**SEOW Meeting Notes**

**January 21, 2021**

**2:00pm-3:00pm**

**WebEx Video Conference**

Attendees: Scott Hays, Rafael Rivera, Crystal Reinhart, Julie Doetsch, Leslie Wise, Rajeshkumar (Raj) Jani, Nelson Agbodo, Karl Gruschow, Blair Turner

Welcome and Introductions from all attendees

Review of 8/20/20 Meeting notes

* 1. **Lingering action steps from 8/20/20 meeting notes:**
		1. **Blair** will share 2019 Opioid Report when it’s complete.
		2. **Scott and Rafael** will review SPF-PFS grant 5-year report to make sure the copy is finalized, and then it will be shared.

Updates from Member Agencies and Organizations:

*Staffing Updates:*

1. **Rafael** shared that David T. Jones is the new director at IDHS SUPR (Substance Use Prevention & Recovery). Danny Kirby is also still with the team as the Chief of Staff now.
2. **Scott** will put a blurb up about David, as well.
3. **Raj** shared that Sarah Patrick has joined as Chief of the Division of Emerging Health Issues at the Office of Health Promotion for the IDPH at Springfield.

*Illinois Youth Survey:*

1. **Crystal** gave a brief update on status of Illinois Youth Survey. She mentioned that the 2020 survey administration was cut short when schools closed so the last data collection day was March 17th, 2020. Between January 1st and March 17th, there were about 125,000 students who took the survey. There was poor participation from the Chicago strata because their participation usually happens later in the school year. However, because of COVID, IYS has not been able to conduct another survey in Fall or Spring of 2021. IYS is beginning to work on the 2022 survey, which will open for registration in August. Youth substance use related white papers and other reports and data files are available at IYS.illinois.edu. Next up are white papers on physical health and nutrition, as well as bullying and school climate. CPRD seeks to improve outreach and recruitment with these new reports.
2. **Scott** pointed to the Excel sheets that show rates of use among the 4 primary substances by Illinois county. There should be about 50 counties with reported data. Suburban, urban, and rural “Strata Reports” will be out in the next couple months. Visit <https://iys.cprd.illinois.edu> or more information on the IYS survey, schools that participate, white papers, and other new updates.

*PRAMS Study:*

1. **Julie** shared findings on maternal marijuana use. About 10% of womenhave used marijuana or hash before and during pregnancy. Younger women have significantly higher marijuana use. Those on Medicaid versus private insurance also have significantly higher marijuana use. Interestingly enough, there were not many differences by race, ethnicity, or birthweight. Substance use could drive low birthweight, so PRAMS has a heavy focus on the topic. This data was collected from late 2017 into early spring 2019; 2018 is included in the fact sheet shown. Marijuana use after pregnancy is reduced with factors like older age, higher education, and private insurance contributing to even lower rates of use.

(Fact sheet: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/maternal-marijuana-use-fact-sheet-20181-19-2021.pdf>)

1. **Julie** also shared findings on maternal opioid use. The supplement is from April to December of 2019, and CDC expedited a data set from April to August of 2019. During pregnancy, 71% of women used over the counter pain relievers, 5.2% of woman used a prescription pain reliever, 3.7% used codeine, and 2.3% used hydrocodone. During pregnancy, 11.9% used other types of medication, such as for depression (highest with 5.9%), anxiety, attention deficit disorder, and more. Although marijuana should not be used during pregnancy, some women say they have been advised by their healthcare providers to use it to help control nausea.

(Fact sheet: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2019-maternal-opioid-use-fact-sheet12-24-2020.pdf>)

1. **Julie** answered **Rafael**’s question on methadone use rates with direction towards PRAM’s website for a larger breakdown of drugs that weren’t included in the fact sheet (<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/data-statistics/prams>).
2. **Julie** answered **Leslie**’s question about subsets, saying that the Opioid April to December data will be available to provide a more comprehensive data overview soon.

Substance Use and Covid 19

1. **Rafael** shared that we should better understand that people who have substance use disorders are at higher risk for COVID-19 and severity of the illness. Also, there were major increases in deaths due to overdose in the Chicago area, especially in older Black/African American men. Particular neighborhoods affected were on the West side but some also on the South side.
2. **Leslie** added that there has been a significant increase in opioid related fatalities. The rise has been going since Summer of 2019 but hit a high point in April and May of 2020. The rates have come down again, but it seems as though there will be a 30% increase in the number of deaths as compared to last year. Those who overdose outside of Illinois are added to the data a bit later, so it will probably show a slightly higher increase in deaths. Outside of Cook County, deaths come from a younger population with less disparity, as more overdoses come from white populations too. As far as COVID impact, more data is being pulled to understand hospital use. **A paper or publication on opioid use and COVID-19 will hopefully be out by February.**
3. **Scott** has more blogs and studies up based on what was discussed on the website: <https://seow.cprd.illinois.edu/category/covid-19/>
4. **Karl** shared updates about COVID-19 on ICJIA’s behalf. A comprehensive article was posted of what data was available, and there was also involvement on making recommendations for some of the allocations (posted possibly as early as September/October). ICJIA is still trying to fill the upper staff, so nothing is actively happening at the moment regarding substance use. Victim studies may have something coming regarding victimization.
5. **Scott** shared that the Illinois Youth Survey has not been able to do anything with COVID-19 updates, because no data gathering is occurring this year. Trends in spikes of use will be able to be compared between 2020 and 2022.
6. **Crystal** mentioned that under the IYS website there is a request form for custom analyses or data sharing policy. Usually when there is a custom analysis request or a data sharing agreement, the data wanted is of a specific area. Crystal shared that CPRD does not have statewide random sample data but CPRD is working in strata reports for urban, suburban and rural areas of the state.
7. **Scott** and **Crystal** shared that Rachel Garth from the University of Illinois did some research on transgender and gender nonconforming populations through the IYS convenience sample. Rachel is still working on analysis and drafting of the paper.
8. **Crystal** shared that Allen Barton from the University of Illinois worked with Doug on a paper about opioid use through the IYS opioid use questions that just got published.

Next Steps & Action Items

1. **Scott** proposed more discussion on substance use at next meeting, as well as reviewing the SEOW Member survey results then.
2. **Scott** also asked members to review the website to review what may be necessary and relevant.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:04 pm

Next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for April 22, 2021, 2-3pm.