



Recovery Task Force

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs



Date/Time: May 14th, 9:00 AM-10:00 AM | **Task Force Co-Chairs:** Keith Howard & Kristine Paquette

<p>Welcome & Introductions</p>	<p>Members Present: Keith Howard, Jess Parnell, Mitch Yeaton, Michelle Merritt, Kristine Paquette, Brian Mooney, Lindy Keller, Carolee Longley, Elizabeth Miller, Donna Marston Members Not Present: Cheryle Pacapelli Public Participants Present: Adam Aquizap, Elyssa Clairmont, Laina Reavis, Eliza Parka, Kerran Virgroux, Gabi Teed, Daisy Pierce, Heidi Cloutier, Bree Norton JSI Staff Present: Hannah Lessels & Victoria Babcock</p>	
<p>Agenda Item</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Action Item</p>
<p>Attendance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quorum was met. 	
<p>Approval of April Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitch Yeaton motioned to accept the minutes as written, Brian Mooney seconded. Minutes accepted as written. 	<p>CHI will post minutes as written.</p>
<p>COVID Mask Mandate Lifted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are recovery organizations handling the news that the mask mandate has been lifted? • Nashua still requires a mask mandate, and other recovery centers are still relying on telehealth. • Hope for Recovery has found that there is a low number of recovery housing residents who have been vaccinated. They have been asking folks orally about their vaccination status. • There seems to be vaccine hesitancy in Manchester and in recovery housing. Kristine Paquette reported that transportation isn't the issue with her residents. Brian Mooney mentioned that hesitancy may be based around mistrust of the government. 	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope for Recovery has been offering vaccines for the homeless and has found this program to be very successful. • Members mentioned having vaccinated people show their vaccine card to attend in person meetings and potentially show others that their peers are getting the vaccine. • Adam Aquizap offered to assist Jess Parnell with educating their members around vaccine efficacy and safety. • Amoskeag health is having a vaccine clinic and can put together a group for recovery house residents. 	
<p>Governor's Commission Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has not been a Governor's Commission meeting since the last recovery meeting. • The homeless outreach funding that was pushed through has been received and awarded. • Lindy Keller mentioned that the proposals were received and those that are being awarded should have their contracts relatively soon. 	
<p>Legislative Update</p>	<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Finance Committee is continuing its budget deliberations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Public hearing was held on Tuesday, May 4th ◦ Senate Finance Committee is likely to vote on its budget proposal by the end of May; will then go on to full Senate vote • House of Representatives voted April 7th to approve its budget by a 205-178 count <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ House budget proposal includes increased Medicaid reimbursement rates from current budget; includes \$750,000 for State Loan Repayment Program (down from about \$3.1 million in the current year) 	



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- o Does not include \$220,000 funding for 'My Life, My Quit' tobacco prevention and cessation program (requested by DHHS)
- o Proposal includes back of the budget cuts, which could impact HHS staffing and programming; proposed cuts to Liquor Commission enforcement positions; includes ban on teaching and training of so-called 'divisive concepts' (HB 544), including race and gender

SB 149, establishing a harm reduction and overdose prevention program in the Department of Health and Human Services (New Futures supports)

- Provision has been removed establishing an Overdose Prevention Program within DHHS, allowing municipalities to authorize safe injection sites within their communities
- Senate voted unanimously to approve bill without OPP provision
- House Human Services Committee is now considering the bill; Executive session scheduled for Monday, May 17th at 9am
 - o There is movement to restore the OPP provision as a study committee (Kerran Vigroux may know more)

HB 615, reducing the penalty for certain first offense drug possession charges (New Futures supports)

- Would reduce criminal charges, maximum sentences and fines for certain first-time possession charges
- Passed the House by voice vote; Senate Judiciary Committee voted 3-2 to recommend the bill Inexpedient to Legislate (kill); bill to be voted on by full Senate on Thursday, May 13th

HB 511, relative to the penalties for possession of certain controlled drugs (New Futures supports)



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- Would reduce the criminal charges to misdemeanor for certain possession charges
- Bill died in House

HB 377, relative to the authority of the state fire marshal to grant an exemption from fire code requirements to recovery houses (No position)

- Would allow the fire marshal to grant waivers to recovery homes that are CORE-certified
- Passed the House by voice vote; passed the Senate by 23-1 vote; Signed into law by Governor on Thursday, May 6th

HB 602, relative to reimbursement for telemedicine (New Futures opposes)

- 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

HB 578, relative to standards for mental health courts (New Futures supports)

- Would instruct the NH Supreme Court to develop standards for a statewide system of mental health courts, similar to drug courts
- Bill died in House of Representatives

HB 544, relative to the propagation of divisive concepts (New Futures opposes)

- Would ban the dissemination of certain "divisive concepts" like unconscious bias related to sex and race
- Language was included in the House Budget Proposal, now under consideration in Senate Finance Committee

This was struck down by federal courts but is still being pushed for in New Hampshire and may have implications for federal funding.



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<p>Fact Finding Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee has now met three times and had Lindy present on funding/contracting within BDAS. • The fact-finding committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ discussed what could be done to increase funding opportunities across the state to increase recovery programs such as respite beds, maternity respite beds, others. ◦ compiled a list of hospitals providing peer support and recovery coaching to see where their funding is coming from. The majority of them are funded through SOR2. Jess P is planning to check in with Don on getting SOR2 funding for the recovery programs they are hoping to fund. • Lindy Keller raised the potential issues with putting funding through RCOs and/or hospitals. She mentioned that if a request for SOR funding was made the committee should decide which option would work best. • Hospitals vs RCO having recovery coaches- Brian Mooney found that hospital onboarding processes can be rigorous is a barrier. This will need to be thought about while going forward with the hospital model. • Mitch Yeaton will share the Emergency Department recovery coach information he created with the committee. 	<p>Jess Parnell will send a doodle poll to the entire task force for anyone who would like to join.</p>
<p>Other Business/Events/Announcements</p>	<p>Alternative Peer Groups- Heidi Cloutier (UNH): Heidi has been working a model of youth peer support to help build out services across the substance use continuum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revive recovery will be launching their alternative peer group in Nashua in June • Hope for Recovery will be launching a group in early June as well. • Seacoast Recovery and Live free are serving youth from 12-25. 	



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- Keith Howard mentioned that there is a concern around age appropriate meetings, so their meetings will be on Saturdays with teenagers alone. Jess Parnell mentioned that Revive will be implementing similar measures.
- Questions about APGs or Creating Connections NH? email Heidi.cloutier@unh.edu or check out our website with resources added all the time: <https://iod.unh.edu/projects/creating-connections-nh/alternative-peer-groups>
- Heidi also mentioned that they will be hosting IDN 4 & 6 to cohost a lunch-n-learn webinar series on Substance use privacy 42 CFR part II 6/4 11:45 a.m. -12:45 6/30 12-1 and 9/7 12-1 p.m.
- Mitch Yeaton motioned to adjourn and Carolee seconded.

Next meeting: June 11th, 2021 9:00 AM- 10:00 AM