



# HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage & Lindy Keller

Thursday, May 24, 2018

Minutes

**Present:** Lindy Keller, Ann Branen (*now with Elliot*), Peter Ames, Kerry Shaw (*NH Providers Association*), Mary Bidgood-Wilson, Jake Berry, Rebecca Sky, Anna Ghosh, Alison Piersall, Regina Flynn, Cynthia Kohen, Seddon Savage, Gerard Hevern

## I. Minutes

- The April minutes were approved.

## II. Legislative Updates

- Medicaid Expansion was passed in late April by a voice vote, now they are waiting to know when the Governor will sign the bill
  - The bill will move into a rule making session with opportunity for public comment
  - NH will submit a new waiver to CMS by the end of June, CMS will then hold another public comment period
  - CMS has until December to approve the waiver – it will largely be based on the bill that was passed; however, things can change in the details.
  - There is concern about the work requirement included in the bill, it did not exempt those that were self-employed – we will have to see how that is interpreted.
  - There is great concern in regards to the reimbursement rates for treatment centers as the system moves over to the MCOs. The rates will be considerably lower unless they are able to get higher rates into the contracts with the MCOS
    1. This is an advocacy opportunity; comments can be submitted:  
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/media/pr/2018/05082018-medicaid-expansion.htm>
    2. The Chair of the Governor's Commission may be working to submit a letter on behalf of the Task Forces to request that the rates be higher.
  - There is also concern that there will not be any retroactive coverage for treatment providers
- SB 487 – Behavioral Health Treatment Network
  - This bill allows treatment providers to bill Medicaid for interns or students. Also, a CRSW can now be supervised by a MLADC in an effort to eliminate a barrier to licensure.
  - The bill has passed and is awaiting Governor's Signature.
- HB 1102 – MAT contracted oversight provider
  - This bill allows BDAS to contract with a medical provider with MAT experience to oversee all MAT programs. There was not funding attached to the bill so it may be going through budgeting next June; this is currently unclear.
  - The bill has passed and is awaiting Governor's Signature.
- SB 477 – Medical Oversight Board
  - This bill establishes an oversight board that would determine which conditions are appropriate for medical marijuana
  - The bill has passed and is awaiting Governor's Signature.
- SB 549 – Relative to Safe Plans of Care for Infants
  - This bill intended to clarify that safe plan of care information will be submitted to DPHS in the aggregate and is not intended to be submitted to DCYF; it better clarifies the roles of the agencies

- The bill has passed and is awaiting Governor's Signature
- Seddon will reach out to NNEPQUIN or the Dartmouth treatment providers to ask for guidance on how to interpret this bill

### III. Project ECHO – Follow Up

- Seddon provided an overview Jeanne Ryer's presentation on the ECHO model
  - There is an evolving MAT ECHO; they would like 13 NH practices to participate and need help to recruit faculty and practices.
    - Orientation for the MAT ECHO will be August 16
  - This may be complementary to the MAT CoP

### IV. Opioid Task Force Medication Card

- The Opioid Task Force will pilot this card with a Walgreens and gather results/feedback
  - Feedback can be given to the pharmacy or through a QR code
  - It was suggested to add to the feedback survey: was this new information? Did you know you had been given an opioid?
- It was suggested that the card should include information about what opioid pain relievers are, in case people do not know what an opioid is.
- Lindy will confirm that 211 is able to provide information related to naloxone distribution, as is mentioned on the card
- Ann suggested including medication disposal bags with the card
- The Health Care Task Force has approved this card as well, now the Opioid Task Force will look for approval from the Governor's Commission

### V. Stigma Education Efforts:

- The group discussed the Lakes Region Hospital Stigma reduction program; it may not be easily reproducible because it is difficult to know how much of the impact is the content or in the particular presenters
- Elliot Hospital has had providers shadow a patient with SUD to learn the patient experience. It was very impactful
- There may be a formula for working on stigma education emerging:
  - Understanding that SUD is a disease
  - Including people who can tell their stories, relating to people
  - Language, changing language
  - Empowering people to do something about it
  - Dialogue about people sharing their experiences
  - Shadowing is a strategy to address these things

### VI. Naloxone Distribution

- Seddon shared information related to barriers for law enforcement carrying naloxone; the DOS just received a \$2 million grant to address these barriers

### VII. Other:

- DHHS has hired a Chief Medical Officer, Jonathan Ballard started on May 14<sup>th</sup>; he has a background in opioids and MAT, etc.
- On June 28<sup>th</sup> the group will review their strategic priorities
- Continued discussion is needed related to proper disposal of opioids among providers
- Video Resources:
  - [Last Week Tonight with John Oliver: Rehab](#)
  - [The Science of Addiction](#)
  - [Neuroplasticity](#)
- NH Behavioral Health Conference will be held in December, the Host Committee will decide training opportunities for the conference and will begin meeting on June 18.