



# RECOVERY TASK FORCE

## Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

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

### March 12th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ZOOM OPTION: <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/98102176085>

Call-in Number: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 981 0217 6085 Meeting Password: 494199

<p>Welcome &amp; Introductions</p>	<p><b>Members present:</b> Keith Howard, Kristine Paquette, Lindy Keller, Carolee Longley, Michele Merritt, Elizabeth Miller, Brian Mooney, Cheryle Pacapelli, Jess Parnell, Mitch Yeaton  <b>Members not present:</b> Donna Marston  <b>Public participants:</b> Macey Muller, Jake Berry, Bradford Volz, Rachael Azotea, John Burns, Kerran Vigroux, Mark LeFebvre, Gabi Teed, Laina Reavis, Rene Brooks, Eliza Zarka, Elyssa Clairmont, Daisy Pierce, Kim Bock, David Watters, Jason Snook  <b>JSI/CHI Staff :</b> Melissa Schoemmell, Victoria Babcock</p>	
Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
<p>Attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll call was performed. Quorum was established.</li> </ul>	
<p>Approval of February Meeting Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jess Parnell pg. 3 under HB377 should be changed to NHCORR</li> <li>Mitch Yeaton motioned to approve, Jess Parnell seconded. Minutes were accepted as amended, Cheryle Pacapelli abstained.</li> </ul>	<p>CHI will post the minutes as amended</p>
<p>Governor's Commission Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investment recommendations put forth by the task force were approved.</li> <li>NHCORR request was approved funding at \$200,000. The request was \$400,000 FY21; \$775,000 FY22. The money approved will allow NHCORR to stay open, but it is still not an adequate amount. During the April Governor's Commission meeting, additional funding for NHCORR is expected to be up for discussion.</li> <li>Statewide RCOs were approved funding at 1.1 million in FY21. There will be no additional funding for RCOs in FY22. The assumption being that the 1.1 million will not be coming into contract until the end of FY21 so it will be able to carry over into the following year. Harbor Care is working on a budget modification, because some of their training/travel funds were not expended due to COVID-19. They may be able to add some of this funding to RCOs.</li> </ul>	

# RECOVERY TASK FORCE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on the plans for unexpended State Opioid Response funds. Members were encouraged to address inquiries about this plan to DHHS and the Governor’s Office.</li> </ul>	
Legislative Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Budget</b> House Finance Committee will hold public hearing on state budget on Tuesday, March 16, starting at 1pm. Governor’s budget proposal does maintain 3.1 percent increases to Medicaid reimbursement rates from the current budget</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">HB 602</a>, relative to reimbursement for telemedicine (New Futures opposes)</b> Would eliminate audio-only phone as a reimbursable telehealth service; would eliminate the reimbursement parity provision that requires telehealth services to be reimbursed at the same rate as in-person care Retained in House Health and Human Services Committee</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">HB 212</a>, relative to drug courts and alternative drug offender grant programs (No position)</b> would allow drug courts to order social work or mental health consultations for participants (redundant?). House Judiciary Committee unanimously recommended Inexpedient to Legislate (kill). Will now go on to full House vote</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">HB 569</a>, relative to offering vocational training as part of the drug court and alternative drug offender grant program (No position)</b> Would allow drug courts to order vocational or technical training for participants (redundant?). House Judiciary Committee unanimously recommended Inexpedient to Legislate (kill). Will now go on to full House vote</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">HB 578</a>, relative to standards for mental health courts (New Futures supports)</b> Would instruct the NH Supreme Court to develop standards for a statewide system of mental health courts, similar to drug courts. House Judiciary Committee voted 11-10 to recommend Inexpedient to Legislate (kill). Will now go on to full House vote</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim will send out talking points around HB377 so that members can reach out to their senators.</li> <li>• Michele Merritt mentioned that New Futures will assist people in getting signed on to the budget call and give them talking points.</li> </ul>

# RECOVERY TASK FORCE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><a href="#">HB 377</a>, relative to the authority of the state fire marshal to grant an exemption from fire code requirements to recovery houses (No position)</b> Would allow the fire marshal to grant waivers to recovery homes that are NHCORR-certified. Passed the House by voice vote. Now being introduced in Senate Executive Departments &amp; Administration Committee             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">HB377</a>- Kim Bock mentioned that this bill is discriminatory toward disabled individuals. She mentioned that the bill is redundant and would make it nearly impossible to open recovery homes because the costs for implementation would be too high. She asked that members look at the bill and write their senators.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b><a href="#">HB 558</a>, establishing a committee to study the use of information technology in the legislative process (New Futures supports)</b> Would establish a committee to look at the legislature’s use of technology under COVID and to identify costs and needs to maintain virtual access to the legislature going forward. Retained in the House Legislative Administration Committee</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">SB 149</a>, establishing a harm reduction and overdose prevention program in the Department of Health and Human Services (New Futures supports)</b> Would establish an Overdose Prevention Program within DHHS, allow municipalities to authorize safe injection sites within their communities</li> <li>• Senate Health and Human Services Committee unanimously recommended Ought-to-Pass. Will now go on to full Senate vote.</li> </ul>	
<p>Safe Injection Sites</p> <p>Senator David Watters</p> <p>Jason Snook</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senator David Watters spoke on <a href="#">SB149</a>. He is the prime sponsor of the safe injection site section. The bill was unanimously recommended by health and human services. He has high hopes that it will be unanimously approved by the senate. The bill touches on why harm reduction and overdose prevention programs are so important. The bill enables legislation that allows municipalities to establish harm reduction and overdose prevention programs. They will need to work with local law enforcement, community support, and cooperation from HHS will be utilized as needed.</li> <li>• Senator Watters can be reached at 603-969-9224</li> </ul>	

# RECOVERY TASK FORCE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Burns asked if there were any amendments made around the powers given to municipalities. Senator Watters doesn't believe these changes were made. He agreed with John's point that this may become an issue, but without it, the bill may not have passed.</li> <li>• Jake Berry asked if there was any indication about whether the bill will go through finance before being approved. Senator Watters was unsure, but will check in on it.</li> <li>• Jason Snook attended on behalf of the board of Hope for NH to provide some background and positive outcome data related to safe injection sites. Jason shared the following video for task force members to review: <a href="#">Link to video</a></li> </ul>	
<p>Other Business/Events/Announcements, including updates on re-opening status</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith proposed to continue discussion of safe injection sites at the April meeting. Representation from both sides of the issue in discussion of this topic would be ideal.</li> <li>• Kristine mentioned forming a committee to support areas of funding needs and utilization. John Burns, Kerran Vigroux, Kristine Pacquette, Bradford Volz, and Mark LeFebvre will join the subcommittee; Jess Parnell will head it up. Keith would like this to be a fact-finding committee.</li> <li>• Carolee mentioned that an hour-long meeting may not be working, and we may want to consider going to an hour and a half. Decision to keep the meetings to 1 hour with the expectation that the meeting may run a few minutes late/</li> <li>• Cheryle mentioned to adjourn. Mitch Yeaton seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess P will organize a follow-up meeting for the fact finding committee.</li> </ul>