



TREATMENT TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Chair: Stephanie Savard

March 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes		
Welcome & Introductions	Participants: Stephanie Savard, Paul Kiernan, Amy Daniels, Jessie Daigneault, Shanna Large, Jaime Powers, Sue Thistle, Emily Robbins, Jake Berry, Alex Casale, Dianne Castrucci, Thomas Donovan, Danni Bultemeier, Sue Latham, Cheryle Pacapelli, Joee Linbeck, Peter Burke, Jenny O'Higgins, Eric Spofford	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Review of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voting members want more time to review January's meeting minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force voting members will review January's meeting minutes and vote during next meeting.
Policy Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jake Berry provided a brief update with New Futures. The current goal has been to determine the most urgent and immediate needs. Federal guidance is currently being reviewed from SAMHSA for MAT. There is a push for ways to evaluate prescriptions to ensure MAT is available during this pandemic. Governor executive order for telehealth extension is to provide clarity and relief for providers. There are funding concerns working with the governor's office for a structure away from fee-for-service and to release immediate funds. In addition to workforce challenges, legislature has been suspended until early April. A decision is still being made regarding what to do with bills on the table and how to move forward with MAT drug prices and county jails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jake Berry will be sending out surveys to task force members.
COVID-19 in Treatment Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephanie asked task force members and treatment providers to discuss current efforts in response to COVID-19. The task force will inform BDAS, state, and local municipalities of these current efforts. Alex Casale asked a question regarding drug patch testing and if this can be billed to Medicaid. This test avoids having patients come in and is only once a week. Jaime Powers is bringing this back to Medicaid to confirm. Amy Daniels provided an update for CHI. Amy and Rekha Sreedhara created a 1 page document providing guidance for HIPAA and MAT dosing. CHI will be distributing this document. Additionally, 42 CFR contains a clause for emergencies, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amy Daniels will send out guidance to treatment. Alex Casale will send out ACCT webinar, and PowerPoint for information. Paul will send out information for Peer Recovery Support meetings

	<p>acknowledging the need for compliance, however does not change the law. Zoom is compliant with 42 CFR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dianne Castrucci stated NHADACA is converting as many trainings as appropriate to Zoom platform and consulting with trainers, for trainings that cannot be cancelled, for individuals to get CEUs. The decision to host virtual trainings is currently being held to mid or late April. A plan has not been confirmed for May or June, but a discussion has been held to plan virtual trainings until the end of June. NHADACA is posting on their website anything confidentiality related, on their announcements. Staff is prepared to work remotely except during training days to use their office internet. They have been receiving plenty of questions for using platform for telehealth, if people want to sign up for training.• Sue Latham with the Health Care Resource Center shared the organization overall is facing challenges for receiving take home bottles of sanitizer. The resource center currently has supplies stocked for staff members, however there has been an issue of keeping a backlog. They are awaiting approval from BDAS for reviewing SAMHSA guidelines for MAT and going through the Census to determine guidelines. Mike from BDAS is currently reviewing these guidelines, to determine if they are being conservative for supply requests. A discussion is being held about platforms for telehealth services. Staff is required to come in at the Hudson office, with everyone reporting in. Face masks are currently backordered and there is concern about exposure. The resource center is still planning on conducting drug testing and alcohol testing, feeling well supported by the State and management. They are helping to minimize anxiety, by reducing the amount of people coming in and out.• Alex Casale with the Judicial Branch hosted a webinar for Drug Court. All court sessions and trials have been suspended (except for emergency cases, such as domestic violence). Some courts have discussed moving court sessions to a Zoom type platform. This decision is being implemented for the next 3 weeks, having completed week 1, then will decide from there. Drug Court is working to provide telehealth services, such as case management and treatment planning. There are concerns regarding avoiding jail sections at all cost and individuals being at high risk for relapse. Probation parole has been suspended for all office visits, while providing	and additional resources.
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	<p>home visits only as needed, depending on the person’s risk level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shanna Large with Riverbend stated they are currently limiting staff starting Monday March 23rd to have a “skeleton crew” in their office for emergency response. The office doors will be locked and patients will need to call and be screened. They continue to screen and provide MAT as normal but is now limited to one client at a time. A discussion has been held to eventually move to telehealth services, however they currently do not have that ability to move EHR remotely. Staff are required to come into the office for notes and documentation. Group meetings will move to a virtual platform in the near future.• Emily Robbins with Sobriety Centers of New Hampshire stated they have suspended outpatient services, provided guidelines for increasing prescriptions, and stopped having visitors and deliveries. They continue to review and take on case-by-case visits and admissions, but with more screening. Their biggest challenges have been running out of PPE, as well as concern for staff burnout.• Sue Thistle shared that all university systems have been shut down for in person classes and meetings, with everything being held virtually. Support groups have stopped their meetings, with trouble having people connect. There is a great concern towards individuals being at higher risk of relapse. A discussion has been held around thoughts towards having “check in” calls and Zoom calls for individuals who are becoming sober.• Cheryle Pacapelli from Peer Recovery Supports have scheduled telehealth recovery support and coaching via Zoom.• Danni Bultemeier shared that the Manchester VA has shut down, with the exception of providing appointments for veterans and services for individuals needing detox. All staff is providing telehealth services and no children or guests are allowed in with Veterans unless needed for physical support. VA is still providing an SUD clinic, however is moving to larger space to continue social distancing for providing Suboxone.• Stephanie with FIT/New Horizons shared that IOP groups have paused as of 3/18/20. They are currently looking into telehealth services, providing one on one visits with screening, residential and providing support to their residential and	
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	<p>recovery support workers via phone. Individuals are still receiving support and office operations are currently status quo. There are concerns with staffing and the need for flexible funding for immediate stabilization funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheryle asked if there have been any discussions for CUs to be suspended. Dianne said they are currently not suspending, however even if the training is live and interactive, it will not count as online even though it is being held remotely. • Dianne shared that IC and RC have suspended testing at this time. 	
Governor Commission Meeting-Funding Appropriations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number one residential tabled RFP related to compassion fatigue and clinical well-being has been suspended. • Third request for \$250K was reduced to \$150K. There is a need for legislature to push for tax donations with Senator Shaheen for nonprofits, as well as bills and initiatives for emergency loans for nonprofits to apply for. 	
Business Updates/Wrap Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Thistle shared the Medicare for American act will allow other counselors in addition to LICSW to bill to Medicare. Sue encourages task force members to push for this and to reach out to Senators. • Task force discussed if any inpatient facilities or IOPs are currently accepting new patients. Peter Burke with Easter Seals in Farnum, Eric Spofford with Green Mountain, Cheryl with Keystone, Emily with sobriety centers, Thomas Donovan for addiction recovery services in Salem and Portsmouth, are all accepting new patients. Addiction Recovery Services in Newton is closed, however still providing IOP. Southern NH services is no longer accepting patients. • Jaime Powers shared that they do not have any providers that have stopped doing intake, however a few have paused to have a plan in place for staffing and a safety plan. Southeastern NH Services facilities are at full capacity and are no longer taking clients. North Country has currently paused services to have a plan in place. • Stephanie shared that transitional living has suspend intake for the next 60 days. • Sue Latham shared outpatient clinics are offering daily opportunity for case managers to call clients as often as possible, both weekly and biweekly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to New Futures for any support needs.

Next Meeting: Friday May 15th, 2020, 9am-11am (Virtually); **Zoom Information:** <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/819262402>; **Call-In Information:** 646-558-8656; **Meeting ID:** 819 262 402