



HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage and Lindy Keller

Thursday, July 23rd, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Participants: Seddon Savage, Lindy Keller, Jessie Daigneault, Anna Ghosh, Ann Branen, Joe Harding, Peter Ames, Peter Mason, Krystal Sieradzki, Dan Andrus, Kate Frey, Molly Rossignol, Julie Hazell-Felch, Janet Thomas, Jake Berry, Polly Morris, 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"> Molly Rossignol made a motion to accept the minutes. Kate Frey 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.
Brief Updates <i>-Technology recommendations posted</i> <i>-Current Data- OUD in NH, Med Examiner, DMI</i> <i>-Governor's Commission Funding October round</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technology recommendations have been approved at the last Governor's Commission meeting and have been posted on their website. Seddon Savage presented data on Opioid related overdose deaths in NH. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question to others for data sources to support anticipated trends and determine if there is any clear evidence that opioid deaths have been increasing. News articles have been stating this trend is increasing, including headlines which can be misleading. Joe Harding suggested reviewing this trend, to determine if less people are accessing services, which may be a contributing factor. Governor's Commission is having a second round of funding in October. The Task Force will need to think about what to recommend for funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Ames will provide an update to recap Foundations for Healthy Communities work on ED and primary care during the next meeting. Discuss funding recommendations for Governor's Commission in next meeting
COVID-19 Impact on SUD Lessons <i>-COVID-19 Safety Issues for People Who Use Substances</i> <i>-Alcohol messaging</i> <i>-Technology now and going forward</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 safety issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon asked if masks are readily available and if hand hygiene is a concern. Ann Branen shared that supplies at Queen City Exchange have been limited. Several participants have wound care needs and a fear of seeking healthcare services. Individuals who live outside have limited access to hand washing facilities and masks. Access to naloxone has not been a concern. There is a limit of 2 hours which they can distribute on Sundays. There are funding concerns for supplies and planning for long-term resource sustainability. A question was asked as to how the Healthcare Task Force can be of assistance. Members discussed advocating, reviewing how Governor's Commission funding can be used for supplies, and providing funding recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lindy Keller will follow up with an update regarding the funding recommendation for SSPs and whether contracts were initiated Molly Rossignol will look for data that helps understand implications of virtual vs. in person initial visits. Kerry Nolte will reach out to Better Life Partners for data

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerry Nolte with NH Harm Reduction Coalition shared that supplies are limited in Nashua. They have placed a request through the CARES Act for additional masks and supplies. However, this will not cover syringes. There is a need to help write proposals for grant funding and to coordinate putting together kits. Is there a role for the Task Force to write a letter of support on a grant proposal? • Use of technology for care now and going forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 1623 has been signed into law and moving forward. • The major concern is getting everyone access to technology. • Should we advocate waiving the requirement for a first in-person appointment in NH? • Suggestions to collect data on the outcomes of an in-person versus virtual first visit. • Data collection needs to consider the different structures and context during COVID-19 and the complexities of comparison to outcomes during other points in time. • Research needs to focus on the effect of the initial visit as virtual or in person; not the outcome of all visits as telehealth • Consider other outcome measures in addition to retention. Some other aspects of providing addiction care has been impacted by COVID such as urine drug testing. • Alcohol messaging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol use has increased during the pandemic in the state as well as nationally • Molly Rossignol said NH Healthy Families is reviewing claims for SBIRT, people are not getting screened or billed for it. She wrote a letter to all Medicaid providers to remind them to screen and use the billing code for SBIRT. • Dan Andrus shared this article with the Task Force. • Kate Frey asked the Task Force to participate in New Future’s survey, asking stakeholders to help New Futures focus on priorities. Anyone interested in participating in the survey can access it here: https://bit.ly/2WEZzPM. 	<p>about their experience providing telehealth services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol messaging will be added to the top of next meeting’s agenda to discuss in further detail. • The Task Force will review the document it helped develop regarding telehealth policies during the next meeting to identify whether to advocate for other changes.
Legislative & Policy Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Frey shared HB 1280 signed into law last Thursday, July 16th. • Currently waiting for legislation to hear on HB 1245 and HB 1639. • New Futures released a report on the financial impacts of COVID-19. The Governor’s advisory commission for emergency relief and the recovery board for the CARES act have agreed to spend \$6 million on SUD treatment. New Futures is currently asking \$15-18 million for funding, for emergency recovery relief. If anyone wants to advocate, please contact New Futures. 	
Updates from Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Ames shared that the Foundation for Healthy Communities is working on a media campaign to encourage mask wearing (#maskupNH). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The second round of the survey Dartmouth conducted on SUD and COVID-19 is being administered next week and hopes to gain a larger response rate• The Harm Reduction Coalition is seeking an Executive Director	
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Next Meeting: August 27, 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