The full report of the Healthcare and Regulator Subcommittee's study of the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS), issued on February 25, 2020, is available on the House Legislative Oversight Committee's (Committee) webpage.

### **Recommendations**

The **Subcommittee** has eleven recommendations arising from its study of the agency. The Subcommittee makes five recommendations to DAODAS, two recommendations to the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and four recommendations to the General Assembly.

#### Recommendations to DAODAS

#### **EFFECTIVENESS**

- 1. Provide key social media messages to legislators for dissemination to constituents.
- 2. Encourage local county alcohol and drug abuse authorities to notify relevant county legislative delegations if there is resistance to cooperation in implementing prevention programs in local schools.

#### **EFFICIENCY**

3. Consider rates of substance abuse when distributing federal Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant funding to counties for prevention services.

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

4. Provide a way for participants in local DAODAS-funded programs to provide feedback directly to DAODAS.

### Interagency Collaboration

5. Collaborate with the Department of Natural Resources to explore ways to collaborate to reduce boating under the influence and other substance use-related incidents.

#### Recommendations to DHEC

#### **EFFECTIVENESS**

- 6. Assess the need for the Community Outreach by Paramedic Education program in all counties of the state, particularly rural areas, and report its findings to the Committee six months after publication of the Committee's report.
- 7. Seek additional funding to expand the Community Outreach by Paramedic Education program to additional counties where there is a demonstrated need for it and continue the program after the expiration of the current grant funding.

### Recommendations to the General Assembly

#### **EFFECTIVENESS**

- 8. Consider requiring any individual convicted of selling tobacco or alternative nicotine products to minors to complete a merchant education program approved by DAODAS by amending S.C. Code Ann. § 16-17-500.
- 9. Consider requiring those serving alcohol for on-premises consumption to complete a merchant education program approved by DAODAS.

#### **MODERNIZATION OF LAWS**

- 10. Consider updating S.C. Code Ann. Title 44, Chapter 49 to accurately reflect DAODAS's current role and functions and replace outdated language related to substance use.
- 11. Consider updating S.C. Code Ann. § 59-150-230(I) to reflect the current method of distributing unclaimed lottery prize funds used to address problem or pathological gambling.

## Agency Snapshot

# **Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services**

### Mission and Services

To ensure the availability and quality of a continuum of substance use services, thereby improving the health status, safety, and quality of life of individuals, families, and communities across South Carolina

Coordinates a statewide system of local agencies that provide substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery services

#### **Organizational Units**

Program Accountability/Treatment Program Accountability/Prevention Information Technology Health Integration & Innovation

#### History

granted treatment authority, the agency opened the first state-funded facility for alcoholism in established as a cabinet agency, becoming the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse with ensuring quality services to consequences of substance use

#### Resources (FY 17-18)

**Employees** 

**Funding** 

\$55,666,679 appropriated and

- Addressing stigma associated with substance use disorders
   Increasing trends in cocaine and methamphetamine use
- · Sustaining capacity and providing financial assistance for
- Increasing the number and quality of recovery residences Educating healthcare providers, parents, and educators about the risks of marijuana use among youth and women who are pregnant and nursing
- treatment services to indigent South Carolinians long-term Filling vacancies in public addiction service provider system as anticipated turnover is over 25% in next five years

#### Successes

Identified by the agency

- Obtaining a \$28 million state opioid response grant that will assist with increasing access to medication-assistant treatment; reducing unmet needs: and reducing opioid overdose-related deaths
- Emphasizing prevention programs associated with the reduction of underage drinking
- Impacting health of South Carolinians as patients' past 30-day use of alcohol decreased by 27.6%; patients past 30-day use of any substance decreased by 37.5%: and patients' past 30day employment status rose by 7.7.%

Sources: Agency PER (July 2019), Accountability Report (September 2018), and website.

### **Oversight Purpose and Methods**

#### **PURPOSE**

To determine if agency laws and programs:

- are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of the General Assembly; and
- should be continued, curtailed, or eliminated.

#### **METHODS**

The Committee and Subcommittee evaluate:

- the application, administration, execution, and effectiveness of the agency's laws and programs;
- the organization and operation of the agency; and
- any conditions or circumstances that may indicate the necessity or desirability of enacting new or additional legislation pertaining to the agency.

S.C. Code Ann. § 2-2-20(B) and (C)

## Study Process

Full Committee schedules agency for study and gathers initial information

Subcommittee investigates through meetings and information requests

Subcommittee publishes report

Full Committee considers Subcommittee report and may conduct further investigation

Full Committee publishes report

### **Public Input**

- 28 Responses to an online public survey
  - **8** Constituents testify
  - 2 Online comments received

### Subcommittee Membership

#### HEALTHCARE AND REGULATORY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Honorable John Taliaferro "Jay" West, IV (chair) The Honorable Robert L. Ridgeway, III

The Honorable Bill Taylor
The Honorable Christopher Sloan "Chris" Wooten

### **Study Milestones**

#### **MEETINGS**

 Full Committee
 Subcommittee

 12/5/18
 10/28/19
 12/10/19

 8/13/19
 11/12/19
 12/17/19

 1/15/20

#### **AGENCY REPORTS**

March 2015 Seven-Year Plan Report

September 2018 FY 2017-18 Accountability Report

July 2019 Program Evaluation Report

September 2019 FY 2018-19 Accountability Report



## Legislative Oversight Committee