



# HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage & Lindy Keller

Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Agenda

**Present:** Ann Branen, Colleen Dowling, Rachel Eichenbaum, Cynthia Cohen, Krystal Sieradzki, Janet Thomas, Kerry Nolte, Rebecca Sky, Gerard Hevern, Philip Girard, Jake Berry, Kiri Stron, Kathy Bizarro Thunberg, Peter Ames  
**On Phone:** Jim Potter, Andrea Meier, Susan Latham, Carol Furlong, Anna Ghosh

### I. Minutes

- December Meeting minutes were not sent; review deferred to February.

### II. Review member list

- Andrea Meier, Rachel Eichenbaum, and Phil Gerard/Krystal Sieradzki will be added to the Membership list; Seddon will distribute the list to Patrick Tufts.

### III. Legislative & Policy Updates

- There is a comprehensive workforce bill (no bill # assigned yet); it includes: Overall increases to Medicaid reimbursement rates 12%; Investment in loan repayment; Broadening ability for telehealth; Pipeline investments; Other workforce issues
  - The bill asks for over 100 million dollars, mostly for Medicaid reimbursement.
  - **Jake will notify the group as soon as there is a hearing date**
- SB 5: Proposed 3 million investment to raise reimbursement rates for substance use providers and mental health.
  - Intended to provide short-term relief until July when systemic rates should be improved.
  - Has been approved out of HHS and being sent to Finance.
- SB 11: Addresses emergency room boarding crisis.
  - Was approved out of the Senate HHS committee
  - Was focused on a designated receiving facility.
- HB 359 – regarding warning labels on prescriptions containing opioids
  - Requires warning labels and red caps for opioid pill bottles
  - A hearing has been held – most of the pharmacy representatives were against the bill. There is the concern the red cap would be a target for theft. It is going to committee.
  - Seddon has been in touch with him about the opioid insert card that has come out of the opioid task force
- SB 87: DHHS can fund syringe service programs (however, still no general funding unless there's deemed an outbreak or infectious disease risk) – *no further update provided*
- HB 509: Graduate physician pilot program
  - Would allow physicians who finished medical school but were not matched with a residency, to come to the state with some supervision and then practice independently.
  - The Nurse Practitioners Association will be actively opposed.
  - A physician from the Medical Society will testify and at least a few physicians will submit written testimony in opposition.

- New Futures is waiting to hear on a bill which would provide fixes to the Medicaid Expansion program and include: capping age of participation; having a suspension trigger for the work requirement; allowing self employment; addressing caregivers providing care to loved ones outside of their homes; and a number of other reforms.

#### IV. Hub and Spoke rollout. (15 min)

- Seddon will invite the BDAS team to present at the next meeting (Annettee, Jaime, and Don)
- The Doorways are up and running and providing some services to people. 211 is taking all of the calls with a warm handoff to the appropriate hub, and there is a website (thedorway.nh.gov)
  - Doorways should be accessed via 211, and there is a walk-in option.
  - Hours of operation vary and can be found on the website.
  - Dartmouth Hitchcock has the off hours contract for the entire state.
- The current crisis line will ring at 211, but Task Force members are asked to dispose of materials that are advertising the crisis line.
- Doorways are working on building their relationships with spokes, some are further along than others. This includes determining who in their area provides medication assisted treatment.
  - Everyone on the Task Force is encouraged to reach out to their local Doorway to build relationships. People should call as a provider to be included on the resource list.
- The Manchester Doorway has not currently made any MAT referrals because they are not sure who they can provide referrals to.
  - Jim Potter will send information to MAT providers encouraging them to connect with their local Doorways to being referrals.
    1. Lindy will help connect Jim with the SOR team at the state.
    2. Jim would like to engage with the Communities of Practice to share information.
    3. Kerry Nolte will connect with Jim to help track the Nurse Practitioners in the state that are completing the fully online training for their waiver.
      - a. Jim will get information about waived providers from SAMHSA and DEA
- The Doorways do not yet have policies for Naloxone distribution.
- Lindy will check with the SOR team to determine if the Hubs have a common set of questions for spokes to gather information for referrals.

#### V. Task Force Priorities

- The Health Care Task Force will continue to work on the inventory related to their priorities and discuss at the February meeting.

#### VI. Cannabis Legalization discussion

- HB 481 has been introduced: a fully unregulated, open market commercial market system, with no limits on potency of products or type of products. The bill currently does not consider public health issues
- There is a Public Hearing on Tuesday February 5, 1:00 PM – LOB 210
  - Representatives from the health care task force should attend this public hearing.
- Harm Reduction Considerations:

- The national harm reduction coalition has supported legalization but it is a question of what the system looks like.
- NH HRC may testify in support for the harm reduction component of it.
- Health Care organizations need to be involved in the conversation because the bill will keep coming and we need to ensure that the public health / health care aspects are considered in future bills – if the Governor will in fact veto this one.
- The Governor’s Commission will be taking a vote on the bill tomorrow on whether to support or not. **Seddon will vote to oppose on the bill based on her position with the Medical Society and the Health Care Task Force. As long as the vote is to this particular bill. If the vote is generally pro or con legalization, Seddon will abstain.**
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## **VII. Organizational updates and group sharing**

- There is a new MAT ECHO opportunity started in April; a flier was distributed. There are 25 available spots. Email [unh.projectecho@unh.edu](mailto:unh.projectecho@unh.edu) with any questions.
- X Waivers are being processed and are not impacted by the government shut down.