



OPIOID TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Chair: Seddon Savage

May 14, 2020
Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Participants: Seddon Savage, Rekha Sreedhara, Adriana Lopera, Jessie Daigneault, Judge Tina Nadeau, Jaime Powers, Bridget Aliaga, Nicole Rodler, Kiera Latham, Eliza Zarka, Steve Kelly, Stacey Lazzar, James Boffetti, Jeffrey Stewart, Alex Casale, Joe Hannon, Ryan Fowler, Matthew McKenney, Joe Lindbeck

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge Tina Nadeau shared Drug Courts continue to monitor participants. They are currently reviewing to determine how to continue services without putting individuals at risk. The new order allows to conduct hearings remotely, through WebEx or telephone. Steve Kelly with Better Life Partners shared all services have been transitioned to telehealth. Attendance for group therapy has been consistent, with more participation among patients not originally open to group therapy. They are considering a hybrid model of both in-person and telehealth services for the future. Rekha Sreedhara with CHI shared they recently completed their first time-limited learning series for MAT during this state of emergency. James Boffetti with the Department of Justice shared they have been very active with the Opioid litigation and settlement. Scheduled trials in New York have been on hold due to COVID-19. The first trial has been postponed for January 2021 in Merrimack. Jaime Powers with the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services as of Monday, The Doorways in Nashua and Manchester transitioned from Granite Pathways to Southern NH Medical in Nashua and Catholic Medical Center in Manchester. BDAS recently hired a new clinical specialist. Bridget Aliaga shared Dartmouth Population Health has been shifting focus to Upper Valley Strong to address food and shelter needs, to support partners administratively, and provide community supports. Nicole Rodler with the Juvenile Diversion Program shared juvenile services are being offered virtually. They have successfully managed to give every county in NH virtual services for diversion programs. Rochester Police Department has police officers implementing social distancing, avoiding direct contact, and utilizing personal protective equipment. Alex Casale with the State Drug Court shared observation of a decrease in opioid use during the beginning of the year among drug court participants. However, individuals are overdosing more this month than last month. There has been an increase in participation in drug court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeffrey Stewart will share the analysis of Project FIRST.



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- Joe Hannon with the NH Harm Reduction Coalition shared they have been able to provide enough syringes for the Seacoast and Manchester. There has been a decrease in participants in the Seacoast location and an increase in participants for Manchester. Now that SOS Recovery provides virtual services, they have increased participant outreach for those who normally wouldn't seek services. They have identified people who lack the technology to access telehealth services. T-Mobile has donated goods to help provide these services. SOS has also offered mobile van services once a week and have maxed out capacity for medication assisted recovery services.
- Ryan Fowler with the HIV Resource Center in Lebanon and Claremont Exchange shared the program reached more people in the first 3 months of the year. However, COVID-19 has slowed down program participation. Patients currently participating shared they are also participating in MAT services.
- Matt McKenney with Hypertherm shared they have been sharing lessons learned and best practices at the community level. They have been providing support through sharing resources available to local nonprofits. They have been manufacturing face shields available upon request. They have been targeting smaller business that may be struggling to get PPE and donating at no cost. They have distributed over 20K to date.
- Jeffrey Stewart with Project FIRST shared they are still seeing patients and providing outreach. State level released a one-year analysis of Project FIRST. The one-year report for Concord Fire Department will be released June 24th. Project FIRST has been exploring mobile outreach with The Doorway.
- Kiera Latham with HIDTA shared they are receiving data regularly and are currently on schedule for releasing the next DMI report.
- Eliza Zarka with the Office of the Governor shared that office responsibilities have changed to citizens' services. There will be a virtual series available for self-care during these times.
- Stacey Lazzar with the Manchester Health Department shared they have re-opened the Manchester mobile site for residents at high risk. They continue to provide the Manchester hotline for COVID-19. Manchester Operations Center has been working to help support the homeless population. Nurses continue to provide contact tracing, with Manchester having 24 percent of state's COVID-19 cases. They are also working with long term care facilities for providing enough PPE.
- Joe Lindbeck with Alkermes shared they are not experiencing any shortage of Vivitrol. They have been expanding patient support services. If anyone is having issues with injection sites, contact Joe Lindbeck.
- Seddon Savage with Dartmouth and the NH Medical Society shared they have been very busy



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	<p>providing support to providers and issue guidance for elective procedures. Dartmouth Hitchcock has also provided 3 different COVID-19 related ECHOs. If anyone is looking for medical related guidance, contact Seddon Savage or Jim Potter.</p>	
Review April Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Casale provided clarification in the introduction section, clarifying federal drug courts have been providing virtual hearings and drug testing kits. Jeff Stewart made a first motion to accept the minutes as amended. Matt McKenney seconded. Motion carries to accept the minutes as amended. 	CHI will make amended change and post minutes on the task force webpage.
Drug Monitoring Initiative Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kiera Latham shared HIDTA has rearranged data for ER departments on the DMI report. They are hoping to have finalized data for number of deaths for 2019 by the end of May in order to begin reporting for 2020. EMS has finished updates to their system. HIDTA will begin to receive data for Narcan for each month. ER data is not comparable to previous years. Treatment admissions have been trending down. Kiera asked for feedback from the task force as to what data to include in these reports. A discussion was held around whether the report can include data for MAT prescriptions. A question was also proposed as to providing year to year comparison reports. Seddon proposed creating time for an upcoming meeting to provide feedback. Helen Pervanas might be able to assist. 	Time will be spent on the agenda for either June or July for the task force to provide feedback to the DMI reports.
Opioid Card Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rekha Sreedhara shared that feedback was submitted by 11 people to date. The card was originally created in 2017, to provide information on opioid safety. Feedback was received from the Healthcare Task Force, Governor's Commission, and Board of Pharmacy to confirm information would be of value. In 2018, the opioid safety card was pilot tested at two pharmacies, one in Rochester and one in Concord. Participating pharmacies collected data to help inform the card and model. As of January 1st 2020, NH statute requires all pharmacies filling an opioid prescription to include this card printed on orange paper. Prescription bottles are also required to have an orange sticker and a risk of addiction sticker. More information regarding this legislation can be found under HB 359. Out of the 11 responses, 2 participants found the card very informative, 1 slightly informative and 8 did not find the card informative. A discussion was held as to whether pharmacies are including this in prescriptions? The task force agreed to spend time at a later meeting to discuss and determine pharmacy compliance. The Governor's Commission is responsible for the content of the opioid safety card. If anyone has any requests for any changes made will need to bring them to the Governor's Commission. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The opioid safety card can be found on the Center for Excellence's website: https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/governors-commission/opioid-task-force/ 	
Legislative Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislature is currently in the process of prioritizing bills to be considered for this year. Joe Hannon shared that the Legislature are conducting executive sessions and passing bills that already went through hearings. 	
OUD/COVID-19 Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Substance Use & Mental Health Initiative (SUMHI) recently led a survey across New Hampshire stakeholders related to COVID-19 and substance use. Seddon shared a PowerPoint of the survey's preliminary findings of COVID-19 and substance use in NH. The objective of the survey was to gather observations from diverse sectors on SUD patterns, since the COVID-19 pandemic and the vulnerability of people who use drugs. Data collected included perspectives of roles of the respondents, counties, statewide observations, observations of changes and the extent to which people with substance use disorders are able to engage in safety practices. Seddon will share the report with the Task Force. Anyone who has any input or feedback should contact Seddon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon will circulate the report to the Task Force.
Other Business & Sector Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	

Next Meeting: June 11, 2020 – 9:00AM-10:30AM // Community Health Institute (Virtual Meeting Only)
Zoom Information: <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/601328716?pwd=ZmlTaVVJVkdhWTxb2FsQWNnVFBxZz09>
Meeting ID: 601-328-716; **Password:** 394029