



OPIOID TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Chair: Seddon Savage/Benjamin Agati

June 8, 2017 – 9:00AM-10:30AM

Minutes

Attendees: Seddon Savage, Benjamin Agati, Chris Shambarger, Joe Hannon, Elizabeth Hughes, Helen Pervanas, Rekha Sreedhara, Alex Casale, Jacqui Baker (phone), Nicole Rodler (phone)

I. Reviewed April Drug Monitoring Initiative Data Report

- NH drug overdose deaths by year appear to be leveling off by 2016. National data suggest that this rate is going back up in 2017.
- Strafford County had the second highest suspected drug use resulting in overdose deaths per capita at 4.39 deaths per 10,000 population.
- There have been six deaths due to carfentanil to date. For some cases, the person was not aware that they were using this substance. Two leads have been identified.

II. Discussed Task Force State Plan Strategies

- Messaging
 - o Determine how much information should be made available. Include messaging in movie theaters.
 - o Needle Exchange Programs
 - Develop better public messaging focusing on why needle exchange programs are important (decrease in HIV, 1 in 5 chance of finding a needle, etc.)
 - Are testing strips illegal in NH? *Joe Hannon will investigate this and report back at next meeting.*
 - o Stigma
 - Current messaging campaigns include 5 Signs (more focused on mental health), Speak Up NH (Partnership for Drug-free NH) and Anyone. Anytime.NH
 - o Naloxone
 - o Medication Assisted Treatment
 - o Addiction
 - “Experimentation is a choice, addiction is not.”
 - o Carfentanil
 - Seddon and others created a poster for individuals using opioids. Message includes “No safe use, extreme toxicity, never use alone, always have naloxone, call 911”
 - It was suggested that a similar poster be created for families.

- Additional messages include “mix drug well, use same supplier, look at color, assume pills are fake”
- Opioid Prescriptions
 - Discussed how to make people aware of naloxone, take back locations, disposal, etc. when picking up an opioid prescription.
 - Discussed creating a post card sized info sheet to include this information that can be disseminated by pharmacies. *Elizabeth Hughes will create a draft. Rekha will forward info on take back locations.*
 - Messages to include: “This is an opioid. Safe when used appropriately.” “Narcan can reverse opioid overdose.”

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 13, 2016 – 9:00AM-10:30AM

Community Health Institute, 501 South Street, Bow NH
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