



# PERINATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Chair: Monica Edgar and Tricia Tilley

November 9, 2017 – 2:30PM-4:00PM

Community Health Institute/JSI, 501 South Street, Bow

## Minutes

### Attendees:

In-Person: Tricia Tilley, Monica Edgar, David Laflamme, Rekha Sreedhara, Deborah Schachter, Susan Latham, Jonathan Stewart, Ann Collins, Courtney Gray Tanner

Phone: Bonnie Whalen, Felicity Bernard, Kate Frey, Gary Kaufman, Kate MacMillen

### I. Needs Assessment Overview & Key Informant Interview Request

- Jonathan Stewart from Community Health Institute is conducting a needs assessment on behalf of the NH Charitable Foundation. The Foundation received an anonymous donation. This assessment will help inform investments. The assessment will identify gaps in services related to neonatal abstinence syndrome, fetal alcohol spectrum disorders, and opioid use disorder. The assessment will include:
  - o Reviewing data - CHI is working with UNH to review 2015 discharge and claims data.
  - o Survey of perinatal practices - CHI is currently working with NEPQUIN and hospital practices to identify appropriate contacts.
  - o Key informant interviews to identify perception of services and needs. Jonathan encouraged task force members to sign up to participate in an interview.
  - o Consumer discussion groups – Hope on Haven Hill and the Cynthia Day Program have been identified to participate in this.

Bonny Whalen indicated that she can share registry data for eight hospitals.

### II. Update on Safe Plan of Care

- Implementation of the safe plan of care has been stalled due to legal concerns related to the interpretation of women who are receiving medication assisted treatment (MAT) and notifying DCYF of infants born with withdrawal symptoms as well as changes in leadership at the Department.
- DCYF has created a flowchart to identify recommendations and requirements for hospitals related to substance-exposed newborns. This would apply to all MAT providers including methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone. This flowchart has not yet been shared with the attorney working on this matter but will be.

- A clarified message on how to implement the safe plan of care has not been provided. DCYF will need to determine what is expected of its providers and other reporters.
- SB515 was passed in June 2016. *(Provides that evidence of a custodial parent's opioid drug abuse or dependence creates a rebuttable presumption of harm under the Child Protection Act. The bill also permits the court to order periodic alcohol or drug testing and provides that the parent may be responsible for the cost of such tests.)* HB 1235 has been proposed. *(Repealing the prospective repeal of the rebuttable presumption of harm due to opioid drug abuse under the Child Protection Act. This bill removes the July 1, 2020 repeal of the rebuttable presumption of harm due to opioid drug abuse under the Child Protection Act.)*  
*Kate will share updates on legislation.*
- *Task Force expressed interest in submitting a letter in support of the safe plan of care. Courtney volunteered to draft this letter.*

### III. Discuss Leadership of Task Force

- Monica Edgar will no longer serve as co-chair of the task force due to other obligations.
- Tricia would like to transition out of the role of Chair of the task force. She will remain in this seat until another candidate is identified.
- The NH Charitable Foundation would be willing to provide funding to support the work of the task force.
- *Courtney will contact Tym Rourke to see if legislation can be passed to include the addition of another Commission member who has expertise with perinatal issues and can serve as the Chair of this task force.*

### IV. Update Membership List/Meeting Schedule

- *Rekha will work with members to update membership list.*
- Those who participated in this meeting agreed that a quarterly schedule works well.

### V. Other Business/Updates

- Agenda item for next meeting: Discuss federal funding available for pregnant/postpartum women.

**Next Meeting: To Be Determined**