is housed with the County; we may be transitioning this to a different partner in the new year. Erin will be migrating the contact list. Toward that end, she is sending out emails to see who is still interested in being on the list. Expect emails. The full CSSUR group will continue to meet the third Thursday of the month from 3-4:30pm.
- Here's an example of what the website will look like:



- The goal is to keep the website simple. Any resources we add must be inclusive. Mike has encouraged us to not use our site as a reference resource when there are other options. Make sure it is neutral and informational and not necessarily about connection to services. We can always link agency names to their websites for quick access. They will probably use names instead of logos of participating organizations due to space issues.
- They decided on an animated and cartoon style to differentiate it from the RAD website, and to push the message that RAD is just hosting the webpage.

Recovery Workgroup (Julie Vena julie.v@recoveryallianceduluth.org and Beth Elstad beth.e@recoveryallianceduluth.org RAD)



- They have done a lot of community events and are working to replicate the Duluth area recovery community up north. They now have a CSSUR logo to put on event flyers.
- They are working on a couple of lines about resources list connection in the community and are working to keep the resource list up to date.
- The next event is Trunk or Treat on Oct 31st from 2-4pm at the Damiano Center in Duluth and from 1-3pm at Olcott Park in Virginia

Policy Workgroup (Laura, Community Health Board - bennettl2@communityhealthboard.org) - 2nd Tuesday of the month 10am-11am (July 13, Aug 10, Sept 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14) revisit meeting schedule for 2022

- The workgroup is currently sharing and promoting opportunities for people to be involved with the OMNI Project (The Opiates MN Initiative), and monitoring and looking for potential grant funding opportunities to support more work to meet the overall goals of CSSUR.
- The OMNI project (a COVID workforce grant) provides support to develop our opioid workforce. See the attached flyer to see how to be involved. RAD is part of that grant. We were not able to get training funds but got paid internships instead, which includes mentoring and shadowing. We were able to pay 5-6 people to learn how to use recovery peer skills in the community. The point of contact for the OMNI project is Shayla Drake, sdrake@DuluthMN.gov.

Opioid Workgroup (Rachel Wickstrom rachelw@cadtl.org, CADT) - 3rd Thursday of the month

- No overall update
- Update on the offshoot group advocating for Safe Consumption Sites – (contact: Jenny Swanson, jenny.s@recoveryallianceduluth.org)
 - The first pilot site in the US will be RI, their projects don't start until March 2022. The group will monitor their progress.
 - At the last meeting (10/4), it was decided to keep meeting for the purpose of advocating at a state/federal level for SIS sites while responding to harm reduction needs locally as needed.
 - Sherry Johnson is looking into getting an intern to help with research and supportive literature search.
 - Laura Palombi will come to the next meeting to talk about existing supportive services for active users.
 - The plan is to engage with OEREC group regarding SIS and continued harm reduction efforts and to support housing movements occurring locally and regionally (different efforts to have supportive housing for substance users).



- There is an active national Safe Use Hotline. They are looking into what it would take to get a local exchange to first responders.

Next meeting: On-going meetings will be quarterly (October 21, January 20) the third Thursday of the month from 3:00-4:30 pm. You will receive a new calendar invite for our on-going meetings 2021- January 2022.