

# **Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs**

## **October 29, 2021**

### **9:30am-11:30am**

#### **Members Present:**

Governor Chris Sununu

Mark Armaganian *representing the NH Liquor Commission, Division of Enforcement*

Kara Buxton *representing NH Department of Health & Human Services*

Alex Casale *representing the Department of Justice*

Russ Conte, *Suicide Prevention Council*

Jen Doris *representing the Department of Education*

Jess Edwards, *NH House of Representatives*

Traci Fowler, *NH Charitable Foundation*

Katja Fox *representing the Department of Health and Human Services*

Helen Hanks, *Commissioner, Department of Corrections*

William Hatch, *NH House of Representatives*

Morissa Henn *representing the Department of Health and Human Services*

Keith Howard, *Recovery Representative*

Joseph Johnsick, *Non-Professional Public Representative*

Timothy Lena, *Prevention Task Force*

Chuck Lloyd, *Community College System of NH*

Dave Mara, *Governor's Advisor on Addiction & Behavioral Health*

Matt McKenney, *Business and Industry Association*

David Mikolaities, *Major General, NH National Guard*

Tina Nadeau, *Chief Justice, NH Superior Courts*

Robert Quinn, *Commissioner, Department of Safety*

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 Senate*

- 1. Welcome, Opening Remarks** – Patrick Tufts, Chair of the Governor's Commission, opened the meeting and asked for introductions from the members. Following introductions, the chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Chuck Lloyd made the motion to approve, and Joe Johnsick seconded. The motion passed.

Next the Chair introduced the Governor to speak to the Commission. The Governor shared that NH is the only state in the Nation to not have a rise in overdose deaths last year, but he confirmed that 400 deaths is still too many. The Governor shared the increase in different substances that are growing in use. He shared the importance to have a system that is flexible and robust. The Governor encouraged the Commission to think long term. He shared that closed loop referral systems are very important because NH needs a comprehensive system. The Governor wants to ensure COVID 19 isn't preventing people from accessing systems of treatment and recovery. He wants to see investing in the infrastructure and technology needed if COVID 19 is something that does not go away. Governor Sununu shared data is showing that whatever we can do to increase homecare, for better quality of care, will ensure better results. Governor Sununu shared there is a strong push for cannabis legalization and that he is collecting data on the outcomes of legalization. He is willing to talk to both sides of this issue. The Chair asked for questions from the members following the end of the Governor's remarks. Representative Edwards shared that they are releasing a report on the Closed

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Loop Referral services. Tim Lena shared that the Prevention Task Force is investigating a position on Marijuana Legalization. The Governor shared that they will be sending an invitation for 30 youth prevention groups to speak on the issue. Senator Watters shared that they have a site for a Recovery monument. Watters also shared that the safe injection bill was held up in finance and he is putting forth a study commission bill on safe injection sites. The Governor shared that he brought together ten recovery organizations that specialize in women's recovery at the Bridges House. He shared that it was an opportunity for questions and from the meeting he would like to find a balance for supporting women treatment and recovery models. They also found that there isn't a strong fix on where all the beds are open, and that NH needs a different mix of treatment beds. He shared that a census of what exists and how to access it needs to be developed. The Associate Commissioner asked is there a plan for the workforce shortage. The Governor shared that America is going to have a workforce shortage for 15 years minimum. He encouraged members grow their own workforce and do the work to build schools for mental health behavioral health in the state. He also encouraged looking at making the process simpler for certification and specialization. Representative Hatch shared what we pay individuals might help with developing workforce. After the end of questions, the chair moved on to the Guest Speaker.

2. **Guest Speaker – Hon. Tina Nadeau & Alex Casale & Rachel Azotea** presented a PowerPoint on the Housing Project for Drug Court Participants. Judge Nadeau shared that the Commission funded this gap measure for supporting people who are participating in the Drug Court System. The Judicial system agreed to take on the money and hire Rachel Azotea to be the program manager. Rachel was able to place over 200 people in housing in just over a year. She shared they are looking for people who just need a temporary bridge not a long-term support. Judge Nadeau shared there are 30 active landlords and sober housing participating in the program. Ms. Azotea share that Chief Justice McDonald talks about this program being a model for the Nation. Commissioner Hanks thanked the Judicial Branch for working out of the box and highlighted that this program is a barrier remover for corrections and NH Communities. Commissioner Hanks thanked the Commission for funding this system. The Chair thanked the presenters and asked if they anticipate coming back for funding in state fiscal year 2023. Representative Edwards asked for data on unmet needs. Judge Nadeau shared that there's 85 who have applied but not received services yet but that includes people who aren't released yet, who may have found housing on their own, or who applied but didn't meet the criteria. Senator Watters wondered if people transfer from beginning in sober living to need housing on their own. Judge Nadeau shared that people will be followed and supported through out that time as their needs change. Seddon Savage asked if it creates a bottleneck with housing. Judge Nadeau said its not creating bottlenecks and the program creates more community involvement and engagement, but housing is difficult to find in the North Country. With no further questions the Chair thanked the presenters and moved on to the next item.
3. **Public Comment** – The Chair welcomed the public to share comments. When there were none, the Chair moved to the next agenda item.
4. **DHHS Department Update** – Associate Commissioner Henn, introduced herself as a representative on behalf of the Commissioner. She shared she's a boomerang to New Hampshire because of groups like the Governor's Commission and appreciates the data driven way the commission works and how it embodies working across disciplines and departments including people with lived experience. Henn then introduced Katja Fox to provide the Executive Directors update.

# **Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs October 29, 2021 9:30am-11:30am**

- 6. Executive Director's Update** – Katja Fox, DHHS Director of Behavioral Health provided an update on the dashboard of grants and contracts. She shared the Department will be conducting a marketing campaign on the Doorways because there is a decline in use. This campaign will be an 8-week promotion. The Chair asked for questions on the Dashboard or for Director Fox. The Chair reminded members there will be further communication on when and how to make funding recommendations that are timed best to work with the contracts department at a future meeting.
  
- 7. Annual Report Update & Strategic Planning Process** – Amy Daniels shared that currently Commission has a three-year plan that ends at the end of this calendar. The Center for Excellence has been working since this time last year on how to sunset this update, and they won't be starting from scratch with another three-year time frame. Daniels shared there will be an eye on diversity, equity and inclusion using strategies that include increasing diverse backgrounds accessing culturally appropriate programs and using language that is accessible. She stated that they are reviewing what worked in the previous plan and what gaps remain. This report will synthesize the last year and the last three years so there will be information on what progress has been made and where there is no progress. She shared there were only 1 or 2 strategies from the plan with no significant change. Ms. Daniels commented COVID 19 happened since this plan was developed and future strategies around COVID 19 need to be included in the next plan. The new plan will also include the stimulant work group recommendations. She shared they will look at available data on existing strategies and we will look at that data through the annual report. Ms. Daniels stated not all state departments have shared their data updates and financial updates which is limiting the process. She shared the financial piece is very difficult to get from the departments because budgets are not sorted by substance use disorder. It takes significant effort from departments to find that information. She asked members to look for communications from herself and please responds as quickly as possible. The goal was to have the information ready for the December Commission meeting. Ms. Daniels reported there was an active survey this summer with more than two thousand responses from people who live in NH about their interactions with the continuum of care. The Center will also conduct focus groups in December and public input sessions for more lay people to provide their thoughts to the Commission to ensure that the public voice and people with lived experience have significant representation in the future plan. In January there will be a meeting to review the Key Informant Interviews and the results about the functioning of the Commission. The Chair thanked Ms. Daniels for her update. The Chair shared the Commission can't meet its mission if they are not tracking their effectiveness and progress. The Chair asked that everyone send their data because the Commission can't keep asking for funding if there isn't proof of the investment working. Senator Watters advocated for data collection on representation for diversity and equity. Ms. Daniels shared that there may need to be a specific goal on creating that data because it's not collected currently. The chair asked that further questions be sent to Ms. Daniels and then he welcomed updates from the Governor's Commission Task Forces.
  
- 8. Task Force Updates**

  - Prevention – The Prevention Task Force has only been meeting informally.
  - Treatment – There have been no quorums for meetings.
  - Recovery – There have been no quorums for meetings.
  - Joint Military – Working with BDAS to approve contracts.
  - Healthcare – There have been no quorums for meetings. Trying to reinstitute telehealth for SUD treatment and getting stimulant information out to healthcare community.
  - Perinatal Exposure – There have been no quorums for meetings.
  - Data – There was no update for Data.

**Governor's Commission on  
Alcohol & Other Drugs  
October 29, 2021  
9:30am-11:30am**

- Opioid – There have been no quorums for meetings. Looking to update report SUD treatment in the justice system when able to meet again.
11. **Stimulants Workgroup** – Patrick Tufts shared that the workgroup is attempting to have recommendations within the next month. He shared part of the meetings have been focused on common language when talking about stimulants and creating a universal lens. There has been a lot of good conversation between harm reduction and enforcement. The goal of the workgroup is to make recommendations to the Governor's Commission that are actionable. Next the Chair spoke about the requirements of task force meetings.
  10. **Suspension of Task Force Meetings** – Patrick Tufts shared it has been a difficult season to meet. He shared there's a hundred and sixty people that generally meet monthly for the task forces. The task forces have only met quorum once under the renewed presence of 91A. The Chair recommended suspend meetings until February. If a task force must meet, they must have an in-person quorum. The Chair reminded members that task forces cannot meet without a in person quorum.
  12. **Other Business** – Patrick Tufts asked for other business. There were no other comments. The Chair closed the meeting.

***Next Meeting  
December 10, 2021  
9:30am – 11:30am***

Governor Commission Contracts SFY 2022/SFY 2023			
As of 11/30/21			
		SFY 2022	SFY 2023
	Governor Commission Adjusted Authorized Budget SFY 2022	\$ 11,210,000.00	\$ 10,000,000.00
	Balance Forward	\$ 6,463,530.72	
	Carryover Contract Funding	\$ 7,175,953.80	
<b>Total Gov Comm Budget SFY22</b>		<b>\$ 24,849,484.52</b>	<b>\$ 10,000,000.00</b>
Contract Service Name	Description/Notes (if necessary)		
<b>Contracts brought forward into SFY2022 as of 7/1/21</b>			
Harbor Homes	Faciliate development & networking of PRS Svs	\$ 632,363.28	
Juvenile Court Diversion Network		\$ 103,107.92	
NH Interscholastic Athletic Assoc	Life of an Athlete	\$ 269,532.90	
Foundation for Healthy Communities	Ambulatory MAT	\$ 295,112.62	
SUD Tx Contracts (13 Providers)	Other funds includes Clinical Svs and SOR Room & Board	\$ 1,238,196.62	
Prevention Direct Svs (5 Providers)		\$ 279,383.74	
Granite Pathways	Peer Family Support Svs		
JSI - CFEX	Training & TA, Service to Science and Gov Comm Admin, Messaging Campaign	\$ 580,724.25	
Dept of Education	Gov Comm approved this for 5 yrs	\$ 55,362.89	
Prevention Cert Board of NH	Px Specialist Mentorship Program	\$ 10,068.08	
NH-Coalition of Recovery Residences		\$ 246,557.49	
NH Domestic Violence Coalition	Early Childhood-Prevent & Mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	\$ 67,051.08	
NH Children's Trust-Family Resource Ctr		\$ 11,913.73	
Home Visiting with PH		\$ 108,875.40	
JSI - CFEX	Support Services to Home Visit Svs	\$ 62,336.02	
City of Dover	Substance misuse awareness among children & youth	\$ 11,749.30	
Evidence Based Px Curricula with DOE	Early Childhood-Prevent & Mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	\$ 432,577.27	
Bridge Housing - released from corrections		\$ 804,308.93	
NHADACA	Training	\$ 15,392.89	
Growth Partners	Tech Assistance-WFR Gov Comm Investment	\$ 164,054.08	
Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care	Data Evaluation	\$ 171,118.45	
NH Liquor Enforcement		\$ 52,338.42	
DOE	Purple Heart	\$ 154,000.00	
DOE-MTSS-B	Multi Tier System of Support-BH	\$ 389,121.70	
Granite United Way	Governor's Office Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative	\$ 283,452.28	
Greater Seacoast Comm Health	Peer Family Support Svs	\$ 63,827.42	
Joint Military-Ask the Question		\$ 26,250	
DOORWAYS	Support to Doorways for non-Opioid Use Disorder	\$ 647,177.04	
<b>TOTAL Contracts brought forward into SFY2022 as of 7/1/21</b>		<b>\$ 7,175,953.80</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>SFY22 Gov Comm Contract Obligations</b>			
Harbor Homes	Faciliate development & networking of PRS Svs	\$ 2,325,000.00	
NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network		\$ 275,000.00	
NH Interscholastic Athletic Assoc	Life of an Athlete	\$ 250,000.00	
Foundation for Healthy Communities	Ambulatory MAT (\$1,056,000 total- moved \$404,107 to 2023)	\$ 651,893.00	\$ 404,107.00
Bridge Housing - released from corrections		\$ 950,000.00	
SUD Tx Contracts (13 Providers)	Other funds includes SOR Room & Board	\$ 1,420,000.00	
Prevention Direct Svs (5 Providers)		\$ 819,327.00	
JSI - CFEX	Service to Science and Gov Comm Admin, Messaging Campaign	\$ 650,000.00	
NHADACA	Training	\$ 110,119.00	
Growth Partners	Tech Assistance-WFR Gov Comm Investment	\$ 325,400.00	
Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care	Data Evaluation	\$ 303,074.00	
NH Liquor Enforcement	Alcohol Surveillance	\$ 100,000.00	
Dept of Education	Gov Comm approved this for 5 yrs-thru SFY23	\$ 23,370.00	\$ 23,370.00
Prevention Cert Board of NH	Px Specialist Mentorship Program	\$ 12,000.00	
NH-Coalition of Recovery Residences	Recovery Home Certification/Rental Assist	\$ 400,000.00	
City of Dover	Substance misuse awareness among children & youth	\$ 55,564.00	
Governor's Office Staff	Budget Footnote- funds not encumbered	\$ 301,445.00	\$ 303,463.00
SYSC Renovations -?? Still on hold	Remaining funds for misc - funds not encumbered	\$ 88,860.00	
NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence	Early Childhood-Prevent & Mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	\$ 360,000.00	
NH Children's Trust-Family Resource Centers		\$ 100,000.00	
Evidence Based Px Curricula with DOE	Early Childhood-Prevent & Mitigate Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)	\$ 250,000.00	
DOE	Purple Heart	\$ 154,000.00	
DOE-MTSS-B	Multi Tier System of Support-BH	\$ 500,000.00	
Granite United Way	Governor's Office Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative	\$ 450,000.00	
Greater Seacoast Comm Health	Peer Family Support Svs	\$ 75,000.00	
DOORWAYS	Support to Doorways for non-Opioid Use Disorder-ends 9/29/21	\$ 243,996.00	
Home Visiting with PH		\$ 207,656.00	
Joint Military-Ask the Question		\$ 78,750.00	
Student Assistance Programs		\$ 275,000.00	
Increase Peer Recovery Support Svs (homeless outreach)	Gov Comm Investments SFY2021	\$ 175,000.00	
Professional Awareness Campaign	Harmful Alcohol Use-multi-dimensional	\$ 200,000.00	
<b>Pending Gov Comm Obligations/Initiatives</b>			
Prevention Support Student Assistance Programs	Gov Comm Investments SFY2022	\$ 1,200,000.00	
Support Syringe Service	Gov Comm Investments SFY2020	\$ 400,000.00	
Technology Based Education Diverse sectors	Gov Comm Investments SFY2021	\$ 250,000.00	
Transitional Housing	Gov Comm Investments SFY2020 \$1 mil removed/ SFY2021 \$750k/SFY22 \$750k	\$ 1,500,000.00	
Physical Fitness Facility	Gov Comm Investments SFY2022	\$ 500,000.00	

BDAS Gov Comm PS4 Staff	Gov Comm Investments SFY2021 & SFY2022 Investments \$100k per yr	\$	83,333.00	
Joint Military - Childcare Access	Gov Comm Investments SFY2022	\$	290,700.00	
Perinatal Substance Exposure (Doula Support)	Gov Comm Investments SFY2020 -now for SFY 22 \$100k now & SFY2023 \$350k	\$	100,000.00	\$ 350,000.00
Workforce Retention	Gov Comm Investments SFY21 \$250k/SFY22 \$250k & SFY23 \$150k	\$	500,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Healthcare & Perinatal-to improve care coordination across Substance Use Treatment & Recovery Systems in NH	Gov Comm Investments SFY2022 & SFY 2023 (300k per yr)	\$	300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00
<b>Total currently approved Gov Comm Obligations in contract or to be contracted</b>		\$	<b>17,254,487.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,530,940.00</b>
<b>Total all Governor Commission Obligations</b>		\$	<b>24,430,440.80</b>	<b>\$ 1,530,940.00</b>
<b>Possible Prior Year Liquidations</b>				
<b>Total Governor Commission Funds Remaining</b>		\$	<b>419,043.72</b>	<b>\$ 8,469,060.00</b>