



HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage and Lindy Keller

Thursday, June 25th, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Participants: Seddon Savage, Jessie Daigneault, Anna Ghosh, Ann Branen, Krystal Sieradzki, Peter Ames, Dan Andrus, Carol Furlong, Lindy Keller, Kerran Vigroux, Kristine Stoddard, Janet Thomas, Peter Mason, Kate Frey, Gerry Hevern, Julie Hazell-Felch, Kerry Nolte

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task Force members and public members provided brief introductions. 	
Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carol Furlong made a motion to accept the minutes. Kristine Stoddard seconded. No one opposed and everyone was in favor. Motion carried to accept the minutes as written. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHI will post the minutes.
Letter on mask distribution sites	<p>Seddon Savage drafted a letter as agreed by the Task Force expressing concern about the distribution of masks at state liquor stores and suggesting alternative mask distribution sites, but noted concern whether the timing was right to send. The Task Force was asked whether the letter is appropriate and should be shared with the Governor's Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members agreed that liquor stores are not an appropriate place to solely distribute masks. However, there currently isn't an urgent need, as masks have become more available. The liquor store is no longer a singular place to get a mask, with gas stations and hardware stores providing masks as well. The Task Force will keep the letter and use revisions of it as needed. In particular, addressing future policies set forth around alcohol and alcohol to go could use the support of this letter. The letter can also be brought up in other situations where distribution and access to health resources is considered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon Savage will save the draft letter and bring up again as needed for future policy and health system implications.
Pharmacy Survey Findings	<p>Kerry Nolte shared the results for the pharmacy survey conducted by the Harm Reduction Education and Technical Assistance Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The survey focused on syringe sales without a prescription. 258 NH retail pharmacies were asked to participate via phone. 4 pharmacies identified as closed or non-retail; 79 pharmacies were unable to be reached or refused to participate, some stating they were not allowed to provide that information. 175 pharmacies completed the survey. The survey received a better response rate among smaller counties. Of those surveyed: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerry Nolte will share these resources with the Task Force.

	<p>47.4% sell syringes without a prescription 84% of pharmacies had a standing order for naloxone. 96.6% fill buprenorphine Rxs</p> <p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey results reflected concerns around used syringes in public areas, including store restrooms, parking lots, as well as concerns around client safety and disposal, injections and overdose on the property, and having dedicated naloxone kits available. • There is some stigma among pharmacists not filling buprenorphine for patients. The top concerns for pharmacists around buprenorphine include how it is prescribed and how long individuals are using it. Only three pharmacies did not fill buprenorphine prescriptions. • Additional concerns include local prescribers of buprenorphine were running cash only businesses, the challenge to reach providers and receive return calls, and costs for naloxone, with co-pays as high as \$110. <p>Follow up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Harm Reduction Project mailed resources out to 254 pharmacies, around the importance of syringe access. The project also offered one-on-one educational and remote academic detailing sessions, to discuss resources and harm reduction strategies. • Next steps are to continue phone outreach, to follow-up and see if there are other resources to provide. Live webinars and an online module will also be offered. • A discussion was held among the Task Force, suggesting the low participation among pharmacists may be due to these challenging times when the survey was conducted. • More information regarding the Harm Reduction Education and Technical Assistance for NH Project can be found here. 	
<p>Legislative & Policy Updates</p>	<p>Kate Frey from New Futures provided legislative updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In June, the House met at the Whittemore Center at UNH and the Senate met at the State House. Republicans voted not to extend the deadline for bills. • Senate is anticipated to amend several House bills and discuss amendments. The bills will then move to the House for straight concur or non-concur votes. Priority bills include telemedicine, drug transparency bills, and Tobacco 21, which will move over to the House. • Alcohol to go passed but will sunset at the end of 2021 • The House and Senate are scheduled to meet on June 30th. 	
<p>Addressing SUD during COVID-19 Lessons Discussion</p>	<p>Seddon shared the document of the summary of findings for technology-based services in care of SUD. The Task Force reviewed for any changes and revisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of the document is to encourage legislation and policies around technology that 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seddon and Lindy will review and revise changes and will circulate the updates to the

	<p>promote safe and effective use in treatment of SUDs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members emphasized the importance of individual treatment plans. Members also expressed concerns around virtual interactions and the importance of finding a balance around providing periodic face-to-face groups, to prevent isolation. Services should be focused on meeting the individual's needs. Julie Hazell-Felch shared they are using a hybrid model with their MAT programming, initial appointments are in person, with subsequent appointments offering a combination. A discussion was held to encourage a focus on what mode of treatment is most helpful for each individual as client centered care, using language around considering differences for individual treatment needs. Lindy and Seddon will make these changes and have this document ready for review for the upcoming Governor's Commission meeting. Kristine Stoddard shared HB 1623 includes a commission that may influence provider and insurer contracts. 	<p>Task Force.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon will share at the Governor's Commission meeting.
<p>Updates from Members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindy Keller reported that the contract for Foundation for Healthy Communities to develop the capacity of hospitals to address SUDs in emergency departments, primary care practices, and inpatient (inpatient scope was recommended by this task force) has passed Governor and Council. Peter Ames with Foundation for Healthy Communities shared that the work with inpatient is new and they will be working with a few hospitals to start. The goal is to engage hospitals broadly across the state in Learning Collaboratives. They will be conducting more direct outreach to hospitals that are ready to implement. Seddon asked if there would be broad notice of the potential funding and an opportunity for hospitals to seek funding. Peter indicated the Foundation would be doing outreach based on their understanding of hospital's readiness to change through their own networking. 	

Next Meeting: July 23, 2020, 9am-10:30am (Virtual Only)

Zoom Information: <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/130590059?pwd=eGs2ZmZFNEpvS0ZoR3FDUVFBUI4UT09>

Call-In Information: +1-646-558-8656; **Meeting ID:** 130 590 059; **Password:** 241570