



# PERINATAL SUBSTANCE EXPOSURE TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Chair: Monica Edgar

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 - 2:30PM-4:30PM

Meeting Minutes

<p>Welcome &amp; Introductions</p>	<p><b>Members Present:</b> Sai Cherala, Farrah Sheehan Deselle, Daisy Goodman, Kristi Hart, Lucy Hodder, Heidi Knoblauch, David Laflamme, Emily Lawrence, Ian Lemmo, Renee Maloney, Donald McNally, Linda Parker, Shannon Rondeau, Jennifer Ross-Ferguson, Molly Rossignol, Lyndi Sargent, Deborah Schachter, Kate Coulter (proxy for Gabi Teed), Bonny Whalen  <b>Members not Present:</b> Louise Brassard, Christine Campbell, Alyssa Cohen, Rebecca Ewing, Kate Frey, Savitri Horrigan, Margaret Minnock, Courtney Tanner Gray  <b>Public Participants Present:</b> Susan Latham, Lindsay Ginter, Anne Marie Mercuri, Lauren LaRochelle, Laura Ringelberg, Annette Carbonneau, Kailene Jones, Katie White  <b>JSI Staff:</b> Hannah Lessels, Rekha Sreedhara, Adriana Lopera, Melissa Schoemmell</p>	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introductions</li> <li>● Approve November Meeting Minutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adriana Lopera conducted a roll call of members present.</li> <li>● Emily Lawrence moved to accept the November meeting minutes and Lucy Hodder seconded the motion.</li> <li>● Task Force voted unanimously to accept the November meeting minutes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CHI team will post November minutes to the PSETF webpage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Member Role and Responsibilities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Adriana Lopera presented the definition of the task force member role.</li> <li>● The list of official members is posted to the PSETF Webpage.</li> <li>● Members are expected to attend all task force meetings, however, if you are not able to attend a meeting, please let Adriana know because votes can only be held if quorum is met in a meeting.</li> <li>● Members can send a proxy if written notice is given to the task force chair at least one day prior to the meeting.</li> <li>● Members vote on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ approval of meeting minutes</li> <li>○ investment recommendations to the GC</li> <li>○ deliverables that task force wishes to present to the GC for approval</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please reach out to Adriana Lopera with any questions.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members are expected to abstain from votes where there may be a conflict of interest.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Task Force Priority Area Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Telehealth</b></li> <li>● <b>Other Updates</b></li> <li>● <b>Doula Services</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Telehealth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We finalized the summary of telehealth resources available in the state and nationally.</li> <li>○ NH Telehealth Alliance: new group sharing advances and resources around telehealth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ New website available with more information.</li> <li>■ Will host an annual summit, monthly meetings, etc.</li> <li>■ All resources and meetings available to members. JSI will be a member and will update those from the task force who are interested in the alliance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <b>Other Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Goal Mama Meeting: Lucy Hodder led a meeting with Goal Mama leadership and task force members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ App was created by Hopelab, a private California-based organization.</li> <li>■ the platform allows birthing people to interface with their providers.</li> <li>■ This platform is owned by Nurse Family Partnership, but they offered the name of the software vendor they used to create it.</li> <li>■ The team surveyed birthing people to find out what they want to know and how they use technology.</li> <li>■ They found that home visiting was a great connection point for using this technology.</li> <li>■ Looking to the future, we want to be innovative about the platforms through which we want to connect with birthing people.</li> <li>■ Farrah Sheehan Deselle shared that interviewing a small population of birthing people showed that most did not know about POSC or viewed it as a negative. Very few expressed</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lucy will reach out to task force members about a follow up meeting.</li> <li>● Adriana will follow up with a poll to find a time to meet about Doula Services next steps.</li> <li>● JSI team will share the slide deck created that covers all details about Doula Services.</li> </ul>

positive experiences. Many expressed that POSC felt punitive or “singling out”. If there were a user-friendly app that birthing people could feel ownership over, it may improve their views around the POSC.

- Hybrid paper/technology approach to POSC may help to make it more accessible.
- Using a smartphone app makes sense for this population.
- Texting platform can be a lower barrier way to reach birthing people. [Caremessage.org](http://Caremessage.org) works with CHCs and other organizations to promote follow up.
- DCYF annual conference dates have been announced as April 5-8th.
  - The task force will present a workshop on April 8th.
- West Virginia Learning Meeting
  - This meeting took place on 1/15/21.
  - Task Force members answered questions on how the task force helped to advance care for perinatal substance exposure in NH and how this might be used in WV.
- Trauma Informed Care
  - TIC information will be hosted on a page on the Center for Excellence website.
  - If you have suggestions for content to be posted, please reach out to Farrah and Rekha.
- Doula Services
  - PSETF team met with Wellsense, the third and final MCO, to present on Doula Services and discuss MCO role and considerations in reimbursement.
  - All three meetings went well. Thank you to the NH Medicaid Office and the MCO contacts and team for being a part of the conversation.
  - JSI will plan a brainstorming meeting among task force members about potential next steps in covering Doula Services.
  - The next question to address is how to make Doula Services a

	sustainable model.	
<b>Wentworth Douglass Hospital Doula Program</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lyndi Sargent began the Doula Program at Wentworth Douglass Hospital in 2017 in order to increase patient satisfaction and improve patient outcomes.</li> <li>● Doulas remained privately employed under an affiliate group (certified and vetted)</li> <li>● Private pay by patient with assistance with reimbursement attempts.</li> <li>● Established a scholarship program in 2018 for free and reduced cost doula services. Fully funded by donations.</li> <li>● Many of the clients who utilize doulas are also involved in substance use services.</li> <li>● Maternal Child Resource Coordinator</li> <li>● 2020 statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WDH Births: 1304</li> <li>○ doula attended births: 82</li> <li>○ Doula scholarships: 18</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Early engagement is crucial</li> <li>● Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cost is a barrier for most</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Follow through/value <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some scholarships were given out with the birthing person never contacting the doula. If the birthing person contributes even \$20, they have higher follow through.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Many don't have phones or ways to communicate.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Reimbursement</li> <li>● Lyndi shared positive comments from patients.</li> <li>● Q&amp;A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is your relationship like with OB providers? How do you indicate the value to them? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ WDH is a midwife-driven facility and persistence has caused most providers to understand the value. Occasionally, the</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<p>program experiences resistance, but doulas continue to show up and demonstrate their value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Have things changed due to COVID? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ WDH sees the doula as part of the medical team and allows outside certified doulas to attend the birth and must follow all COVID protocols.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What is the role of doulas post-delivery and how were you able to create a scholarship? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Patient stories and information about doula benefits made this an easy sell for the foundation.</li> <li>■ Connection to lactation counselors, initial follow up appointment and additional follow up support if needed. Physical support immediately post birth. Helping the parent to feel connected and in the moment after labor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Can you talk more about reimbursement and any insights about the process? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We have only had one successful payment, otherwise they are always denied as the payers do not see this as an essential service. We research the reimbursement process, write a letter and follow up, but this usually does not work. Often Lyndi oversees the paperwork in order to assist the parent. She has found it easier to have one person that knows the system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Can you describe what you accept for certification and how doulas are vetted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ There are many certifications for doulas. We accept any programs that require recertification in order to ensure that there is continued education.</li> <li>■ Lyndi researches each program as they come to her. She also makes sure the certifications are current and that doulas are insured.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Governor's</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jaime Powers, the new director of BDAS met with task force members. She</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JSI team will revise the</li> </ul>

<p><b>Commission Action Plan &amp; Investment Recommendation</b></p>	<p>provided an update on the last round of investment recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ BDAS had several questions about our recommendation for ten recovery coaches to be trained and certified as doulas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ They wanted to know if there was an appetite from RCOs to provide doula services and whether they are willing to participate in this pilot.</li> <li>■ Are hospitals welcoming of doulas?</li> <li>■ What do training programs, certifications and supervision look like?</li> <li>■ Model and approach for reimbursement?</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ How to move this forward? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Jaime felt that it would be helpful to use a TA approach in year one to convene key partner meetings and gather additional information.</li> <li>■ We can adjust the amount we asked for and the timeline if we see fit.</li> <li>■ This project has a large scope and BDAS felt like they needed more TA and information at this stage.</li> <li>■ Use a TA/proposed model approach in the first year.</li> <li>■ The research would address what the model would look and where the interest/resources are in the state. Who would be interested in becoming a doula, what hospitals would like to be involved.</li> <li>■ We cannot name an organization for the TA.</li> <li>■ How might doula services connect to Home Visiting?</li> <li>■ General consensus was to update the recommendation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The GC has \$4.2 million in uncommitted funds. Patrick Tufts would like to hear recommendations to cover \$3.5 million in the February GC meeting. He wants these to be large asks in order to avoid bottlenecks in the contracts process. The requests are due by February 10th. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Last round, the task force considered recommending Perinatal Care</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>recommendation and resubmit it, then update the TF when we know if it has been reapproved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JSI team will follow up via email about how to research and craft the care coordination recommendation.</li> </ul>
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Coordination.

- This would go well with the POSC support that is needed at hospitals.
- Having both douals and care coordination is most beneficial.
- Task force consensus to make a recommendation about care coordination for birth hospitals. Funds to cover salary and administrative support.
- Best practice would be one at each hospital that could connect all resources and keep in touch with the families.
- Home Visiting Pilot has found that the most retention and success comes from hospitals that have a designated person to refer people to home visiting.
- Would need to assess which hospitals are interested in this type of pilot.
- Could be similar to RCO structure with a facilitating organization in order to simplify contracting and allow this org to assess interest and make this available across multiple settings.
- The recommendation could include a research and planning phase to see what model might fit best.
- If task force members have or know of data sources that support care coordination, please reach out to Rekha.
- Volunteers to assist with the research project (brief literature review): Bonny Whalen will reach out to students to help with this, Katie White and Lyndi Sargent to pull together program descriptions and data, Shannon Rondeau to help with lit review.
- JSI team will share our Care Coordination Brief.
- Data/research will be needed by the beginning of February.
- Suggestion to consider funding a residential program. This is unlikely to be approved as BDAS has plans to use Block Grant funding to support residential treatment services.
- GC will update its action plan this year. The GC has asked task forces to

	consider how they will garner input from people with lived experience. Need to submit a plan by 2/19/21. Rekha will follow up with these details in an email. Please respond with your thoughts.	
<b>Member Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please share any updates with JSI team and we will include it in the next email update.</li> </ul>	
<b>Adjournment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● David Laflamme motioned to adjourn. Bonny Whalen seconded the motion. Members voted unanimously to adjourn.</li> </ul>	