



OPIOID TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

April 8, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introductions

Members present: Seddon Savage, Ken Bradley, Chief John Bryfonski, Alex Casale, Mark Cioffi, Sara Cleveland, Ryan Fowler, Kate Frey, Joe Hannon, Donald Hunter, Kiera Latham, Stacey Lazzar, Helen Prevanas, Nicole Rodler, Chris Shambarger, Dave Mara, Eliza Zarka

Members not present: James Boffetti, Lauren Chambers, Paul Holigan, Paula Mattis, Matthew McKenney, Jeffrey Stewart

Public participants: Brianna Hockenberry, Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, Lynne Sullivan, Kristen Breton, Chantal Avard, Kerran Vigroux, Dawn Richardson, Randy Leete, Kent Thompson, Kenny Ng, Macey Muller, Daniel Andrus, Melissa Lee, Rachael Azotea, Bethany McLeman, Melanie Boyd, Tonoka Batts-Settles, Liz Quinn, Daniel Andrus

JSI/CHI Staff: Adriana Lopera, Anna Laurence

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Welcome and Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quorum was reached. 	
Review and Approve March Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joseph Hannon motioned to approve the March meeting minutes. Chief Bryfonski 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 March meeting minutes to the task force web page.
Brief follow-ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last month, the Task Force discussed requesting funding from the Governor’s Commission for Project FIRST. The Task Force approves this request and there are no additional requests. Alex Casale presented an update on Drug Court Housing. Funding for the Drug Court Housing program came from Governor Commission and acts as an alternative sentencing program to drug courts. Historically there was a duplication of efforts with old contracts and it was determined that it is easier to manage the contract through the Department of Justice and enter into a memorandum of understanding. The goal of the program is to create as few barriers as possible to different types of housing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rachael Azotea continued the presentation on Drug Court housing. The program started in October and now has 160 participants with 125 in housing. The majority of those participants are in sober living. There is an emphasis on individual housing plans to ensure participants can be self-sufficient. 	



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- Different housing options include emergency housing and shelters. The bulk of participants are in sober living and transitional living. The program currently has 84 ongoing contracts many are sober living apartments. Apartment placements may be 3-6 months full support and then taper off support. The program adjusts for what the participant needs.
- Sober living is in a group setting and there are sober living facilities across the state. The program is only able to contract with housing that is New Hampshire CORR (NH Coalition of Recovery Residences) certified and accepts all forms of MAT.
- The only population not eligible for housing is someone coming out of a county jail. They have not had to turn anyone down for services. The only reason to turn someone away is if they do not qualify.
- The current outcomes data that is being tracked includes: Referrals (DOC, DC), counties, resources utilized (tier of support), duration of time of assistance, employment status on entry, and demographic. They have also added a community housing options to database to see who is progressing, those being terminated, those who have benefited from the program.
- There is no update on the TEMSIS database at this time.
- Drug purity and cost data update. Ken Bradley has information that DEA collects through qualitative and quantitative analysis on pricing data. HIDTA may also have data. Chief Bryfonski will work with colleagues to have a presentation on price and purity at next month's TF meeting with anecdotal evidence around informants and traffickers.
 - Ryan Fowler is curious about the prevalence and concentration of the binding agents levamisole and xylazine being found in NH samples of confiscated drugs. Ryan has seen an increase in skin conditions from these drugs and is interested and seeing data these two drugs as cutting agents. It would be helpful to have test strips to test for these two substances.
 - Ken Bradley noted that xylazine is in the supply chain in NH. There is a new tablet substance that contains fentanyl, cocaine, and xylazine.
 - Chief Bryfonski mentioned research conducted in Delaware. Conducted fatality review and drug analysis to determine what drugs were discovered in mortality cases. He did a



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	<p>small project submitting a number of samples for analysis. Deep dive into what we are seeing with methamphetamines and opioids. This might be something we would want to look at in NH.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Hannon is interested in what happens when supply chain is interrupted. If there are a lot of local arrests, interesting to see if this has an impact in increasing or decreasing overdose deaths. • Chief Bryfonski also noted the AMR (an EMS provider) numbers for March in Nashua had 400% increase in overdoses, for the first time Nashua surpassed Manchester. He is interested in understanding the cause of this increase. • There is literature on the toxicity of levamisole and xylazine. Joe Hannon noted levamisole can cause skin alterations particularly with cocaine. • The Task force will continue this supply discussion next month 	
Legislative Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kate Frey will send around a document with information on the current bills. • House passed a budget, which was sent to the Senate, some concerns in the budget around lack of funding from a public health perspective and language added into the bill, concerned about HB 544 that would affect equity work, will advocate for additional funding and start over with some of the language. 	
NH Overdose Death Trend Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seddon Savage began discussion around why drug related deaths in New Hampshire are declining. Seddon shared a document she created that inventories many strategies aimed at reducing opioid related harm. The Task Force reviewed the list of activities with the aim of creating a more comprehensive inventory and, eventually, filling in information on costs, available data, and making a timeline to help understand the impact of various strategies and guide future actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Casale mentioned that there should be information encompassing that jails are offering MAT in all forms, reducing release related overdoses. Many jails have created MAT plans to give out suboxone. • Ken Bradley will provide written information on the DOC locations in the state that provide MAT services. • The group discussed how to measure the impact of the Syringe Service Program. Joe Hannon mentioned Queen City and Hand Up. In first 18 months, Queen City had over 	



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	<p>3,000 overdose reversals among participants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Hannon noted state reporting does not require reporting of overdose reversals. • Donald Hunter commented on overdose reversals. For the State Opioid Response grant, they have difficulty collecting information on overdose reversals due to poor feedback on number of overdoses reversed using SOR kits. This is a big gap in data but not pushed for privacy issues. • Safe Stations Manchester is still in effect but Nashua ended their program last summer. Manchester started in late 2016 and Nashua started up not too long after that (early 2017). Seacoast Community Access to Recovery, transition to SOS, this has been around even longer than Safe Station. • Chief Bryfonski mentioned there are also a number of police related intervention programs, based on notion that we come in contact with substance use through property crimes and can divert them to a recovery coach. • There are two different LEADS programs: instruction in school and also Law enforcement assisted diversions, one is a prevention tool and one an intervention tool • Kiera Latham can reach out to Recovery Friendly Workplaces (RFW) for data on impact and start up dates. David Mara oversees this program and noted they are developing ways to track impact, such as looking at how RFW policies have impacted sick and leave time. • Donald Hunter mentioned recovery housing is challenging due to legislation and local concerns about availability and safety standards for recovery housing through the recognition of the NH CORR. Doorways provides funding for recovery housing through SOR grant but there are restrictions. Aiming to incentivize improvement of recovery housing through state funding. • Add: Student assistance counselors to the list • Seddon Savage will request TA from JSI to do this project, reaching out to fill in some of the blanks (data, funding/costs, timeline) between meetings. 	
Data Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	
Other business & Sector Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	



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Task Force Chair: Seddon Savage

Next Meeting: May 13, 2021 // Community Health Institute (Virtual Meeting Only)

Zoom Information: <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/601328716?pwd=ZmlTaVVJVkdhWTxb2FsQWNnVFBxZz09>

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