



HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage and Lindy Keller

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Present: Seddon Savage, Lindy Keller, Jake Berry, Dan Andrus, Krystal Sieradzki, Polly Morris, Julie Hazell-Felch, Susan Latham, Molly Rossignol, Jim Potter
Public Participants Present: Paul Kiernan, Victoria Babcock, Nora Janeway, Peter Ames, Carol Furlong, Ann Branen, Robbie Floyd, Jan Thomas, Kristin Jordan, Karen Vigroux
Absent: Cynthia Cohen, Gerry Hervern, Peter Mason, Kerry Nolte

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Steps
Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon welcomed new members, and reminded public members that they are welcome to weigh in on agenda items but would not be able to vote. 	
Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seddon motioned to accept the minutes, Jim Potter seconded. The minutes will be accepted as is. 	Minutes will be posted on the website.
Governor's Commission Funding Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Coordination: This recommendation was funded at \$300,000 instead of \$200,000. This funding was weighed because the perinatal task force was also looking at care coordination for POSC. They had targeted a year of planning and will launch a pilot the following year. A pilot for hospital care coordination for SUD and OUD patients by the healthcare task force. The upped amount of funding will allow for more targeted focus groups for collaborative task force efforts. Lindy mentioned that while funding has been approved- the money may be backlogged. The contracts unit is aware that these requests have been listed as priorities. She is unsure of a timeframe. The taskforce also signed onto the treatment task force's recommendation on trainings for healthcare workers assisting with folks on Methamphetamine. There will be money coming through, and the taskforce may be able to adjust training manuals previously used for first responders for other health workers. Molly mentioned screening, recognition of signs and symptoms, as well as strategies to manage methamphetamine use. Susan mentioned that she has seen a rise in patients coming in under the influence of methamphetamine. Paul mentioned that the stigma associated with Meth seems to be more significant. Susan backed this up, because patients that have come in have acted so erratically that law enforcement has had to be brought in. CEUs and Webinars may be a good route to train health care workers- potentially utilizing the ECHO model. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The TRUST Manual draft was mentioned by Molly and she will reach out and ask if she can share the final report. The manual does not touch on ED management or immediate care it is more long term. Lindy mentioned framing this as psycho-stimulants instead of meth. ● BDAS has a one-pager on meth that the taskforce may want to share. ● Seddon mentioned a 2019 report that the taskforce can also make available. ● Peter and Dan offered to disseminate these materials. Bi-state can also share this information. ● Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) is an organization that unites organizations is a good method of disseminating information to EDs. 	
<p>Legislative & Policy Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HB 176, allowing beverages, wine, and mixed drinks to be sold for take out and delivery by restaurants holding an on-premises license (New Futures opposes) Would allow alcohol beverages, including wine and mixed drinks, to be sold by take-out and delivery. Hearing was held February 9th in House Commerce Committee; Executive sessions are scheduled for Tuesday, March 2 and Wednesday, March 3 ● HB 247, relative to treatment alternatives to opioids (New Futures is neutral) Would require health care practitioners to refer or prescribe alternative treatments, including chiropractic, physical therapy, occupational therapy, acupuncture, others, before prescribing opioids. Bill was 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 Hearing was held Tuesday, Feb. 23, in the House Judiciary Committee. Executive session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2. ● 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 ● February 2nd hearing was recessed amid strong opposition. Hearing will resume Monday, March 8, 10am in House Health and Human Services Committee. Amendments are being proposed. ● SB 59, relative to the collaborative care model service delivery method (New Futures supports) 	

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	<p>Would require commercial insurers to reimburse primary care physicians for mental health/SUD treatment delivered under the collaborative care model</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passed Senate unanimously • SB 149, adopting omnibus legislation on health and human services (New Futures supports) Includes provisions that would establish an Overdose Prevention Program in DHHS, and would allow municipalities to authorize safe injection sites. Hearing was held February 18 in Senate Health and Human Services Committee; Committee has not yet held executive session • Jake will try to track down an update on alcohol legislation for Seddon. 	
<p>Continue Review Telehealth Changes Since COVID</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A summary of telehealth services provisions was created for state and federal levels. The taskforce recommendations were also included. Seddon reviewed the summary document. • Seddon recommended retaining OTP abilities to provide buprenorphine • OTPs can admit new • OTP retain the ability to provide buprenorphine via audio and/or audio video telehealth. Susan mentioned that they have been doing in-person visits, so they have not come across this. Lindy raised the concern that buprenorphine is generally provided in-person, and had concerns around the phrasing of this recommendation. • Susan mentioned reaching out to Mike in regards to providing take-home doses of medication and home-delivery. Seddon mentioned that the taskforce should defer on the OTP delivery of methadone to the homes of patients. Susan mentioned that they are doing curbside dosing for individuals under quarantine. Nurses go out and monitor and administer medication. 	
<p>Discuss Strategic Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The taskforce reviewed their strategies and priorities as well as goals and roles. • Would taskforce members be interested in spending a session going through and updating the strategic plan? Carol Furlong mentioned that it was worthwhile to review and go through this discussion, Peter Ames agreed. 	
<p>Other news and sector updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molly has become the medical director of the NH's medical health program. • Dan mentioned that they are getting good responses from their expansion into in-patient care for the NH hospital system. They have also been rolling out training modules and manuals. • Add more information to the roll out of these new expansions to the next meeting agenda. • The brain injury association presented to the treatment taskforce for training on opioid use and brain injuries, this funding was approved. There was \$150,000 awarded to these training methods. 	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lindy suggested that folks keep an eye out on the departments RFP website. They all have to go through governor's council. | |
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Next Meeting: March 25, 2021, 9am-10:30am