



OPIOID TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Chair: Seddon Savage/Benjamin Agati

July 13, 2017 – 9:00AM-10:30AM

Minutes

Attendees: Seddon Savage, Benjamin Agati, Allison Piersall, Bill Wood, Helen Pervanas, Rekha Sreedhara, Kate Frey, Alex Casale, Sandra Kiplagat, Nicole Rodler (phone), Joe Hannon (phone) Jacqui Baker (phone), Melissa Silvey (phone)

I. Approved Minutes from June 8, 2017.

II. Discussed Status of Implementation of Needle Exchange Program

- The Harm Reduction Coalition has been formalized and is currently in the early planning stages. This coalition will serve as the blanket organization for all harm reduction strategies in the context of public health to include bicycle safety, seatbelt use, etc. as well as substance misuse.
- The guidelines for the Syringe Exchange Program are being drafted.
- The website is currently in the planning stage and will be for organizations who have or want to have a needle exchange program. Guidance and education will also be available for those who want to start a program, for law enforcement and other professionals.
- Organizations who currently have a program in place or who want to have such a program will need to notify DHHS.
- Although NH has not officially signed as a syringe exchange program state, there are laws pertaining to this issue.
 - Only certain organizations (community-based) can participate. Pharmacies can also provide syringes but currently not participating in the exchange component. DHHS can make rules to further clarify the laws and guidelines.
 - No penalties have been indicated unless individuals are found with associated paraphernalia.
- Reporting requirements will begin in October.
- The Office of Victims Assistance is hosting an event in October in which the Coalition may want to consider presenting at, would be a good opportunity to meet with District Attorneys.
- Hepatitis C cases were tracked beginning in November 2016. Seddon inquired about HIV cases. *Melissa Silvey will email the program coordinator and relay the answers back to the task force on HIV cases.*

III. Reviewed Draft Opioid Information Card

- Opioid Task Force members reviewed the content for an information card that will be shared with people who pick up an opioid prescription.
- Suggestions included messaging edits, using an appropriate text size, printing on bright colored paper if the information can be included in the bag, make content available in other languages.
- *CHI will format the information card and will share with members for additional edits.*
- There was discussion regarding pharmacies receiving guidance from a legislation bill to include the information sheet with opioid medication. Kate Frey indicated that the first step may to submit a legislative service request.
- Current initiatives that can be voluntarily done by pharmacies include the following:
 - Selling lock-boxes
 - Advertising Drug-Take Back Events and drop box locations

IV. Reviewed Harm Reduction Materials (20 minutes)

- The Opioid Task Force provided edits to the Carfentanil Posters (male and female versions).

V. Reviewed Draft Symposium Proposal: The Science and Practice of Harm Reduction

- The Opioid Task Force discussed the draft symposium proposal.
- Seddon invited Joe Hannon and Kevin Irwin to be part of the Planning Committee of this symposium.
- The location of the symposium has not yet been determined. The most-targeted audience is within the Concord Area. Members discussed that the DMV and PST may have conference room space. Seddon indicated that there is also space in Lebanon, NH. The location will be determined in the coming months.
- Seddon inquired if the Opioid Task Force would be interested in co-sponsoring the conference. Members accepted the invitation.

VI. Other Updates and Business

- Alex Casale invited members to a Moral Reconciliation Therapy Training (MRT Training) which will focus on criminogenic modalities on August 7-10. There will be a one day MRT Trauma training on August 11th. Dr. Robertson, the creator of MRT will be attending the training as well.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 10 - 9:00AM-10:30AM

Community Health Institute, 501 South Street, Bow NH
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