



HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage and Lindy Keller

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Participants: Seddon Savage, Lindy Keller, Krystal Sieradski, Cynthia Cohen, Kiri Stron, Rebecca Sky, Rachel Eichenbaum, Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, Gerard Hervern, Jake Berry, Hannah Lessels

On the Phone: Anna Ghosh, Kerry Nolte, Philip Girard, Kristine Stoddard, Jeanne Ryer

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes from December and January will be reviewed at the next meeting for approval New format for meeting minutes will include action items in a separate column and also called out in the email when minutes are sent out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A presentation about the Doorways will be on the agenda for March meeting.
Legislative and Policy Update (Jake Berry)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bills of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SB 308; Healthcare workforce bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work sessions are expected to start next week. This will go to a committee vote in the next few weeks, then the Senate floor. New Futures is working on the background check piece of the bill. There was some concern about the fiscal note: it was incorrectly drafted, but the way the actual bill is written is correct. SB 5; Medicaid provider rates for mental health and substance misuse and emergency shelter and stabilization services. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,000,000 appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services for the purpose of enhancing provider rates for mental health and substance misuse inpatient and outpatient services; approved by the Senate, on its way to the House. Concern raised regarding method of measuring the impact of the workforce bills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Division of Public Health collects data, and there are some organizations who track the impact individually, but there is not a systematic process. Red Cap Bill HB 359: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Futures supported the bill when it was just a label, but now that it's a red cap, they no longer support it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon will disperse the yellow insert information from the Opioid Task Force. We will consult with the Board of Pharmacy to see what their stance is on the yellow insert idea. Jake Berry will check if Medicaid work requirement exemptions for medical conditions apply to mental health and SUD. Jake and Christine will let the Task Force know if there are actions they can take as these bills move forward. Hannah will correct the HB 359 bill number in the January meeting minutes.

- The Opioid Task Force supports the use of a yellow insert with information inside the bottle.
- There are currently dual [bills regarding the Medicaid Expansion Work Requirement](#).
 - [HB 690-FN](#) would repeal the requirement.
 - [SB 290-FN](#) would significantly alter the requirement. It would codify that self-employment is a form of work. It would also include people providing care to people outside the home as well as in the home.
 - The work requirement goes into effect March 1st 2019 with a three-month buffer period.
 - The comment period for SB 290-FN lasts until March 18th 2019.
 - Rules and exemptions are posted on the Department website based on what is currently law.
 - The Department is sending information to providers and beneficiaries about who will be eligible for the work requirement.
 - People likely will not lose coverage while these rules are being determined until the summer
 - Group discussed the issue that although there are exemptions to the requirement for people who have SUD and are actively in treatment, it is challenging for those same people to initiate treatment if they are not already covered by Medicaid. Therefore, a catch-22 that is not resolved.
 - Do exemptions for medical conditions apply to mental health and SUD?
 - They might fall under the medical frailty determination, but this would be up to the provider to determine.
 - Group discussed the similar issues that Arkansas has seen with people losing coverage due to administrative burdens.
 - People were required to submit hours over the internet which was a barrier for many.
 - This can act as a lesson for implementation in NH.
 - [Senator Bradley has been outspoken about the fact that he thinks some of these](#)

	<p>reforms are undermining the viability of this program for years to come as the proposed changes seem to go back on the negotiations that were made to get Medicaid Expansion passed in the first place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medicaid Expansion is up for reauthorization five years from when it was passed in 2018. ○ It is burdensome for providers to have to go through their patients to identify who might be affected by this, and DHHS is looking into a way to identify these patients for the providers. • SB 87; Syringe Service Program funding; Hearing: Tue 3/5/19 2:00 PM in LOB 101 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This bill removes the self-funding language and allows for use of federal funds for the program operation (not the syringes). • HB 509; Graduate Physician Program; Inexpedient to Legislate: Motion Adopted Voice Vote 02/14/2019. 	
Cannabis Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group discussed their organizations' policies around cannabis legalization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Medical Society policy opposes the current bill. ○ The NH Nurses Association feels strongly aligned with the Medical Society position and is preparing to write a position paper on this as they felt it was important to show collaboration/alignment between the two organizations. They are hoping to have it ready for Senate hearings. ○ The NH Hospital Association does not currently have a specific policy. ○ The Nurse Practitioners Association will continue to not comment on this or come out with a statement, however, if there is encouragement from this Task Force, they may be able to produce a statement. This would likely not be in time for the Senate hearings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Association's larger member meeting isn't until April, and the Association has concerns about agreement among members. ▪ This has been a concern of the Public Health Association as well. ○ AAFP has a statement against recreational legalization. • The Task Force discussed concern that the media has not been actively reporting the voices of healthcare and public health professionals who oppose legalization/this bill. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jake Berry will pass along materials and a formal invitation to the Friday (noon) meetings about cannabis legalization at New Futures. • Jake Berry will send out a formal copy of the press release from 2/27/19.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Futures is involved in a collaborative group at noon every Friday that discusses cannabis. New Futures has also been meeting with employers across the state to discuss cannabis use and legalization, however, many private sector employers are reluctant to get involved. • The group discussed the hesitation among medical professionals to publically speak about cannabis and the hesitation among organizations to allow their members to speak on their behalf about this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are many diverse feelings on the matter, and organizations want to be sensitive to opinions of all their members. ○ There are also parts of the legislation that have caused organizations to believe that, if it passes, they will not be part of the discussion if they have previously expressed opposition. • Medscape has had a few articles on the use of Marijuana and CBD oil that begin to outline harm issues. Those looking for information can refer to Medscape. • Many Task Force members feel that the basic structure of the bill does not put in place sufficient public health protections, and it relies too strongly on industry influence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The bill would create a regulatory commission with no oversight and historically these commissions have been incredibly susceptible to industry influence. 	
Priority List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Task Force will post the priority list on the Governor’s Commission website in order to generate networking around best practices. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is for a three-year plan. There may be new areas coming up that we will want to focus on in the future. This is still a working document. • Rachel Eichenbaum: North Country Healthcare Task Force got the State Targeted Response Grant to look into clinician resiliency and wellness; this should be included in the culture change piece (right now this grant is just in the North Country). • Jeanne Ryer: Lisa Letourneau and Kerry Nolte are conducting a webinar about stigma reduction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint webinar from BH Integration Learning Collaborative and Practice Transformation Network on April 1st from 12:00 – 1:00. <i>Stigma as Discrimination: Impact on Treatment and Strategies for Success</i>. Lisa Letourneau, MD, MPH, Maine Quality Counts and NNE-PTN and Kerry Nolte, PhD, FNP-C, UNH Dept. of

		<p>Nursing. Explores stigma as a barrier to effective treatment and how practices can combat stigma and avoid discrimination of MH and SUD related treatment within all types of settings. 1 hour CME/CNE/SW CEU credits anticipated.</p> <p>Email Kelsi.West@unh.edu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please send additions or edits to the priorities list to: Hannah_lessels@jsi.com
<p>Opioid Use Disorder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion about the different factors that have led to opioid use disorder and shifting the narrow focus that has historically centered on over-prescription: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a range of use types, and most of the public focus has historically been on people who have developed addiction from opioid use for pain management. ○ The Task Force discussed its potential role in beginning this discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The public discussion on education sometimes misses these other avenues when they focus too heavily on the prescriber avenues. ▪ These other avenues are also under addressed because of issues of race and socio-economic class. ▪ The public has focused on chronic pain and pain management as the foundation for this crisis, has this narrowed the discussion too much? 	
<p>Other Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On April 5th and 6th, there will be a Youth Summit where SUD and opioid use will be discussed. • Kerry Nolte has been invited to join a CDC funded working group on syringe services best practices. • Harm reduction updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a new harm reduction program starting next month in Keene. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please send any suggestions for someone who can lead a discussion about youth social media use or bullying to Seddon. • If anyone wants to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PACT-MAT ECHO out of UNH begins in April. • UNH ECHO Hub and NH Citizens Health Initiative ECHO planning survey on ALL topics will be going out soon. UNH requests assistance in distributing the link to your organizations. 	<p>volunteer for harm reduction near Keene, please connect them with Kerry Nolte kerry.nolte@unh.edu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PACT-MAT ECHO starts in April. About 5 places left. Email unh.projectecho@unh for application. Appreciate those that have helped us spread the word. • Please share the ECHO topic survey once it is released.
--	--	---

Next Meeting: March 28, 2019, 9:00am – 10:30 am 125 Airport Road, Concord.

Call-In Information: Dial in Number: Dial-in number (605) 313-4427 Access code 197873