



# HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage & Lindy Keller

Thursday, October 28, 2018

Minutes

**Present:** Seddon Savage, Lindy Keller, Carol Furlong, Ann Branen, Sarah Freeman, Holly Stevens (for Jake Berry), Joshua McCabe, Jonathan Ballard, Joe Harding, Jeanne Ryer, Julie Hazel-Felch, Gerard Hevern, Rebecca Sky, Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, Cynthia Cohen, Debbie Love

**Phone:** Regina Flynn, Kerry Nolte, Jim Potter

## I. Minutes

- The September minutes were approved.

## II. Reschedule of November and December Meetings

- The November/December meeting has been combined and rescheduled to December 6<sup>th</sup>.

## III. Task Force Priorities

### PRIORITY THREE:

- Taskforce members were asked to share any campaigns they were aware of in the state or nationally specific to reducing stigma. List included:
  - [Frameworks](#) (MacArthur Award recipient)
    1. **Jeanne Ryer to share information she has with Task Force on this.**
  - [National Faces and Voices of Recovery](#)
  - [State Targeted Response \(STR\) Technical Assistance Consortium](#)
  - Lakes Region (Corey Gately and Daisy Pierce) trained all nurses in conjunction with local recovery center. This presentation was noted as being localized but has potential for being expanded. Discussion centered around local supports making training more effective when the resources are doing the presenting.
  - Deconstructing Stigma Campaign – seen at Logan Airport between terminal A & B. Represents 40 people's telling their stories.
    1. **Seddon to bring book about this to next meeting.**
  - Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center – large anti-stigma campaign rolling out soon.
  - Seacoast Community Health Center – just had McLane trainers come up to train their staff on clear communication with patients.
  - [99 Faces Project](#) – Mobile Exhibit where 1/3 are persons with bipolar disorder, 1/3 are persons with schizophrenia and 1/3 have loved ones related to either or both. Exhibit will be at DHMC in January 2019.
  - Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative – [Magnified Voices](#) going into schools with students participating in an essay or video contest on mental health.
  - Foundation for Healthy Communities – [Tanya Lord](#), PhD, MPH, Director of Patient and Family Engagement was mentioned.
  - [Can Speak – changing language from "stigma" to "discrimination"](#) – happening at NAMI  
NAMI also trains Patient Voices Group.
- Stigma is not a helpful term. Need to collectively reframe a consistent clear/positive message that moves us forward while being mindful that using the word "discrimination" may deter some from engaging.

- Engaging Recovery Task Force to see if willing to join in presentations (Speakers Bureau)
  - **Lindy will follow up with Cheryle Pacapelli, Co-Chair of Recovery TF.**
- Task force members will send other campaigns/resources specific to Priority 3 to **Lindy/Seddon.**
- **Priority #4 (Harm Reduction) was tabled for next meeting due to time constraints and Seddon having to leave early.**

#### IV. Legislative & Policy Updates

- New Futures indicated that workforce legislation is still in early stages related to the following:
  - Investing in Medicaid Workforce;
  - Increasing reimbursement rates;
  - Investment in Healthcare Pipeline,
  - Increase in Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) funding which goes hand-in-hand with Pipeline;
  - Addressing administrative burden around licensing as there are a slew of bills specific to that and the goal is to combine them all into one bill; and
  - Telehealth reimbursement issues.
    1. This workgroup is wide reaching led by providers. Currently, there is no DHHS representation on this group, but intent is to reach out once they are organized.
- Sale of Syringes at Pharmacies: Kerry Nolte made one connection with CVS – none will sell syringes with the exception of one Seacoast store.
  - It is legal to sell them; however, stores are refusing to sell because of the potential fear of “overdoes in the parking lot” or avoidance of attracting a specific clientele to store.
- Syringe Access Legislation changes: RFP on syringes was canceled and never re-released but a similar one to fund Harm Reduction program is moving forward with a deadline for funding being November 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - Federal dollars cannot support the purchase of syringes; local organizations have to be self-funded. Working with partners to fix that.
- Workforce requirement for Medicaid Expansion –DHHS website was noted for having something up to evaluate a person’s situation relative to the impact on the changes happening.
  - NH Legal Association (NHLA) is offering to help patients struggling with coverage. There is an “interim rule” process due to timeline crunch.
  - It was mentioned that instead of saying “workforce requirements” it’s really “work and community engagement” requirements.
  - Member mentioned that substance misuse disorder can be noted as a “medical frailty” diagnosis from provider to become exempt from requirement.

#### V. PDMP Expansion Legislation

- Update: still formalizing a variety of aspects moving forward. Lots of discussion about expanding behavioral health. Concerns this may not be on the table now because Behavioral Health Professionals are not prescribers.
  - PDMP staff need to look at data before they draft any policies. It is up to the Board of Pharmacy on what moves forward at their next meeting in November or December.

#### VI. Other:

- [The Behavioral Conference is Dec 10 and 11, early bird registration is until October 31](#)