

# DATA Subcommittee Report

## October 23, 2017

The DATA Subcommittee was charged with “Identifying data sources and key metrics needed to describe the problem of heroin and opioid use in Alabama and for describing the success of the efforts of the Governor’s Council”.

The Committee has completed their task and identified the data felt to be needed to identify the problem and measure the success of strategies placed in motion by the Governor’s Council. This spreadsheet identifies each data metric we feel is needed in this endeavor. We are in the process of contacting each agency to identify their willingness and ability to provide the data elements identified. We anticipate this task being completed within the next couple of weeks. The Committee will then discuss the data elements that are not available for the agency is unwilling to provide the data. If the data is considered critical to the endeavor the committee will consider requesting mandated reported.

The Data Committee recommends a Central Data Repository be established to hold the data and distribute results to identified agencies. The Alabama Public Health Institute is a agency that is under consideration of being this data repository. Should the Council decide to enter an arrangement with APHI discussion would ensue over the approach, setup, data reporting and cost. The Committee also heard from Jim Purcell, OIT about their interest in being the CDR. The Governor has expressed a desire to be in a position to better use our data. OIT would be the expertise and data repository. They would set the database up to be able to show compliance with all identified regulatory agencies. Access to data elements can be controlled down to an element level. Since this is a state agency, the cost to provide this database and accompanying service would be recovery of OIT cost.

Recommendations for future direction:

1. Coordinate with the other sub-committees to ascertain their data needs and build these into the data metrics. A meeting of the co-chairs of all the sub-committees has been set for November 13 to look for overlaps and identify each committee’s data needs.
2. Continue to refine the Data Metrics Identified and present a recommendation to the Council for their approval at the December Council meeting. A recommendation will accompany the Data Metrics along with a recommendation to either engage all agencies in a Data Sharing Agreement or recommend legislation on mandatory reporting.
3. Identify the agency to become the Central Data Repository. The committee will consider each agency and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of each to identify the best approach in setting up the Centralized Data Repository.
4. Identify the elements of an opioid dashboard for public access. A meeting of the co-chairs will identify elements from each committee that are measurable that may need to be a part of the opioid dashboard. Educating the public and keeping them informed

of the problem and the success of efforts to reduce deaths and misuse is critical to this endeavor.

5. After the meeting of the co-chairs identify if there is a need for the Data Committee to recommend a change in the current Alabama law governing the dissemination of data of the Alabama PDMP for research or if this will come from another committee. Providing more comprehensive and timely data to prescribers, dispensers, public health officials, treatment and prevention providers, researchers, and law enforcement through our independent central data repository will help Alabama quickly recognize trends and disparities, direct needed resources rapidly, and better focus our prevention efforts.