



RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Chair: Keith Howard Co-Chair: Kristine Paquette

April 10, 2020

Meeting

Minutes

ZOOM OPTION: <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/926720035>

Call-in Number: 1-646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 926 720 035

Welcome & Introductions	<p>Participants: Adriana Lopera, Keith Howard, Victoria Babcock, Kristine Paquette, Mitch Yeaton, Kim Bock, Jessica Parnell, Elizabeth Miller, Cheryl Pacapelli, Michelle LeClerc, Lindy Keller, Laina Reavis, Sam Wiehe, Jon Martin, Brian Mooney, Donna Marston, Rene Brooks, Michele Merritt, Ginger Ross, Ryan Fowler, John Burns, Kila Naradovy, Carolee Longley, Eva Shepherd, Pam Littlefield</p>	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Approval of March Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No edits, Brian made motion to accept the minutes as written, Mitch seconded. Accepted unanimously. Michele Merritt abstained, because she was not at the last meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHI team will post approved minutes to the website
Task Force Check-In	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revive Recovery (Nashua): Revive has expanded their telephone support hours. There is a virtual noontime recovery support meeting, which can be found on Facebook and their website. NHCORR (Concord): Incredibly busy trying to support people. There is a weekly roundtable for house owners and house managers. Homestead: About 60% of residents are still working, and no one is sick. Makin' it Happen (Manchester): They have been focusing on mental wellness, and have been doing weekly online meetings. They have done talks on MAT, pandemic response, and managing stress. They will have a meeting on missing once in a lifetime events for parents and teens i.e. missing prom, graduation, etc. Some trends they are concerned about right now are increased alcohol sales, DCYF involvement, funeral homes are feeling overwhelmed due to not having PPE and increased work. There has been a dramatic decline in calls to mental health/suicide hotlines. They are looking at texting options to give folks in unsafe environments the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adriana will send out the link to the MAT overview from the healthcare task force.

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	<p>opportunity to reach out. There has been a decrease in domestic violence calls, but an increase in neighbors calling about disturbances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family Support Groups: Farnum has stopped all outside meetings, and has moved to online. They are doing phone services and using the four ritual questions to all participants.• BDAS: There has been a whole lot of work around MAT with telehealth. Medical providers are feeling like online services are working quite well. It may be that people may feel more comfortable and open in their home space. BDAS has purchased a lot of Naloxone with the changing procedures around getting prescriptions. BDAS is really stressing to providers to 1. Make sure that if folks are getting more medication, they are also getting more Naloxone and 2. Reiterate that services that are open and able to assist people.• White Horse Recovery: Resource centers are still open, but they have seen several relapses. They have been able to get these folks into treatment, but have had difficulty finding a bed in New Hampshire at this time. They have had to add another clinician due to heightened business. Their funding is down about 30%, and all of their retail locations had to be closed. They have applied for the pay roll assistance program, but have not yet been processed. They are operational and have 4 hrs. a day walk in time, and have CRSW numbers for people to reach out to.• Rene Brooks: Focus groups are on hold due to COVID, and maybe moved to virtual meetings.• Ryan Fowler: Things are fairly quiet, and harm reduction services in Claremont are operating in mobile settings outdoor and trying to get folks naloxone. Their call line has slowed down, and most of Ryan's contact has been through volunteers going out to do secondary exchange which has ended now due to COVID-19. There is distrust among the community that uses illicit substances in regards to government presence in the area, so working around that without being able to be within the community is difficult.	
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- **Harbor Homes:** FO is working remotely. Recovery meetings have all moved to zoom, and that has been an interesting shift.
- **New Futures:** The legislature has been suspended for at least a month. The legislature is trying to figure out how to safely meet, but the logistics of this have not been decided. Any bills that are in limbo will remain in limbo. New Futures is putting together several webinars that will all be free and will assist people with interpreting executive orders and assisting those without health insurance, accessing services without copays/deductibles, and addressing other immediate needs within the provider community.
- **Center for Excellence:** The Center has created a webpage with COVID-19 resources including overview of federal and state guidance changes for MAT and telehealth <https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/covid-19-substance-use-disorder-information/> . Launching a four-week lunch time learning session to assist in providing MAT, and navigating telehealth. Click here to register [MAT Learning Opportunity](#).
- **Rise Above:** There has been a spike in relapses in Nashua, and it has been difficult to place these individuals into treatment. Rise Above has a 60% unemployment rate between all of the houses, and people are very stressed. There have been no cases of COVID-19 in Rise Above housing so far.
- **Carolee Longlee:** Lakes Region General Hospital have closed many of their primary care offices, and employees have been furloughed for four months. LRG emergency room, Doorway, and MAT services are still open. Within a week Groups Recover Together moved to telehealth and are giving digital services. 1-800-683-8313 rapid response access appointment number.
- **SOS Recovery:** Partnered with Union Recovery in Philadelphia, they are running online/virtual meetings. They had about 9,000 logins within the last few weeks, and are running online yoga as well. They are moving into a new recovery platform to give 1-on-1 meetings with folks in recovery. They are also working with the community to connect with homeless communities and offer supports.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NH Governor’s Office: The governor’s office has been trying to follow-up on numerous issues coming up related to recovery across the state. A main issue is those who are in early recovery being laid off from their work, and being unable to pay their rents at their sober housing. The availability of unemployment benefits often does not apply, as you have had to be working for 6 months, and those in early recovery often do not meet that requirement. • Riverbend: Capitol area leadership team are getting a daily incident command briefing, clinicians are implementing telehealth and face to face meetings, they have been coordinating with Randy Moser from the Doorways as well. The Coalition to End Homelessness closed in March, but were able to hand out tents and items to assist in getting through COVID-19. They are trying to increase complex care meetings and including community partners and providers to assist in giving patients a more successful recovery. • Americorps: There are 11 AmeriCorps members who are still serving remotely. Active recruiting has been suspended. • Hope for Recovery: Everything has moved online. There have been weekly lunches where all members have been invited to have lunch with the staff virtually. They may move to doing this daily to share time together. The “Sicker than Most” show has moved online, and they have started an art supply drop-off. They have just gotten a grant from the NH Charitable Foundation, and have used these funds to distribute 10 phones to members who do not have access to phones or are at-risk of losing this access. 	
NHCORR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has been a very busy time for NHCORR. They have shifted to coordinating with all of the houses as much as possible. • NHCORR is providing temporary certification via document review and virtual walkthrough with fire alarm testing. When the stay at home orders all houses will have to go through an actual final home walk through. • There was a discussion to clarify the funding NHCORR received and their relationship to Chuckie’s Fight. The Recovery Task Force made the 	

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	<p>recommendation to the Governor’s Commission to fund recovery assistance in general, and the Commissions made the decision to allocate the rental assistance scholarship fund to NHCORR instead of an organization like Chuckie’s Fight.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in relapses, and should a house ask a resident to leave, they cannot force them to do so. Police cannot remove the residents unless they became violent. Kristine has found out that there is not a law covering tenant and property owner relationships in recovery housing. 	
<p>COVID-19 update on Recovery Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 20 homes certified, and there are 13 in the process. Within a month, they are hoping to transfer the certification process online. • They are updating their website a couple of times a week with resources for homes and people in recovery. • NHCORR has been surveying houses. As of last Tuesday, there was a 65% unemployment rate across the houses. They are seeing an uptick in relapses, and it is more long-term recovery residents. People, about 70%, are falling behind in their rental payments average amount is \$700. • Rental assistance: \$24,734.00 was awarded to 53 people. This week alone there have been 31 applications requested ~\$19,000 and NHCORR will be unable to meet that need. There is a great need for organizations to keep working at providing rental assistance. • Many of these houses are for-profit institutions. There is concern with removing residents, because many are unemployed, do not qualify for unemployment, and are experiencing rising relapse rates. • Houses have applied to small business PPP loans, but many of these are not working for property owners. • Reminder that there is a request for proposals for capital improvements recovery houses on the DHHS website. RFP can be found here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/business/rfp/rga-2020-bdas-01-infra.htm • It is important to remind houses in the process of being certified to get registered, and that houses on the registry get certified. This should be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If interested in current BDAS RFP, please apply here: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/business/rfp/rga-2020-bdas-01-infra.htm

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	<p>done because certain funding is only available for houses on these lists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHCORR has moved to partial certifications via virtual walkthroughs and fire alarm checks. Walk-throughs will return once the stay-home orders are lifted. 	
Subcommittee Report – CRSW's in ED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This will be updated at the next meeting since work on this has been postponed due to the COVID-19 response. 	
Legislative Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no updates due to legislature suspension under COVID-19 orders. 	
New Business/Events/Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups Recover Together has been directing folks to turbotax and other financial aids websites and literature. • Meeting procedures for task force meetings: Keith reviewed these procedures for members. • Kristine made motion to adjourn, Mitch seconded. Meeting adjourned. 	