

Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse

Data and Monitoring Workgroup

Data-Sets Subcommittee

Minutes FINAL/APPROVED

March 31, 2015

Members/Staff Present:

Workgroup Co- Chair: Katya Herndon, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Forensic Science

Staff: Ralph Orr, Director, Virginia Prescription Monitoring Program

Baron Blakely, Research Analyst, Department of Criminal Justice Services

Rosie Hobron, MPH, Statewide Forensic Epidemiologist, VDH-OCME

Major Rick Jenkins, Deputy Director, BCI, Virginia State Police

Amanda Wahnich, MPH, Enhanced Surveillance Analyst, VDH

Deborah Waite, Ops Manager, Virginia Health Information

Anne Zehner, MPH, Epidemiologist, VDH

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Dataset Discussion

Select Next Meeting Date

Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

Dataset Discussion

The group reviewed the spreadsheet identifying potential data sources and discussed possible mechanisms for displaying data from various entities. The group expressed a need for a platform to host the data which could be the Resource Website to be developed as suggested by the Education Workgroup. Mechanisms must be put in place to handle revisions to the data, and ensure that the website is updated on a continuing basis. The group cautioned against calling these data points a "Dashboard" as that may give an impression of real-time information being displayed when the data may be three or more months old. It was recommended that the owners of various data points develop charts and graphs to represent trends over a period of time.

Major Jenkins gave a brief preview of information that will be presented at the next Workgroup meeting on the State Police Fusion Center. The Fusion Center is designed to collect current data from various sources to enable law enforcement to respond timely to unusual issues such as an outbreak of heroin overdoses in a short time period in a locality.

Discussion identified 3 types of data needs:

1. Current (real-time) data (as represented by the Fusion Center) that is designed for action by law enforcement.
2. Data points from various entities represented in graph/chart form to be presented on Resource Website.

3. Data analysis of the data points held by the various data holders. There was discussion surrounding creating an ongoing group of data holders that met at regular intervals to review the data to identify trends and provide relevant information to policy makers. The scope of data reviewed should be broad enough so the group could be responsive (e.g., to newer problem drugs identified). Additionally, there should be mechanisms in place to ensure that staff turnover does not disrupt the work of the group and those new representatives from the respective agencies become participants when there is turnover.

Mr. Blakely expressed concern that the group does not know exactly what data that the various entities hold. It was decided that the Subcommittee would meet again to review the specific data that each agency representative could produce. Mr. Blakely agreed to Chair the Workgroup Subcommittee for future meetings and explore this topic in detail.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Workgroup Subcommittee was scheduled for April 14. Location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.