



TREATMENT TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

Task Force Co-Chairs: *Stephanie Savard & Shanna Large-Reusch*

March 19, 2021

Meeting Minutes

<p>Welcome & Introductions</p>	<p>Participating Members: Stephanie Savard, Shanna Large-Reusch, Jess Barnett, Jake Berry, Danni Bultemeier, Alex Casale, Dianne Pepin Castrucci, Sara Cleveland, Monica Edgar, Stephen Noyes, Emily Robbins, Kerran Vigroux Participating Non-Members: Paul Kiernan, John Karikas, Palana Belken, Melanie Boyd, Joyce Fulweiler, Carol Furlong, Dawna Jones, Joe Lindbeck, Elizabeth McGowan, Liz Quinn, Andrea Rancatore, Gina Redford, Heather Smith, Kent Thompson</p>	
<p>Agenda Item</p>	<p>Discussion</p>	<p>Action Steps</p>
<p>Introductions & Review of January Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jess Barnett was selected to become a new member of the Treatment Task Force. She brings a unique perspective as an individual with lived experience. She was selected out of a pool of candidates. • Dianne Castrucci motioned to approve the minutes. Sara Cleveland seconded the motion. • Aside from 3 members who abstained from voting due to not being present at the January meeting, members voted unanimously to approve the January minutes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHI will post an updated membership list and the edited minutes on the Center's website.
<p>Presentation by Andrea Rancatore, MS, LCMHC, LPC, MLADC, ADS NH Healthy Families Director, Behavioral Health, SUD Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Certified Recovery Support Worker Workforce Development Program (CRSWWDP) has been created to expand workforce, and 147 CRSW candidates have been sponsored or mentored through the program. There have been 16 graduates. • The CRSWWDP developed a pilot Ready for My Recovery in 2019, which supports access to treatment, incentivizes treatment, and works with youth on initiatives such as the Vaping Prevention Contest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment Task Force members are encouraged to reach out to Andrea if they are interested in hearing more about the CRSWWDP.
<p>Legislative & Policy Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Finance Committee has been meeting to determine the state budget. The committee has discussed providing additional funds for behavioral health and the healthcare workforce. The Governor's budget proposal issued in February suggested a new Medicaid reimbursement rate of 3.1%. The deadline for the House to pass its budget proposal is April 9th. • HB 212 would allow drug courts to order social work or mental health consultations for participants. This bill is seemingly redundant as these services are already provided. The House Judiciary Committee unanimously recommended killing the bill. 	

	<p>New Futures does not have an official position on the bill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB 247 would require health care practitioners to refer or prescribe alternative treatments such as chiropractic services, acupuncture, physical therapy, and occupational therapy before prescribing opioids. The bill was retained in the House Health and Human Services Committee. New Futures does not have an official position on the bill. • HB 578 would instruct the NH Supreme Court to develop standards for a statewide system of mental health courts analogous to drug courts. The House Judiciary Committee recommended that the bill be killed by a party line vote 11-10. The bill will move onto the House. New Futures supports the bill. There is work being done to develop standards for mental health courts even if this bill does not pass. Standards would regulate court staffing, case loads, procedures for sentencing individuals diagnosed with co-occurring mental health disorders, and more. • HB 602 would eliminate audio-only phone calls as a reimbursable telehealth service and would eliminate the reimbursement parity provision that requires telehealth services to be reimbursed at the same rate as in-person care. The bill was retained in the House Health and Human Services Committee. The bill is not popular among the public. New Futures opposes the bill. • SB 59 would require commercial insurers to reimburse primary care physicians for mental health/SUD treatment delivered under the collaborative care model. The Senate passed the bill unanimously. New Futures supports the bill. • SB 149 includes provisions that would establish an Overdose Prevention Program in DHHS and would allow municipalities to authorize safe injection sites. The Senate passed the bill with a 23-1 vote and the bill is going to the Senate Finance Committee for review. New Futures supports the bill. 	
<p>Governor’s Commission Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Richard Rawson led a presentation on methamphetamine and other stimulants at the Governor’s Commission meeting. See the recording here. • Transitional living programs had previously received \$1 million in funding. However, this money has not been spent because of COVID-19 complications and the bureau’s desire to learn more about the needs of the people in the programs first. The Treatment Task Force put in a request to supplement those funds with \$750,000 for 	

	<p>the 2022 and 2023 fiscal periods each. This money will be used to improve infrastructure, bed capacity, and cover room and board. This money will be allocated to vendors through an RFP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treatment Task Force received \$125,000 last year for burnout and self-care programs to assist with treatment staff retention. The Task Force requested an additional \$150,000 for the 2022 and 2023 fiscal periods each for harm reduction and trauma informed trainings. These funding requests were approved. Some of this money will go towards understanding the link between traumatic brain injuries and opioid use. • The Treatment Task Force increased their proposed amount of funding to include funding for mental health first aid for youth in collaboration with the Prevention Taskforce from \$150,000 to \$300,000. • The Treatment Task Force has worked closely with other task forces in order to ensure that initiatives that are of interest to multiple task forces are funded. The Treatment TF proposed a funding request for trainings and the final request was proposed and approved as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Current fiscal year: \$250,000 for Healthcare TF Training Initiatives related to methamphetamine; ○ SFY 2022: \$250,000 for Treatment TF (Brain Injury, Trauma-Infomred and Harm Reduction Intiatiives and Prevention TF Mental Health First Aid for Youth (\$125K each) ○ SFY 2023: \$150,000 for Treatment TF (continued trainings per above) 	
<p>Strategic Action Committee Breakout Sessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treatment Task Force created two workgroups. One workgroup is dedicated towards supporting practice change in SUD, mental health, and integrated health care (Integrated Services workgroup). The other workgroup is dedicated towards special treatment services for special populations (Priority Populations workgroup). • Shanna Large-Reusch is supporting this workgroup while seeking leader for the the Integrated Services workgroup. The group is developing a survey for hospitals in order to further understand their needs. The workgroup will be reaching out to the Healthcare TF to assess strategic goals that may align with this Tx TF strategy. • Sara Cleveland leads the Priority Populations workgroup. The group is identified 	

	<p>priority populations and chose to narrow down the focus to children of parents with SUD. The workgroup is developing an inventory of services already in place for children of people in treatment or recovery.</p>	
Member Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Hampshire drug courts are pursuing a grant that would provide transportation for individuals in drug court for non-medical appointments. The company that they would be collaborating with has done transportation funded by Medicaid in the past. • Ammonoosuc Community Health Services is developing a game to help treat depression and anxiety in youth. The game is currently in beta. ACHS is seeking youth to test the game. 	

Next Meeting: Friday, May 21, 2021, 9am-11am (Virtually); **Zoom Information:** <https://jsi.zoom.us/j/819262402>;
Call-In Information: 646-558-8656; **Meeting ID:** 946 1611 3705; **Passcode:** 989557