



# HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage & Lindy Keller

Thursday, March 23, 2018

Minutes

**Present:** Regina Flynn, Allison Piersall, Anna Gosh, Mary Bidgood Willson, Rebecca Sky, Ann Brennan, Molly Rossignol, Peter Ames, Sherri Walsh, Sarah Freeman, Dan Potenza, Lindy Keller **On Phone:** Kerry Nolte

## I. Minutes

- The February minutes were approved

## II. Legislative Update:

- Molly Rossignol recently testified on a bill relative to appointing one doctor to oversee all MAT practices in the State, including Methadone Clinics.
  - o ASAM has written a letter to the NH legislature expressing their concerns, and the Northern ASAM president attended the committee hearing.
  - o The bill was unclear – it originated in the Governor's Office due to a concern for the increased Medicaid dollars being spent on MAT.
  - o The real concern is that the State needs a trained Medical Director to oversee the opioid treatment programs.
- There is a bill that will take the Alcohol Fund money from the Governor's Commission to provide the State match for Medicaid Expansion.
  - o It has been promised that these dollars would be backfilled to the Commission with other funds.
  - o It is unclear if the power to disperse that money will remain with the Governor's Commission.

## III. Naloxone Discussion

- Regina Flynn made a data request to Andrew Chalsma about the number of Medicaid prescriptions that accessed Naloxone; she has not heard back yet.
- The State naloxone system is currently being critically examined.
  - o BDAS is reexamining to attempt to make the best plan moving forward.
  - o That plan will likely involve continuing to utilize intranasal naloxone.
  - o There are more kits coming to the State; it is unclear how they will be distributed.
  - o Priority areas for distribution include Recovery Support Centers; Syringe Service Programs; and other harm reduction avenues.
  - o Additional suggestions for distributions include MAT programs and persons released from prison.
    - Efforts in prisons may have to be distributed through probation and parole.
    - **Lindy Keller will connect with Helen Hanks and Andrew McAlister to determine if there are limitations to distributions in the prisons.**
- The Harm Reduction Coalition still intends to buy injectable dollar doses from Pfizer to distribute through syringe service programs.
- The Department of Safety has received a grant to train and distribute naloxone to local police departments; they are in the process of designing this training.

- Kerry Nolte and a student researcher have identified many barriers for law enforcement certification to carry naloxone. **Kerry will connect with Lindy about these findings, and work with Seddon to present at the Opioid Task Force.**

#### IV. PostRehab Cocktail

- Ann Brennan called Residential Treatment facilities to see who had a medical director, most used their medical director only for oversight.
  - The sites require community doctors to see patients before residential treatment and the patient must come with meds.
    - Only one site differed from this, and four were unreachable.
- Prescriptions may be given to a patient before they enter treatment as the “last stop” and physicians don’t want to get in the patients way for treatment. The problem comes 30 or 60 days later when the patient looks very different but no one has reassessed their medications.
- It was suggested that the group get an ECHO grant to do grants on this issue.
  - The Citizens Health Initiative is already working on an ECHO model with similar issues.
    - Rebecca Sky will get more information from the CHI Initiative and discuss if this topic would be a good fit for a future meeting.
    - Mary Bidgood Wilson will ask Jeanne Ryer to attend the next meeting of the Health Care Task Force.
- This education may also fit in well for the MAT community of practice.
- There was a conversation about additional concerns related to the long term use of benzodiazepines.

#### V. Methamphetamine Document

- Sarah Freeman distributed the link to Providers Association
- The link to the document is available: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/bdas/documents/topic-brief-methamphetamine.pdf>
  - **The link will be distributed to the MAT list serve and the Harm Reduction Coalition.**
- **The group will revisit the document again next month to see if it meets the current need.**

#### VI. Stigma Education Efforts:

- Many groups are facilitating workshops on compassion fatigue.
  - The Harm Reduction Coalition is doing trainings for different groups (perinatal, primary care, etc.)
  - Molly Rossignol, Peter Mason, Rekha Sreedhara, Anna Ghosh, and Claire Reed are working on training for whole organization staff on reducing stigma.
    - The goal is to have the presentation ready for early May when there are pilot sites planned.
- **The group will continue to discuss this topic moving forward with a focus on systems and organizational culture change.**

#### VII. Other:

- The group will defer a discussion related to SBIRT until Peter Mason is able to attend.
- Molly Rossignol and Peter Mason will facilitate the meeting on April 26.
- **It is requested that Task Force members review the priority areas of the task force before the next meeting.**