



OPIOID TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

**January 14, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

Members present: Seddon Savage, Lauren Chambers, Ken Bradley, Alex Casale, Kate Frey, Joe Hannon, Matt McKenney, Kiera Latham, Stacey Lazzar, Helen Pervanas, Jamie Power, Nicole Rodler, Chief John J. Bryfonski, Chris Shambarger, Eliza Zarka, Dave Mara, Paula Holigan

Members not present: James Boffetti, Ryan Fowler, Paula Mattis, James Potter, Jeffrey Stewart

Public participants: Michaela Hedberg, Mark Cioffi, Donald Hunter, Alexander Manjounes, Mina Alrais, Lynne Sullivan, Joe Lindbeck, Kenny Ng, Pamela O’Sullivan, Sydney Lewis, Tonoka Batts, Kent Thompson, Megan Schiavone, Melissa Magdefal, Matt Schaffer

JSI/CHI Staff: Adriana Lopera, Anna Laurence

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Welcome and Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Task Force will make a recommendation to the Governor’s Commission for Mark Cioffi to represent the PDMP (Prescription Drug Monitoring Program) on the Task Force. 	
Review and Approve December Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helen Pervanas motioned to approve the December Meeting Minutes; Sara Cleveland seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes. There were no comments on the minutes and a unanimous vote for approval of the meeting minutes. 	CHI will post the December meeting minutes on the task force web page.
Drug Monitoring Initiative Update- November 2020 Report - <i>Kiera Latham</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kiera Latham presented an overview of the October 2020 Drug Monitoring Initiative Update The 2020 data for drug overdose deaths by year has not been finalized. As of December 18th there were 316 confirmed overdose deaths and cases 74 pending toxicology EMS naloxone administration data reflects the number of instances that naloxone was administered not the number of doses of naloxone. EMS naloxone administrations decreased by 6% from October to November 2020. Bystander administration data is tracked but is not included in the DMI report. The table is specifically looking at EMS data and not bystander data. The collection criteria for 2020 Opioid related emergency department Visits data is different. The data is more transparent, but not comparable to previous years data. As more data is collected for the new year we will start to see more comparisons with this data. The treatment admission data only includes state funded admissions. This data does not? include Doorways funded admissions, only reflects agencies with contracts through the state. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was discussion around how the overdose death data is broken down by stimulants to include opioid associated deaths, all deaths, and cocaine deaths. A question was raised as to why the data did not reflect all stimulant deaths and should include methamphetamine deaths. Kiera Latham agrees that it would be beneficial to include methamphetamine in this data and will bring this up for consideration.• Even with the unprocessed medical examiner data, the number of overdose death cases will bring us slightly below or around last year's data, but not significantly above last year's data. This does not some match media reports which have sometimes erroneously report trends based on one to two months of data. CDC reported recently NH is one of four states that has not seen an overdose increase during the pandemic.• There was discussion around why treatment trends are down. There is increasing reluctance on going into residential treatment centers where clients may be exposed to COVID-19. All state funded agencies are open, but reluctance due to COVID-19 protocols such as quarantining and wearing masks. There is also a workforce shortage in terms of substance abuse treatment staff, both on the client seeking and treatment availability side. Agencies cannot admit as many clients as they have been able to in the past with limited staff as well as not seeing as many clients due to COVID-19 protocols. Many places are still offering outpatient treatment. There is a shift in the level of care and entry into care.	
Syringe Service Program Discussion Follow-up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seddon Savage provided follow-up conversation around the Syringe Service Programs that took place last month. After last month's meeting, we circulated the CDC document on technical approaches to Syringe Service Program. The Harm Reduction Coalition, The City of Manchester and DHHS have met and are expected to continue discussions. City of Manchester has been invited to present the comprehensive harm reduction plan they are working on once finalized. City of Manchester has a proposed ban on Syringe Service Programs operating out of city parks.	
Legislative Updates – <i>Kate Frey</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kate Frey from New Futures presented a list of policies that New Futures is tracking around alcohol and other drugs and substance use disorder policies.• Kate discussed how the Senate and House will operate moving forward. In the Senate, they will be acting remotely at this point. Full sessions at the Senate may continue with the Senate president and the clerk in the chambers and everyone else remote. In the House, at this point committees are starting out with remote hearings.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the first year of the biennium in which the fiscal budget for the next two years is created. The Governor has to introduce his budget by the second Thursday in February. New Futures is focused on having a healthy budget in five key areas: public health infrastructure, substance use disorder and behavioral health, early childhood, and children's behavior health CHI will send out list of bills and Kate Frey is available for follow-up questions on specific bills. 	
Other Business & Sector Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates 	
Opioid Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon Savage discussed expanding the Opioid Task Force focus to include other drugs and proposed that this Task Force focus on emerging drugs or other issues that need to be tracked quickly and addressed. Other members on the call support bringing this new focus to the Governor's Commission. She will bring to the TF Chairs meeting tomorrow. Within the Strategic Plan the Task Force would also like to see strategy for the Task Force to produce action items for the Governor to act on in three key areas: supply, treatment, and prevention. 	
Data and Evaluation Task Force Presentation - <i>Anna Ghosh and Sasha Bianchi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna Ghosh and Sasha Bianchi from JSI/CHI presenting an overview of the Data and Evaluation Task Force work and their Strategic Plan tracking dashboard. The Data and Evaluation Task Force meetings cover topics such as presentations about data sets and dashboards, agency updates and priorities, concerns around data collection, and review data summaries and evaluation reports as part of grant reporting requirements. Sasha Bianchi presented the Data and Evaluation Task Force Dashboard to monitor Governor's Commission Strategic Plan through the end of 2021. The dashboard includes 4 objectives and 10 metrics and is updated twice a year. Each metric has a target set. The dashboard does not include 2019 and 2020 data. Dashboard: https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/resources/data/nh-gov-commission-action-plan-dashboard/ A question was raised as to whether alcohol induced deaths include deaths due to alcohol intoxication and injury or only alcohol toxicity. Anna Ghosh and Sasha Bianchi will look into this question. Another question was asked about how the data is categorized for overdose deaths for someone who abused both alcohol and drugs. The Data and Evaluation Task Force would need to go back 	



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to the raw data to see how this is determined. The Medical Examiner's office makes that determination.

- There was discussion around the graph showing people who need treatment vs. people who are able to get into treatment. The data is self-reported, and based on self-reported use patterns are identified as needing treatment.
- A question was raised about how the targets for the dashboard were determined. The targets were determined by the trends and what was ambitious but reasonable in terms of the data. The Governor's Commission agreed on targets based on percentage based decreases.
- A suggestion was made for the consideration in the State Plan to look at unhealthy alcohol use along with binge alcohol use since unhealthy alcohol use is associated with more morbidity and mortality over time. Another suggestion was to move towards using the term cannabis when referring to cannabis instead of marijuana.

Task Force Chair: Seddon Savage

Next Meeting: February 11, 2021 // Community Health Institute (Virtual Meeting Only)

Zoom Information: <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/601328716?pwd=ZmlTaVVJVkdhWTAx2FsQWNnVFBxZz09>

Meeting ID: 601-328-716; **Password:** 394029