



OPIOID TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Chair: Seddon Savage

August 9, 2018 – 9:00AM-10:30AM

Minutes

Present: Seddon Savage, Helen Pervanas, Nicole Rodler, Ken Bradley, Kimberly Fortier, Elizabeth Duffy, Ashley Greenfield, Helene Anzalone, Chris Shambarger, Krystal Sieradzki, Edward Leahy, Joshua McCabe, Paula Mattis, Paula Minnehan

By-Phone: James Vara, Joe Hannon

I. Potential Legislation

- Seddon shared ideas that had come up at the Health Care Task Force about potential legislation.
 - Hospitals are trying to stand up syringe service programs with the amended law related to the drug free school zones. However, it is still questionable if school boards will allow these programs.
 - Not all pharmacies are currently offering clean syringes for sale, this is likely due to stigma.
 1. Paula Minnehan from the NH Hospital Association will reach out to the lobbyists from the pharmacies to begin a conversation with them about what the concerns are.
 2. Joe Hannon mentioned that Hand Up Health Services and the Harm Reduction Coalition can also have some conversations to gather data. Joe will connect with the Hospital Association.
 - Drug Take Back Boxes are currently a voluntary program that 6-7 hospitals participate in.
 1. There was a bill last year related to mandating this program, it received push back from chiefs of police and hospitals due to concerns about chain of custody and security, and associated costs.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The July minutes were approved.
- The April minutes were approved with a minor correction on Page 5.

III. Review of Justice System

- Department of Corrections
 - Paula provided updates to the table provided.
 - Workforce issues were discussed; many MLADC positions are unfilled and many other positions also have vacancies.
 - Mental health care providers and LADCs do work closely together in the prisons to provide “wrap around” services.
 - There is a need for sober housing units and transportation for those leaving prison.
 - Transition to the community is a high risk time
 - Support for transition to the community is the primary need
 - Support for MAT expansion is needed

- Support for workforce issues is needed
- Juvenile Diversion
 - The group reviewed the table provided.
 - There was a discussion related to Recovery Schools. The DOE is currently looking at recovery school models in other states and there is an interagency committee looking at what it could look like in NH.
 - Helene will try to get some updates on this work from DOE.
- Drug Courts
 - Review of the Drug Court table was deferred to next meeting until Alex Casale can be present.

IV. Naloxone Campaign and Training

- Edward Leahy from Adapt Pharma (Narcan) was present; he covers New England and works with BDAS on NH Narcan orders. He shared the following information:
 - The group is currently trying to cover Narcan in the state through the Corrections Department – both for officers and people when they leave. They are also trying to cover the police departments.
 - The 90-day period after leaving treatment or corrections has been identified as the most dangerous time.
 - The cost of two doses of Narcan is \$75, and it is the same price for everyone.
 - An overview of the benefits of nasal Narcan were provided.

V. Good Samaritan Law Report Findings

- The Cornerstone project was conducted a year ago. 44 officers participated, 97% had responded to an overdose and none reported carrying naloxone to reverse an overdose, or working in departments that equip some or all officers to carry naloxone.
 - Officers felt that it was not necessary for them to carry.
 - The small sample size was discussed as a major limitation.
 - This report will not be made public due to its limitations.

VI. Opioid Safety Information Card

- The card will be presented to the Governor’s Commission on August 24. Seddon will bring copies of the cards, survey questions, and implementation plan to the Commission.

VII. Other Business and Updates

- On October 5 at the Grappone Center in Concord, DHMC is hosting an event on how the opioid crisis is affecting families and kids.
 - They are actively looking for someone to talk about DCYF, Juvenile Justice, and DOE on a panel.
 1. Helene will bring the request back to her office and will ask the public relations person to give a 7-10 presentation.
 2. Nicole will reach out to Bureau Chief O’Connor.
 3. Seddon will send Helene and Nicole the necessary information.
- Kimberly Fortier has accepted a new job in Massachusetts. Moving forward, Dierde from HIDTA will try to attend the meetings.

- o The job Kim is leaving will be posted soon, let her know if you have any potential candidates.