



RECOVERY TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Chair: Keith Howard Co-Chair: Kristine Paquette

October 9, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ZOOM OPTION: <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/926720035>

Call-in Number: 1-646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 926 720 035 Meeting Password: 482613

Welcome & Introductions	<p>Members present: Keith Howard, Kristine Paquette, Lindy Keller, Carolee Longley, Donna Marston, Elizabeth Miller, Brian Mooney, Cheryle Pacapelli, Jessica Parnell</p> <p>Members not present: Michele Merritt (Jake Berry present as proxy), Mitch Yeaton (Eric Moran present as proxy)</p> <p>Public participants: Rene Brooks, Stephan Burdette, Michelle Murch, Bradford Volz, Laurie Scorzelli, Jon Martin, Daisy Pierce, Alex Casale, Pamela Joyal, Rachael Azotea (NH Judicial Branch), Kerran Vigroux, Henry Klementowicz</p> <p>JSI/CHI Staff : Melissa Schoemmel, Adriana Lopera</p>	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roll call was performed. Quorum established. 	
Approval of September Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryl Pacapelli made a motion to approve September meeting minutes, Donna Marston seconded. Unanimous approval. 	CHI will post the September meeting minutes on the Task Force's webpage.
November Election Update and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Henry Klementowicz from the ACLU of New Hampshire provided an overview of voting in NH, including resources. The ACLU of NH has a nonpartisan election website https://votenh2020.org/ The biggest challenge of this election year has been the COVID-19 pandemic. Previously, NH was one of 17 states that didn't have no excuse absentee voting, meaning you could only vote absentee for specific reasons like disability. In light of the pandemic, it was determined that a fear or concern around 	If you have any further questions about voting, please feel free to contact Henry at henry@aclu-nh.org

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	<p>COVID-19 was enough justification to vote absentee. This has now been codified by the NH legislature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People registered to vote in NH can vote absentee two ways<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ By mail (you can request the ballot by mail and a ballot will be mailed to you, you can then mail back the ballot)○ In person (same process but done at the town clerk's office). Benefits: you don't have to worry about mail and there are election workers available to help you to fill out the forms.• Why vote absentee?<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There are some people who have to vote in person (limited English proficiency, disabilities, work schedules). The goal of absentee is to thin out the number of people on Election Day to make it safer for those who have to vote in person.• 40% of the primary votes were absentee.• Voting rights for people who are justice involved<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In NH you can vote if you are incarcerated pretrial, incarcerated while serving a sentence for a misdemeanor, on a suspended sentence, or on parole.○ The only people who can't vote are currently incarcerated individuals serving for a felony crime.○ If someone is incarcerated in a county jail serving a sentence for a misdemeanor or is pretrial, they should start the process of requesting an absentee ballot as soon as possible.○ C1 status-still are serving a sentence of incarceration for a felony and most likely cannot vote.○ Some people who are convicted of bribery, voting fraud, election offenses may be banned from voting for life.○ Alex Casale asked about administrative home confinement.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Henry will look into this and follow up with Alex.• Cheryle Pacapelli asked about signature verification of absentee ballots.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Because of an ACLU 2018 lawsuit, NH's signature ruling has been	
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	<p>blocked and signatures will not be compared on the request and the ballot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you don't sign the affidavit envelope, your ballot can be thrown out. There are two envelopes. The inner envelope has an affidavit and space for signature. • Keith Howard asked when would someone find out that a vote has not been accepted and what is that person's recourse? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a Secretary of State website you can use to track your ballot. ○ Towns/cities can now preprocess absentee ballots the Thursday-Saturday before the election. Representatives of the political campaigns may be there and may contact people if they're ballot has been rejected. • Is there any historical evidence of voting fraud in NH? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No, the AG's office has investigated the claim that people were being bussed in from Massachusetts to vote in NH. What they found was that the buses are based in Massachusetts but there was no proof that the people aren't from NH. ○ There have been allegations of double voting, but overall cases of voter fraud are extremely rare. The AG's Chief Investigator has been assigned to exclusively focus on election law. • Are there were worries over potential violence or voter intimidation on election day? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No this is very rare in NH, and there will be representatives of AG office at many polling locations. • Can I vote absentee but still volunteer at the polls? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As the reason for voting absentee is fear of COVID, you may want to instead consider volunteering outside of the polls. 	
<p>Governor's Commission Update and Funding Request</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Governor's Commission meets again on the 23rd. It is a funding meeting. As discussed last month, the Recovery Task Force will be submitting one proposal. Keith is waiting to hear from the Treatment Task 	

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	<p>Force for endorsement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendation will be to support outreach to homeless shelters, encampments from RCOs around the state. Over half of the RCOs reported that they're serving a significant number of people who housing insecure or homeless. The Recovery TF is asking for \$175000. 	
<p>Cold weather and the challenges for recovery community</p>	<p>What challenges have RCOs been facing with colder weather?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hope for Recovery had been having outside meetings that are socially distant. Now that they've moved indoors- they're following ASAM guidelines that advises that no more than 10 people be in a room. This guidance was echoed by Manchester Health Dept. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There's been push back about reducing the size of groups. It is challenging for groups that are used to meeting in groups of 50-60 people. People may not feel comfortable in a small group of people. Mask wearing hasn't been a challenge. Michelle Murch – At Triangle Club meetings mask wearing has been a constant challenge. Eric Moran- At White Horse Recovery people who have been in recovery longer are leaving to give room for new recoverees given the small group size. However, a mixture of experiences/length of recovery is important in a recovery group. <p>Funding Challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheryle Pacapelli reported that RCOs are still not funded at the level needed. The Governor's Commission should be made aware of this need, not as a funder but as a group that supports recovery efforts. RCOs are currently experiencing a 38% deficit in funding across the state. State Opioid Response (SOR) funding just came through at the federal level but is not currently in the facilitating organization's (FO) budgets. At this moment there's no additional funding for the existing RCOs that the FO funds. All of the contracts ended September 30th. Brian Mooney asked if we could request a bridge plan be put in place similar to what has been done with the Doorways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please reach out to Rachael Azotea if you have any questions about the NHJB Community Housing Program razotea@courts.state.nh.us

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- The FO requested this but hasn't received a response.
- Brian Mooney asked how the 38% deficit happened.
 - The SOR funding that is passed through the RCOs is for specific programs (parenting education, 4 new recovery centers, and program expansion). The FO contract, the main contract that funds the RCOs, was funded at 38% less than last year with the caveat to add 2 additional centers. The money for the additional centers is coming but can't be used for existing centers.
- Could Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) funding help bridge?
 - Individual organizations would have to apply, FO can't apply on their behalf. There also may be some CARES funding.

Housing Challenges

- Jessica Parnell is foreseeing a big issue with housing for people on MAT in Nashua, she has also heard of similar issues in Keene and Rockingham County.
- Several are homeless because some shelters won't take people on MAT.
- Kristine Paquette let the group know that NHCORR has been doing training to its certified homes on increasing number of residents with MAT. About 75% of certified houses will take individuals with MAT but those houses are at capacity. It is discriminatory to deny housing based on MAT under the ADA.
- Rachael Azotea from the NHJB Community Housing Program explained how the program could help.
 - The Community Housing Program will have numerous contracts with various types of housing like recovery and transitional housing as well as traditional landlords.
 - The program is focused on people diagnosed with SUD who are involved with the Drug Courts or are exiting incarceration.
 - The program covers the cost of rent.
 - Kristine Paquette asked if the program covers the creation of

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	<p>housing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The grant specifically doesn't call it out, but in conversations with agencies and landlords the security of having rent for a year has made people who perhaps wouldn't want to house someone with a person with SUD initially be opening to having them as a tenant. Housing agency/landlord must accept people with MAT. • Cheryle Pacapelli noted that some houses have limits on the types of MAT accepted (for example: vivitrol only). That's not really being MAT friendly, it is still discriminatory. 	
Legislative Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a lot to report because we are between legislative sessions. The legislature is trying to keep the number of bills to an absolute minimum as they manage remote meetings and a safe way to meet and vote. • Agency budgets were released this week, New Futures is working with the FO and the RCOs to push for full funding. A lot of the work New Futures will be pushing for is around continued adequate funding for important programs • Advocacy/Lobbying Rules for RCOs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Majority of RCOs are nonprofits (501c3) and must be nonpartisan. Can do voter registration drives and candidate information events featuring all of the candidates but must be careful to not appear to endorse a candidate. ○ Employees can volunteer for a candidate or attend candidate events as long as its outside their work hours and they are not connecting it to their current position. They can also make political donations but not during work hours or in relation to their current positions ○ Lobbying is when you're pushing for a particular bill versus advocacy when you're pushing for a specific issue. And there's specific restrictions to the amount of lobbying a nonprofit can do. New Futures offers a training on this and Jake will share information about this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jake Berry will share information about the lobbying/advocacy trainings New Futures provides.

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<p>Other Business/Events/ Announcements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senator Hassan is trying to put together a conversation about the future of the ACA and Medicaid expansion and is looking for people who have been supported by either the ACA or Medicaid expansion. If interested please let Jake Berry know and he can connect you to the senator's office.• New Futures is looking to add individuals to their SUD and AOD advisory committee. The committee meets monthly to help inform the policies New Futures will focus on. Application process is now open.• Thursday Oct 22nd at 4pm, New Futures will be having a virtual open house.• IDN Update – the seven Integrated Delivery Networks (IDNs), funded by the 2015 1115 demonstration waiver are statewide and focus on integrating behavioral health with primary care. As of September 25th the funding for this demonstration waiver in IDN region 2 has ended because the county cannot match the state funding. People who were working in this space have either been laid off or are transitioned. Other regions may be affected. This was supposed to have been funded by December 2021. Pamela Joyal will no longer be working at Riverbend but can be contacted at joyalpamela10@gmail.com or at 603-410-9504.• Donna Marston made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Carolee Longley seconded. Roll Call vote to adjourn, unanimous.	
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