



TREATMENT TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Chair: *Stephanie Savard*

March 16, 2018

Meeting Notes

Attendees:

In-Person: Paul Kiernan, Dianne Pepin, Lynn Fuller, Sue Gordon, Sarah Freeman, Marisol (intern), Jake Berry, Alex Casale, Stephanie Savard, Monica Edgar, Dave Mara, Danni Bultemeier

On Phone: Courtney Tanner, Sue Thistle

Membership Update

- Welcome to Lynn Fuller who joined the Task Force.
- The format of the meetings will change; first hour will be a business meeting followed by second hour with updates from workgroups.
- The group reviewed bios from multiple private practitioners to determine who should be invited to join the Task Force.
 - The group will invite Sheila Lambert to join the Treatment Task Force
- The group will wait for a recommendation from Sue Ellen Griffith for a representative from a Community Mental Health Center. This recommendation will be considered alongside Mike Bradley.

Governor's Commission Update

- The Governor's Commission will be having a retreat next Friday to discuss the state plan.
- At the last meeting there was a lot of discussion about the Alcohol Fund and concerns were raised that if the Commission loses its decision making ability around resources, does it become an Advisory body?

Legislative Updates

- Next Thursday is crossover day when bills will switch from House to the Senate and vice versa.
- Medicaid Expansion passed the Senate last week; however, the funding mechanism for the State match is up in the air.
 - Some have suggested using the alcohol fund at the 5%; there have been assurances that whatever money is taken from the alcohol fund would be replaced with federal funding, ideally in the form of block grant dollars.
 - There is an attempt to add a provision to require (suggest) that the Governor receives prior authorization from the Commission before spending alcohol fund dollars.
 - The next opportunity to testify on Med Ex is next Tuesday at 10:00 am in the Hall of Representatives.
 - The Substance Use Treatment services through Medicaid Expansion will go through managed care organizations and will likely stop supporting private insurance on the exchange. In order to do that, the reimbursement rate will have to be increased.
 - There would need to be rule making for what the actual rate increase would be.
 - The current bill has removed the work requirement for people in treatment (both IOPs and Residential)
 - Stephanie will forward the current bill to the group.

- There is a bill which would add three positions to the Office of Professional Licensure that has crossed over the Senate to the House – there is not much resistance in the House.
- SB 487 relative to the Behavioral Health Workforce is moving back to the House
 - Allows treatment providers to bill insurance for interns or students.
 - Reinforces reciprocity of providers coming in from other states.
 - Broadens the training process – when people need to log supervision hours, they can be supervised by anyone with a similar scope of practice (except for LADCs)
 - LICSW and LCMHC can supervise each other; LADCs and MLADCs were removed.
 - Reinforced the waiver process
- SB 589 relative to taking CRSW board out from under LADC board - has passed the Senate.
 - New Futures is concerned about administration challenges and reciprocity agreements.
 - They are working in the House to try to alleviate these concerns.
 - This would require new positions and starting the process over again would be difficult.
 - This does not have united support from the Recovery Community.
- There will be recommendations from Senator D’Allesandro relative to voluntary regulations for sober housing. Sites would have to be certified to receive any state funding – so treatment programs with state contracts could only refer to certified sober housing facilities.
 - This may be attached to a bill as an amendment – it is currently in a working group.
 - Annette is in the group to provide input on who will monitor that certification.
- In the next couple weeks, we will have a better understanding of what the State will receive from the Federal Government. There have been conversations to make allocations not just based on population, but by proportionate need.
 - The Governor’s Office will disseminate this information when it is received.

Utilizing Technology to Improve Access to Treatment

- Presentation from Tom Hayes, network administrator for Northern Human Services; utilizes Zoom video conferencing system for work with hospitals at far distances.
 - There is the capability to lock the meeting so no other participants can join, and the video is encrypted for point to point transmission.
 - The organization has purchased Pro Accounts that provide all features for up to 50 video conferencing participants
 - There was a nonprofit discount, (\$18 per license per month) and it was much cheaper than other systems
 - Each clinic required its own license
 - It was asked if screen sharing is encrypted like the video feed, it was not known at this time. Files can also be shared over a chat function, the security level of this will also need to be checked with Zoom.
 - Sessions can be recorded and saved for later, and the use of a headset can increase confidentiality.
 - With a free account anyone is allowed 40 minutes of conferencing at a time.
- It was asked if the technology is both HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2 compliant.
 - Northern Human Services has a BAA filed with Zoom stating HIPAA compliance.
 - Alex will speak with organizations outside New Hampshire and the Legal Action Center about compliant with 42 CFR Part 2.
- The next questions will be about insurance, what can be reimbursed?
 - Northern Human Services is able to bill insurance for teleconference evaluations performed at a hospital.
- Dave Mara will check on the cost of the ECHO system and loop back to Alex.

- If anyone else has other systems that they think are worth looking into, they should communicate those to Alex and Sue.
- The group will try to compile as much information as possible before making any recommendations.
 - The goal of the group will be to develop criteria that the group would recommend for any company, as well as examples of possible companies. It will be a useful checklist for providers to consider when exploring technology options.
- Alex and the technology group will be on the agenda for next meeting as well.
- Stephanie would also like to explore video conferencing options for the Treatment Task Force.

Other Business

- The update from the group led by Sue Latham and Sue Gordon related to increasing access to specialized treatment services for specific populations, will be tabled until the next meeting.
- Stephanie will send out a reminder to those facilitating groups, and potentially invite another group to be on the agenda next month.
- There have been discussions about better assessing the number of treatment beds in the State, and the potential for waitlist information.
 - Marty and Annette have talked about looking into this and potentially following a MA model; however there may be a large cost associated with potential software.
 - The Providers Association is also working on collecting feedback about the OpenBeds software.
 - Dave Mara has been talking with a company that wants to develop a prototype; he will connect with the Provider's Association about their current work.
 - Stephanie will connect the leaders of the workgroup discussing waitlist information to Sarah Freeman at the Providers Association.
- There are Drug Courts in nine counties now; there will be increased focus on equity in the Drug Courts – are the alternative sentences going to people equitably?
- A series of Compassion Fatigue trainings will be happening around the State from April 23-27 at five different locations. Additional information is available: <http://www.nhadaca.org/events/213/addressing-compassion-fatigue-promoting-provider-retention-through-an-evidence-based-multi-modal-approach/>
- Families in Transition and New Horizons are merging. Family Willows treatment program is under construction, the IOP and Lynn's Place will be moving this summer. The capacities will likely stay about the same, but there may be increased capacity for single women. The second floor will be housing for moms with kids.
- There was a question regarding treatment facilities that will accept patients with histories of sex offenses or arson.
 - Sarah Freeman will pose the question to the Providers Association.
 - Phoenix house may, but it depends on the offense
 - Alex will look into this further and report back to the group.

**Next Meeting:
Friday, May 18, 2018
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
New Futures, 10 Ferry Street, Conference Room #308 B**