

# GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

9:30am-11:00am

Meeting via Zoom

## Members Present:

Steve Ahnen, *NH Hospital Association*  
Mark Armaganian, *NH Liquor Commission, Division of Enforcement*  
Alex Casale, *NH Courts*  
Katja Fox, *NH Department of Health & Human Services*  
Keith Howard, *Recovery Representative*  
Tim Lena, *Prevention Professional*  
Helene Anzalone, *Community College System of NH*  
Dave Mara, *Governor's Advisor on Addiction & Behavioral Health*  
Matt McKenney, *Business & Industry Association*  
David Mikolaities, *NH National Guard*  
Honorable Tina Nadeau, *New Hampshire Superior Court*  
Joseph Ribsam, *NH Department of Health & Human Services, DCYF*  
Tym Rourke, *NH Charitable Foundation*  
Kathie Saari, *Faith Community Representative*  
Seddon Savage, *NH Medical Society*  
Stephanie Savard, *Treatment Professional*  
Kate Thomson, *NH Nurses Association*  
Patrick Tufts, *Chair, Granite United Way*  
David Watters, *NH State Senator*

**1. Welcome and Opening Remarks and Roll Call** – Patrick Tufts, the Commission Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming the Commission members and leading a roll call vote. The Chair then invited Director Katja Fox to provide an update on the Department of Health and Human Services.

**2. DHHS Department Update** – Director Fox shared that DHHS has been awarded a State Opioid Response grant extension called SOR2. DHHS has an extraordinary number of contracts seeking approval from Governor and Council and the department is working diligently to secure retroactive funding to prevent a gap in services. State Opioid Response grant 2 (SOR2) will allow for the continued funding of programs created under the first SOR grant and will allow for expansion of services to include the treatment of stimulants. Director Fox concluded her update by sharing that there have been over 35 interested applicants for the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services Director position.

The Chair then asked for questions from the members for Director Fox. Keith Howard noted a concern that the reduction in recovery funding may lead to four recovery centers closing. Director Fox stated the department shares that concern and is aware of the need for funding. Seddon Savage asked how the SOR2 funding will address the need for alcohol use disorder services. Director Fox answered that they are working with the Doorways to put funding from the Commission into contract to support alcohol use disorder services. Monica Edgar asked how long SOR2 is for. Director Fox answered it is for two years of funding with funds being distributed annually.

**3. Executive Director's Update** – Katja Fox introduced Jaime Powers. Director Fox and Jaime Powers worked in tandem to provide an update. Ms. Powers shared the contracts that are being processed this month. There are four contracts that they expect to see go before the Governor and Council before the end of the month. There are an additional five contracts that are in process. The contract that expands multi-tiered systems of support was approved. Seeing no questions from the members the Chair then invited Stephanie Savard, Chair of the Treatment Task Force, to provide a presentation on involuntary civil commitment.

**4. Treatment Task Force Involuntary Civil Commitment Act Recommendation** –Stephanie Savard, Chair of the Treatment Task Force, began by summarizing the report that was created by the task force on involuntary civil commitments. Ms. Savard shared that the Treatment Task Force began researching and exploring the fit and feasibility of involuntary civil commitments in New Hampshire. The Treatment Task Force partnered with the Center for Excellence to do extensive research on this topic beginning with a literature review. The task force had multiple presentations from other states with involuntary civil commitment laws. Then they had a listening session with over 50 people with lived experience on the pros and the cons of this issue. After this, the final vote of the task force was not to promote involuntary civil commitments for New Hampshire. The concerns were that there was not a lot of evidence to show the efficacy of involuntary civil commitments and that New Hampshire lacks the infrastructure to support this act. Ms. Savard then shared the basic tenants that the task force felt should be a part of an involuntary civil commitment act if one were to be created in New Hampshire.

The Chair thanked the task force members for the work they did on this topic. The Chair then opened the floor to questions. Chief Justice Nadeau asked if Dr. Mee-Lee made a recommendation or just provided information on involuntary civil commitments. Ms. Savard shared that he helped them form the basic tenants of what an involuntary civil commitment should include and made sure they were based on the American Society for Addiction Medicine criteria for treatment. The Chair then recommended the Commission review these tenants and be prepared at a future meeting to make some recommendations based on the efforts of the Treatment Task Force. The Chair introduced the next agenda item and gave the floor to Amy Daniels from JSI.

**5. SFY2020 Annual Report** – First, Amy Daniels requested a revision on the four programs that were approved in the consent agenda. Ms. Daniels shared that the data of one of the four programs is less suited for the data analysis needed for the prevention cost effectiveness report and asked that it be exchanged for a better suited program: Leadership in Prevention. Ms. Daniels shared three reports to be forwarded to the Governor after approval from the Commission. She shared the State Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report, the State Fiscal Year Midyear Report, and the State Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report for review. Ms. Daniels gave a summary of the State Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report and shared that the report highlights accomplishments of the task forces but is purposefully brief to make it more accessible to the public. The Chair then thanked the staff at JSI who worked on putting together this report and all the Commission members who provided updates. The Chair then asked for questions or edits to the reports. Seddon Savage suggested that more hyper-links may be beneficial in future reports. Seeing no further comments or questions the Chair proceeded to the next agenda item.

**6. Consent Agenda** – The Chair shared the consent agenda and reviewed what was included in this vote. The Chair then asked for a motion on approving the consent agenda. Steve Ahnen moved to approve the consent agenda. Senator Watters seconded the approval of the consent agenda. The Chair then asked for any discussion on the motion. The motion passed with over two-thirds votes in support. The Chair then moved to review and approve the funding recommendations.

**7. Task Force Funding Recommendations** – The Chair reviewed the recommendations for funding from the task forces. The Healthcare Task force requested funding for supports for alcohol use disorder treatment. The Chair asked for questions on this recommendation and asked the task force Chair, Seddon Savage, to provide any additional information on the recommendation. Ms. Savage shared that these recommendations align with the strategic plan and are evidence based. Alex Casale asked if other task forces would support this recommendation. Stephanie Savard, the Treatment Task Force Chair wrote in support of this recommendation.

The next recommendation was from the Joint Military Task Force. The Chair asked for anyone questions on this recommendation. There were no questions for the Joint Military Task Force, so the

Chair proceeded to the next item. The Opioid Task Force recommendation was reviewed next. There were no questions on the Opioid Task Force recommendation. The next recommendation reviewed was the Prevention Task Force suggestion. Tim Lena, the Prevention Task Force Chair, shared that there was a need for funding to support the Student Assistance Program to ensure that it continued. There were no questions for the Prevention Task Force recommendation. The Recovery recommendation was reviewed and Keith Howard, the Chair of the Recovery Task Force, shared that there is a recognized need for recovery supports for people experiencing homelessness. Stephanie Savard shared that collaboration between housing support services and encampment outreach is recommended.

After reviewing the five recommendations the Chair asked Director Fox if there were any concerns from DHHS in the slate of recommendations that are redundant or would be difficult to get contract approval. The Director stated that the task forces do a tremendous job in making recommendations and she sees no redundancy. She did share that these funds would more likely not be available until six months from this meeting because of limitations in the contracts unit. The Chair then asked for a motion to approve the slate of funding recommendations. Tym Rourke made a motion to approve the funding recommendations. Matt McKenney seconded the motion. The Chair then asked for a vote to approve the motion. The motion was approved by a majority of Commission members. The Chair then moved to the task force updates and asked the Chairs to provide a brief update.

#### **8. Task Force Updates**

- **Prevention** – Tim Lena shared that the task force is reviewing gaps in prevention services.
- **Recovery** – Keith Howard shared the task force is looking at services in the winter months when congregating in person is not possible and encouraging voter participating in the recovery community.
- **Joint Military** – General Mikolaities shared that the task force is working on recognizing the Purple Star families and reviewing priorities for 2021.
- **Healthcare** – Seddon Savage shared that the task force is focused on changes in healthcare provisions in the context of COVID 19 and maintaining changes in Telehealth.
- **Perinatal Exposure** – Monica Edgar shared that the task force reviewed data that showed the leading causes of pregnancy associated deaths in NH are substance use and suicide.
- **Data** – Steve Ahnen share that the task force met and heard a presentation on Opioid Use Disorders.
- **Opioid** – Seddon Savage shared that task force is tracking opioid availability data and looking into ways to make that data more public.

- 9. Public Comment** – The Chair then opened the meeting for public comment. The Chair recognized Dellie Champagne. Ms. Champagne asked that the Governor’s Commission continue to look at Involuntary Civil Commitments. The Chair then recognized Susan McKweon. Ms. McKweon also asked that the Commission continue to review Involuntary Civil Commitments and asked if there was data on mental health involuntary commitments. Seeing no other comments, the Chair asked for a vote to close the Governor’s Commission meeting. After a majority vote the meeting ended.

***Next Meeting***  
***January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021***  
***9:30am-11:30am***