

New Hampshire Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission Meeting  
Regular Meeting  
Executive Council Chamber, State House Rm 207, 107 N. Main St., Concord, NH  
Monday, August 14, 2023 at 1:00PM

**Attending:**

Senator, Cindy **Rosenwald** (Chair)  
Attorney James **Boffetti** (Designee for the Attorney General)  
Dave **Mara** (Governor's Designee)  
Rachel **Miller** (Treasury)  
Jennifer **Sabin** (DHHS Commissioner's Designee)  
Thomas **Velardi** (A county attorney appointed by the Governor)  
Jason **Henry** (County Corrections Superintendent appointed by Governor)  
Elizabeth **Dragon** (City with < 75k appointed by Governor)  
Kathryn **Kindopp** (Governor's Appointment)  
Toni **Pappas** (County of +100k appointed by the Governor)  
Bianca **Monroe** (Appointed by the Attorney General)  
Traci **Fowler** (NH Charitable Foundation)  
Emily **Rice** (Appointed by Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Treatment and Recovery)  
Ellen **Riiska**: One public school superintendent, or designee, appointment by the New Hampshire School Administrators Association  
Benjamin **Gaetjens-Oleson** (Town with <20k appointed by Governor)

**Present via Zoom Platform:**

James **Watkins** (Municipal Fire Chief appointed by Governor)  
Patrick **Tufts** (Chair of Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery)

**Absent:**

Helen **Hanks** (Commissioner, Dept. of Corrections)  
Representative David **Nagel**, MD (House)  
Kevin **Rourke** (Municipal Police Chief appointed by Governor)  
Peter **Spanos** (County of <100k appointed by Governor)  
Bobbie **Bagley** (City with 75k+ appointed by Governor)  
Seddon **Savage**, MD, (Appointed by Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery)

Senator Rosenwald opened the meeting at 1:00 pm with a roll call. A quorum of the Commission members physically present was established.<sup>1</sup>

The second order of business was the motion to adopt the public minutes for the June 12, 2023 meeting. The minutes were adopted unanimously on a roll call vote.

There was no public comment.

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<sup>1</sup> Eleven members constitutes a quorum pursuant to RSA 126-A: 85, IV.

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Senator Rosenwald suggested we wait to discuss the scheduled fourth order of business, *Reimbursement RGA Recommendations*, until after the three Recovery Housing agenda items to accommodate the guest speakers.

The fourth order of business was the presentation *Substance Use Disorder Housing and Services Funding* from Rob Dapice, Executive Director of New Hampshire Housing. Copy of presentation can be found on the Opioid Abatement Webpage.

- NHHRA promote finance, and support housing solutions for the people of NH.
- Last year, NH Housing:
  - Financed 1,800+ units of multifamily rental housing
  - Monitored operations of thousands of units of rental housing we financed
  - Administered federally funded rental assistance for 9,000 households statewide
  - Helped 1,000 families purchase a home
- Supportive Housing for People with Substance Use Disorders
  - Residents are low- to moderate-income and in recovery from a Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
  - Eligible developers include non-profit and for-profit companies, municipalities, public housing authorities
  - Supportive services may be contracted; must be provided by an experienced SUD recovery organization
  - Different models of SUD supportive housing
  - NH Housing strongly encourages SUD supportive housing projects to obtain certification through the NH Coalition of Recovery Residences (NHCORR)
- Collaboration with the Opioid Abatement Commission would assist with more available housing for individuals affected by SUD/MH issues.

The fifth order of business was a presentation from the Council of State Government's (CSG) Justice Center. David D'Amora, Senior Policy Advisory for the Justice Reinvestment team presented, *New Hampshire's High Utilizer Justice Reinvestment Initiative*. Copy of presentation can be found on the Opioid Abatement Webpage.

Over the course of this project three main challenges consistently emerged from conversations with stakeholders and the data analysis.

1. There is a small number of people cycling through jails in NH that are utilizing a substantial number of resources at great cost to counties and the state.
2. High utilizers of jail services has more complex and more frequent behavioral health related encounters than their non-high utilizer counterparts.
3. Reentry and community services vary greatly from county to county, contributing to long wait times and gaps in reintegration services particularly for the complex high utilizer population.

Summary of Policy Recommendations:

1. Increase Jail and Reentry services.
2. Coordinate Care Across Systems
3. Clarify Protective Custody Holds
4. Expand Data Collection and Information Sharing
5. Pursue Funding and Sustainability

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### Discussion from meeting attendees:

- Treatment isn't accessible due to transportation, coordination between case manager / corrections system.
- Instead of collaborating, programs are competing for grant funding. Integrated system needs to be established and supported.
- How can we get this data accessible showing the cross walk of work being done and needs.
- Stakeholders and decision makers to keep this on the ticket to get the fine data to better understand the missing pieces.
- Where you get arrested in the State depends on what type of services you get to help you. Fatality prevention in this space is large.

The sixth order of business was a review of Recovery Housing Certification process delivered by guest speaker, Lindy Keller, Resources and Development Administrator from Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services.

- Recovery House registration is voluntary, but is limited to recovery houses certified by NHCORR, the state designated agency for certification.
- Recovery houses certified by NHCORR who wish to register as a New Hampshire Recovery House can do so, but it is not a requirement.
- NHCORR is a voluntary verification board of recovery houses that determine the quality of standards for ethically operating peer-based recovery residences focused on best practice of support for people in recovery. If a house is NHCORR certified that means that the recovery house meets the national standards for recovery residences.
- Standards are published from National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) and is adopted by state-based affiliates. The NARR standard forms the foundation for certification by NHCORR.
- The NARR standard delineates four "levels" of recovery houses, based on levels of services and supports provided by each type of home. Majority of homes are 2 or 3.
  - Level 1 Peer Run-Peer recovery support in a democratically run living environment.
  - Level 2 Monitored- Peer recovery support and staff-monitored structure.
  - Level 3 Supervised-Peer recovery support, staff-monitored structure plus structured (re)habilitative life skill development.
  - Level 4 Service Provider-Peer recovery support, staff-monitored, life skills and clinical programming.

### 4 Domains

- Domains 1 – Administrative Operations- operate with integrity, uphold residents' rights, etc.
- Domain 2- Physical Environment – home-like, safe and healthy living.
- Domain 3- Recovery Support- Active recovery engagement, behaviors, relationships, and responsibility.
- Domain 4- Good Neighbor- Be a good neighbor.

### Ten Principles

1. Operate with Integrity
2. Uphold Residents' Rights
3. Create a Culture of Empowerment Where Residents Engage in Governance and Leadership
4. Develop Staff Abilities to Apply the Social Model

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5. Provide a Home-like Environment
  6. Promote a Safe and Healthy Environment
  7. Facilitate Active Recovery and Recovery Community Engagement
  8. Model Prosocial Behaviors and Relationship Enhancement Skills
  9. Cultivate the Resident's Sense of Belonging and Responsibility for Community
  10. Be a Good Neighbor
- 31 Standards are tailored to each of NARR's four levels.
  - Currently 90 homes are certified across the state. 29 -women only, 59 – men only, 1 co-ed, 1 LGBTQ+
  - Recovery support varies based on the house.
  - Advantages of being certified through the State- knowing they are doing the right thing because NHCORR provides TA and support to bring everyone up to speed. Also, being recognized as a certified house.

September 11, 2023, 1pm was established as the date and time of the next Commission meeting. The location will be the NH State House, Executive Chambers. Agenda items proposed:

- Voting on reimbursement RGA grant recommendations.

At the call of the chair, the meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.