

**Perinatal Substance Exposure Task Force
March 25, 2015**

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Review January minutes

Updates from Work Groups:

FASD Poster Campaign – Linda Graham

Methadone Dosing – Best Practices – Becky Ewing

Provider Communication – Local Collaborative –
* Need to establish Leadership

Patient Support – Rekha Sreedhara

Brief report on how current NH Legislative outcomes impact our work.

Other business

Adjourn

Perinatal Substance Exposure Task Force
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Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order around 2:05pm. * We experienced some difficulty with our conference call during this meeting and were intermittently cut off from our “on-the-phone” participants.

Attendance: Becky Ewing, Linda Graham, Joe Harding, David LaFlamme, George Neyarapally, Susan Latham

On the Phone: Vicki Flanagan, Lisa Mure, Ben Nordstrom, Rekha Sreedhara, Bonny Whalen

The January minutes were reviewed. A motion was made to accept them as written, and this motion passed.

Updates from Work Groups:

FASD Poster work group comprised of Linda Graham (Leader), Nancy Jackson-Reno, Abby Rogers, and Lisa Bryson met on March 4th, 2015. They report having found the image on line and discovered that the rights to use the image can be purchased for around \$30. Lisa Bryson is working up a poster using the language “Healthy mothers and babies need everyone’s support” and “An Alcohol Free Pregnancy is the best choice.” The finished poster will be co-branded from the March of Dimes, NH-DHHS, NOFAS NH, and _____.

The group had some questions for the Task Force including are they being tasked with developing a poster or is this a campaign? The group decided that this should be a limited campaign lasting from around nine months to a year. Joe Harding and Tricia Tilley may be able to find a few resources for a “modest campaign” possibly tied to SBIRT or DOJ. The work group’s next meeting will be Wednesday April 1st.

Methadone Dosing work group comprised of co-leaders George Neyarapally, Gary Kaufman, Joe Harding, Bill Edwards, Becky Ewing, Tricia Tilley, Vicki Flanagan, Todd Mandell, Anna Ghosh (for Lisa Mure). We had our first meeting on March 4th and George presented the results of a limited literature review on methadone dosing in pregnancy and a short discussion of his findings from his Medicaid audit of the NH OTP’s dosing of women during and just after pregnancy in 2013 and 2014. The initial conclusion arrived at by the group is that this is a topic which has not been studied well to date and that determination of Best Practices will not be straight forward. We decided to conduct a comprehensive literature review and Becky agreed to do this with the assistance of Vicki and the Dartmouth Medical School library. We had a discussion about the metabolism and excretion of methadone during pregnancy and in the postpartum phase. We also discussed the challenges of dose adjusting in this population including the difficulty distinguishing the

symptoms of pregnancy from the symptoms of withdrawal. David also agreed to look into linking methadone exposure to baby outcomes with discharge claims data.

Provider Communication work group – As we have encountered problems in establishing leadership for this group it has not met and its membership is not well established. There will be a new position developed under the supervision of BDAS with 13 regional coordinators, who will help to connect the continuum of care in the 13 regions around the state. These positions will open up on 7/1/2015.

Patient Support Group – Rekha has organized stakeholders from the MCO's , DCYF, Family Willows, along with Lindsey Flynn, Social Worker from Wentworth Douglas Hospital, and Susan McKeown Parent Support Group Coordinator. She is hoping to include a nurse or doctor in this group also. They will be holding their first meeting in April.

No substantial update was available regarding current legislative issues.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

**The Next Perinatal Substance Exposure Task Force Meeting will be held:
Wednesday, May 27th, 2015**