



# PERINATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recovery

Task Force Chair: Rebecca Ewing and Tricia Tilley

March 24, 2016

## Minutes

### Attendees:

Rebecca Ewing, Tricia Tilley, Rekha Sreedhara, Peg Clifford, Eileen Mullen, Abby Rogers, David Laflamme (phone), Vicki Flanagan (phone), Linda Parker (phone), Deb Pullen (Guest - Dartmouth) (phone), John Williams (Guest from Legislative Affairs for HHS), Byry Kennedy (Guest from DCYF Legal Affairs), Sara Riordan (Guest - PRAMS Coordinator)

### Welcome & Introduction:

- December 2015 minutes were approved.
- Proposal to meet quarterly with additional meetings/conference calls as needed was approved.
- Draft mission statement was proposed. Feedback included updating current language to include policy and advocacy and substance-specific language. Due to a limited number of members present at this meeting, a follow-up meeting will be scheduled in April to discuss mission and membership. Below is the draft mission statement to date:

- o *The mission of the Perinatal Substance Exposure Task Force is to identify, clarify, and inform The Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery about issues related to perinatal substance exposure including ways to lessen the barriers pregnant women face when seeking quality healthcare; aligning state policy and activities with best medical practices for perinatal women and their children; and increasing public awareness about the dangers of exposure to prescription and illicit drugs, alcohol and other substances during pregnancy.*

### Updates from Priority Areas:

Priority Area	Lead(s)	TF Tasks/Other	Status/ Accomplishments	Updates
SB515	John Williams (Legislative Affairs for HHS)  Byry Kennedy (DCYF Legal Affairs)		SB515 proposes to change the definition of "child abuse" which would result in mandated reporting of opioid-exposed newborns with symptoms of neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). If passed unamended, could lead to serious unintended consequences.	John and Byry provided communication on status of SB515 indicating that the goal of the bill is to protect children. DPHS, BDAS, and Katja Fox provided feedback. No opposition was received during first phase. The purpose statement was retooled to include the goal to intervene and provide treatment with a sunset provision in 2020 and reference to NAS

was removed. This bill does have a fiscal impact but it does not implicate criminal sanctions. Exact language is available at NH.gov.

Task Force members discussed how to avoid overlooking important legislation and involving all stakeholders beyond Dartmouth during initiation of bill. John indicated that he would inform co-chairs in October of any bills needing attention. Co-chairs will also engage formal associations such as New Futures and the NH Nurses Association to join task force.

<b>Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) Data</b>	Sara Riordan (PRAMS Coordinator) David Laflamme	The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched PRAMS in 1987, a survey that collects state-specific, population-based data on maternal attitudes, behaviors and experiences before, during and after pregnancy. In 2013, New Hampshire joined forty other states and New York City in the effort to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight.	-972 out of 12,126 women received surveys. 639 (67.1%) responses were received. -71.4% of women reported drinking alcohol in the three months prior to pregnancy. -13% reported drinking alcohol during last trimester -74.4% of women reported that their healthcare provider discussed the effects of alcohol on the baby during prenatal visits. -63.7% reported that their healthcare provider discussed the effects of illegal drug use on the baby during prenatal visits. -62.2% reported having private insurance, 15.6% Medicaid, and 17.4%
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		uninsured (at time of completing survey, 2-6 months postpartum)
<b>Chasing the Scream – <i>The First and the Last Days of the War on Drugs</i></b>  <b>By Johann Hari</b>	Becky Ewing	Becky recommended reading book which discusses prominent people in the drug war and how other countries are dealing with substance misuse issues.
<b>Feasibility of Re-establishing In-hospital Methadone Programs</b>	Becky Ewing	Attempted to discuss this topic, however; not the right people in the room to discuss in detail. Need to follow-up.
<b>DSRIP 1115 Waiver</b>	Becky Ewing	The federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved a \$150 million waiver to transform New Hampshire's behavioral health delivery system. Thirty million dollars in federal funding will be provided each year through performance-based incentive payments to those who propose specific projects that will strengthen the capacity of the state's behavioral health system, integrate mental health and SUD care with primary care, and lower the long-term growth in health care costs for the state. Review [ <a href="http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/section-1115-waiver/documents/nh-dsrp-waiver-overview-20160304.pdf">http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/section-1115-waiver/documents/nh-dsrp-waiver-overview-20160304.pdf</a> ], if you have recommendations, please e-mail <a href="mailto:1115waiver@dhhs.state.nh.us">1115waiver@dhhs.state.nh.us</a> .

**Next Meeting:**

Conference Call – **Wednesday, April 20 from 2PM-4PM**

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