



# HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

## Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage and Lindy Keller

Thursday, May 28th, 2020

### Meeting Minutes

**Participants:** Seddon Savage, Jessie Daigneault, Anna Ghosh, Ann Branen, Kerran Vigroux, Regina Flynn, Carol Furlong, Peter Mason, Lindy Keller, Jake Berry, Kristine Stoddard, Janet Thomas, Krystal Sieradzki, Peter Ames, Molly Rossignol, Kerry Nolte, Jenny O'Higgins, Dan Andrus, Susan Latham

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Ames with the Foundation for Healthy Communities shared the Hospital Association is providing updated resources about regulations that have changed during COVID-19. More information can be found at: <a href="https://www.nhha.org/index.php/whats-new/1545-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-outbreak">https://www.nhha.org/index.php/whats-new/1545-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-outbreak</a></li> <li>• Ann Branen with Addiction Care Solutions shared she continues to volunteer for Queen City Exchange. Shared syringe service programs are still doing outreach and have Narcan available.</li> <li>• Dan Andrus with Foundation for Healthy Communities shared the SUD programs have continued to work at their capacity. On May 14<sup>th</sup> Carrie McFadden joined Foundation for Healthy Communities as the new coordinator for the FORE Grant Project.</li> <li>• Carol Furlong with Elliot Hospital shared they continue to run MAT programs, which have received an increase in participation. The hospital is working to have more providers waived to prescribe buprenorphine. IOP continues to provide in-person referrals, using PPE and social distancing measures.</li> <li>• Janet Thomas with NH Citizens Health Initiative through UNH shared they continue to provide their PACT-MAT and ECHO series. The NH Citizens Health Initiative is working with the Center on Rural Addiction at the University of Vermont, to provide resources for rural providers. Anyone who knows any providers in need may contact Janet. More information can be found at: <a href="https://uvmcora.org/">https://uvmcora.org/</a>.</li> <li>• Kerran Vigroux with the NH Alcohol and Other Drug Service Providers Association shared she is the new Executive Director.</li> <li>• Kerry Nolte with the NH Harm Reduction Coalition shared they are still operating but have decreased services to one day a week. The Dover site has received fewer participants and volunteers. They have enough masks for volunteers but not enough for participants. They have been struggling to find enough resources. Participation has doubled in Manchester. The UNH Harm Reduction education project is working on pharmacy syringe access. A survey was</li> </ul>	

	<p>conducted among pharmacists. Kerry will have these results at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krystal Sieradzki from the Brain Injury Association shared the interagency team continues to meet regularly. An opioid card has been created to be inserted in naloxone kits, providing possible symptoms for those with brain injuries and resources.</li> <li>• Molly Rossignol with CMC and NH Healthy Families shared CMC continues to see patients through in-person and telephone services. CMC is now a Doorway. NH Healthy Families has been providing PPE for underfunded and underserved SUD programs who don't have access to these resources. Molly is advocating at the corporate level to continue telehealth medicine for SUD services from a Medicaid perspective. NH Healthy Families is still giving sponsorship for CRSW training. Anyone who is interested in participating, contact Molly for more information.</li> <li>• Peter Mason with Region 1 IDN shared most of their integrated practice has moved to telehealth, including MAT services. They have been working to support individuals who are homeless with SUD disorders through coordination of a program with medical students to reach out to these individuals and provide behavioral health care.</li> <li>• Lindy Keller with BDAS shared the state purchased 3,000 naloxone kits. Currently, BDAS has distributed 1,200 within the past month, plans to deliver 700 kits throughout the summer, with the goal to distribute the remainder of the kits by the fall. RFPs have been released for peer recovery support and data evaluation and training. Several recovery community organizations are planning to reopen June 1<sup>st</sup> through July while implementing extra precautions.</li> <li>• Jenny O'Higgins with DHHS shared they are monitoring quantitative data. They have applied for emergency COVID-19 funding for CMHCs and an emergency grant on suicide prevention.</li> <li>• Seddon Savage with the Medical Society and Dartmouth shared the Medical Society is supporting providers and working on circulating regulatory guidance for SUD treatment during COVID-19. They continue to provide COVID-19 specific ECHOs, including how to support businesses opening safely. 170 businesses participated. ECHO for SUD in the workplace has been moved to the fall.</li> </ul>	
<b>Meeting Minutes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Molly Rossignol provided the revision for the 42 CFR component, which is now not going into effect until March 2021. CHI will update this section to the minutes.</li> <li>• Jake Berry made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. Molly Rossignol seconded.</li> <li>• Everyone was in favor with no further discussion. Motion carries to accept the revised minutes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHI will post the minutes.</li> </ul>
<b>Legislative and Policy Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jake Berry shared the House of Representatives is meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Whittemore Center at UNH. The Senate is also meeting in June, with the date to be determined. Neither the House nor the Senate have yet announced how they plan to approach these sessions.</li> <li>• New Futures is working with legislative partners to prioritize bills for MAT and telemedicine,</li> </ul>	

	including the administration of MAT to inmates. New Futures has been working with the Governor’s office for emergency relief and recovery, as well as initiatives for workforce and stabilization payments for Medicaid providers.	
<b>SUD-COVID Needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seddon shared the executive summary of the survey regarding SUD and COVID needs which was released on April 21<sup>st</sup> to over 300 stakeholders and IDNs, receiving 339 individual responses. (see attached.)</li> <li>• Slides will be posted along with minutes. Key findings were 77% of respondents believe alcohol consumption has increased; there were mixed findings whether treatment engagement was increased or decreased by telehealth during COVID, and 54% perceived overall treatment availability was decreased. Most respondents (59-68%) observed people with drug use to have less ability engaging in COVID-19 safety practices (social distancing, mask wearing and hygiene) compare with people without drug use.</li> <li>• The task force discussed and agreed the survey results are insightful and could help inform action.</li> <li>• The need to screen for alcohol and other drug use in medical settings was discussed. Molly Rossignol asked for feedback on how is SBIRT being translated and if people are using via telehealth? Peter Mason shared SBIRT is still a recommended tool but is not required; a variety of approaches to screening are being used.</li> <li>• The task force discussed the possibility of focusing on this increase in alcohol consumption, utilizing SBIRT as a model, and public health messaging. This will be discussed at next meeting.</li> <li>• A discussion was held around state liquor stores selling masks. People in recovery who need masks may be put at risk of relapse by entering a liquor store. Krystal Sieradzki shared that masks for organizations are being made available at the DMV for pickup. Further discussion was held on alternative locations for distributing masks, including along with fishing licenses, online campground reservation facilities, and grocery stores. Seddon suggested drafting a letter stating the concerns of the healthcare task force and list some alternative locations for mask distribution.</li> <li>• Molly Rossignol made a first motion to write an official letter. Susan Latham seconded. There was no further discussion and all were in favor. Motion passed to draft an official letter.</li> <li>• Seddon will circulate the letter out for review. Everyone agreed to include the Recovery Task Force and the Treatment Task Force to sign onto this letter.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seddon will review the idea of alternative locations for mask distribution with Patrick Tufts, then draft a letter stating concerns of the Healthcare Task Force for distributing masks at liquor stores.</li> <li>• A discussion will be held during the next meeting to brainstorm ways to support COVID-19 safety practices among people who use drugs.</li> <li>• Will discuss alcohol screening and messaging at next meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology Going Forward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred to the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
<b>Other business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	

**Next Meeting:** June 25, 2020, 9am-10:30am (Virtual Only)

**Zoom Information:** <https://si.zoom.us/j/130590059?pwd=eGs2ZmZFNEpvS0ZoR3FDUVFBUI4UT09> **Call-In Information:** +1-646-558-8656;

**Meeting ID:** 130 590 059; **Password:** 241570