



OPIOID TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

November 12, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions	<p>Members present: Seddon Savage, Laura Chambers, Alex Casale, Joe Hannon, Kiera Latham, Stacey Lazzar, Nick Mercuri, Helen Pervanas, Sara Cleveland (proxy for Jamie Powers), Chris Shambarger, Jeffrey Stewart, Eliza Zarka</p> <p>Members not present: James Boffetti, Ken Bradley, Ryan Fowler, Kate Frey, Matt McKenney, Paula Mattis, Judge Tina Nadeau, James Potter, Jamie Powers, Nicole Rodler, Chief Denise Roy</p> <p>Public participants: Dawn Richardson, Gina Redford, Joe Harding, Joe Lindbeck, Kent Thompson, Kristen Breton, Mark Cioffi, Michaela Hedberg, Rebecca Sky, Teddy Rosenbluth, Kevin Irwin</p> <p>JSI/CHI Staff: Adriana Lopera, Anna Laurence</p>
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Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Welcome and Introduction with approval of September minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were no corrections or additions to meeting minutes from the September and October Task Force meetings. The Task Force voted to approve the meeting minutes from the September and October Task Force meetings Conversation around Task Force membership and mission was deferred to the next Governor's Commission Task Force Chairs meeting 	The CHI Team will post the meeting minutes on the Center for Excellence website.
Drug Monitoring Initiative Update- Review of 2019 Overview - <i>Kiera Latham</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kiera Latham presented key points from both the 2019 overview and September DMI reports 2019 Overview DMI report shows 415 confirmed drug overdose deaths in 2019, which is a 12 percent decrease from 2018. The 30-39 age group had the largest overdose death rate with 32%. Manchester had the highest overdose death rate. EMS/NARCAN data, NARCAN administration incidences decreased by 17% from 2018 to 2019. Treatment admissions increased 9% from 2018 to 2019. The September 2019 data shows 264 confirmed drug overdose deaths. Strafford, Carroll and Hillsborough counties have the highest suspected drug use. Ethanol and ETOH were reported separately previously, but confirmed that these were the same, and data points have been combined. EMS NARCAN administration incidences decreased by 3% from August to September. 2020 has different collection criteria from previous years for emergency department visit data. Emergency department visits decreased from August to September. Treatment admissions increased by 6% from August to September. Meth specific treatments increased 65%. Heroin and 	



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	<p>fentanyl drugs most common drugs that people seek treatment for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Cioffi asked about the change in collection method from 2019 to 2020. How was this change arrived at and what was the change in collection methods? The collection criteria for opioid related emergency department visits changed as of 2020. They now are following the CDC OD2A (overdose to action) criteria. Kiera Latham can not speak to how this differs from previous years collection criteria. • Joe Harding suggested following up with Joanne Miles regarding this change. • Joe Harding asked if the office able to extract what the numbers may look like through the end of the year for the overdose deaths and naloxone administration. Kiera Latham mentioned the medical examiner’s office is projecting 326 deaths for the 2020 year to date, this is the total of those confirmed plus those pending toxicology. 	
Review of NH Substance Use Impact Survey Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seddon Savage presented on survey of the impact of COVID-19 on substance use in NH. The Task Force engaged colleagues at Dartmouth and Dartmouth Hitchcock to conduct the survey. In June presented finding of the first survey, which ran from April – May. The second survey was conducted the first week of August. People were asked about changes they have observed in your community on a variety of items since COVID-19 arrived. • The initial survey was posted within two months of findings, when started to review literature to compare observations, found little in scientific literature about anxiety and relapse during COVID, renewed interest in trying to publish these findings so taking longer to compile report. • Nick Mercuri asked how many people participated in the survey. There were 261 respondents for the recent survey and approximately 350 respondents for original survey. There was a small response rate from EMS. 14% response rate for the survey overall if EMS rate is not included. 	
Review of Data Crosswalk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seddon Savage briefly reviewed a crosswalk of opioid databases in the state that are internally and publically available. The purpose of this crosswalk is to determine ways to integrate this data and make it as accessible as possible. For December or January meeting of the Opioid Task Force, the Task Force will have a presentation from the Data and Evaluation Task Force. After this presentation, the Task Force go through crosswalk looking at different databases and entities compiling the data, frequency of updates and whether the data is internal or public. • Jeffrey Stewart mentioned that the Task Force should look at a MAT prescribing gap analysis. • Joe Harding mentioned we are able to show the number of people receiving MAT and how that 	



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	<p>rate has increased over time by county. This data is specific to Medicaid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jeffrey Stewart mentioned we may be able to get some of this data through PMP. He would like to see the geographically, by substance, and gender.• Mark Cioffi noted the annual report that covers state fiscal report. The PMP does not collect methadone from methadone clinics in NH.• Jeffrey Stewart has had experience throughout the state. Believes from direct experience that there are gaps and that there are gaps driven from accessibility and insurance coverage.• Joe Harding mentioned for Health and Human Services we could show the number of people getting MAT and filter by gender and age range. Would not be able to compare to capacity to provide services on the ground.	
Syringe Services Programs-City of Manchester Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion of Syringe Service Programs (SSP) in NH. About a year ago, the Task Force did a fairly in-depth review of syringe services in the state to support and expand existing services and requested funding that was approved in March.• Concerns arose in Manchester around Syringe Service Programs and a letter was sent to Governor's Commission. DHHS registers programs and collects data but is not responsible for assuring the quality, type or regulating services provided by Syringe Service Programs.• Anna Thomas, director of public health services in Manchester, sent a letter in March with concern about collaboration issues and syringe disposal practices and that there may not be robust training of the volunteers. There was another letter from the City of Manchester in September. Issue between Manchester, Harm Reduction Coalition and DHHS.• Stacey Lazzar reiterated the City of Manchester is in support of SSP. At this point, they need more strategic planning before some of these services are happening. There is a discrepancy between what the Harm Reduction Coalition and the City of Manchester see as best practice. There is a missing piece of collaboration and communication. Conversation happening at the higher level.• The City of Manchester is not currently offering Syringe Service Programs.• Kevin Irwin discussed the role of the Harm Reduction Coalition. He is on the committee that made SSP legal and supported in the state. He has been involved in processes in the state in a number of different ways over the years. The Harm Reduction Coalition is looking for a firm spot where they can conduct those procedures. The more accessible, the more visible they are.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seddon Savage mentioned that having funding has allowed the SSP to advance its services and increase training. • Seddon Savage asked whether the Harm Reduction Coalition would support going back to the legislature and to have oversight regulated through legislation. • Kevin Irwin will bring this up with representatives of the department. • Alex Casale asked what practices are taking place that are not best practices for the Syringe Service Program. • Stacy Lazzar was not sure of components lacking or missing. Stacey mentioned the City of Manchester is looking at the way it is set up to determine if it follows best practice, in particular looking at safety of syringe disposal. Right now the syringes are just in open buckets in the park. One staff member puts these in a personal vehicle and delivers them to the drop off locations. • Seddon Savage said the Task Force has been asked by the Governor's Commission to consider if it would be beneficial to suspend services or suspend funding while issues are resolved? And would we support legislation to developed regulatory oversight? The next Task Force meeting will focus on these two questions. • Joe Hannon commented that it could be harmful suspend a program that helps limit Hep C and HIV cases in the state. • Jeffrey Stewart mentioned that he has volunteered at SSP in Manchester and has been working in Concord on need. Jeffrey knows that Manchester group collects a fair number of data at SSP. • Anna Thomas will be invited to the next Task Force meeting to contribute to this discussion. • Kevin Irwin will also attend the next discussion. • Adriana will add Anna Thomas to the calendar invitations for the Task Force meetings. 	
Legislative Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislature is currently not in session. No updates. 	
Other Business & Sector Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Task Force's investment recommendation was approved by Governor's Commission on October 23rd. 	

Task Force Chair: Seddon Savage

Next Meeting: December 10, 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