GOVERNOR’S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE
PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT
May 9, 2018
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
CONCORD, NH
MINUTES

Members Present:
Chief Mark Armaganian, NH Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement
Commissioner John Barthelemes, NH Department of Safety
Senator Jeb Bradley, NH State Senate
Cheryl Coletti-Lawson, Business and Industry Association
Annette Escalante, Executive Director and Director of the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services
Heather Gage, NH Department of Education
Todd Gardner, BSN, RN, NH Nurses Association
Chancellor Ross Gittell, Community College System of NH
Honorable Edward M. Gordon, NH Circuit Court
Commissioner Helen Hanks, Department of Corrections
Senator Martha Hennessey, New Hampshire State Senate
Kevin Irwin, Recovery Representative
Timothy Lena, Prevention Professional
Attorney General Gordon MacDonald, NH Department of Justice
David Mara, Governor’s Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health
Commissioner Jeffrey Meyers, NH Department of Health & Human Services
Brigadier General David Mikolaities, NH National Guard
Jennifer Patterson, NH Insurance Department
Chris Placy, Public Member
Seddon Savage, MD, NH Medical Society
Stephanie Savard, Treatment Professional
Brady Serafin, NH Division for Children, Youth & Families
Commissioner Roger Sevigny, NH Insurance Department
Governor Christopher T. Sununu, NH Office of the Governor
Patrick Tufts, Granite United Way

Chairperson Annette Escalante opened the meeting and introductions were done around the table.

Committee Business Items

Commissioner Meyers. I sent out an email the other day to this Commission with respect to ongoing work of the department. Annette is leading the Bureau’s work on the state legislative and federal developments over the course of the past several months that have had and will continue to have a tremendously positive impact on our efforts to fund substance misuse prevention, treatment and recovery services in New Hampshire. All of this critical work requires much of our Department staff and its leadership. Annette Escalante, has served ably as Chairperson of the Governor’s Commission but given the need to have Annette leading the Bureau’s work on these matters, she and I agree that it is important for her to focus on her role as the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services Director. Annette will be stepping down from her position as Commission Chairperson. We appreciate Annette’s dedication, hard work and professionalism over the many months that she has taken on both the Director’s position and leadership of the Commission and I know you will all join me in thanking her as well.
Governor Sununu

We have so much opportunity here in New Hampshire we have to make sure we get it right and we want to make sure we are not overburdening. We have to remind ourselves that we have incredible talent in this state. As Commissioner Meyers said there are many new developments going on fighting the opioid crisis. The hospitals understand that they are a huge part of this as they it in their emergency rooms and are right on the front lines. They do not want to be only a part of the solution but a big part. They are being brought into the mix in a much more meaningful way. The legislature has been taken out of the alcohol fund equation which is a huge guarantee and the commitment that we allowed to be made to the state and to this crisis and with that comes a lot of responsibility. We have talked about accountability over this last year. Accountability at the state level and making sure we are investing in results and that is the fundamental change we are trying to bring here and we are going to keep investing in results. To date we have had some successes but the same results are not going to get the job done. We have to challenge ourselves to think out of the box, explore new opportunities and organizations but we have to have results on the back end.

The treatment centers are doing an overwhelmingly good job. When you look at the numbers of recidivism, and there are very few folks that go to treatment once and they are good and we are working to reduce that number of recidivism. The recovery programs are really lasting and they are driving people to whether it is the workforce, healthy lifestyle or more “normalized” lifestyle, bringing them back to a life many of them had before. By investing in those programs we can reduce the overwhelming burden that has been placed on treatment centers. We are trying to get that long term solution here. The only way to get there is really to look at results and look at data and make those investments appropriately. With all this money coming in everyone is going to want to put their hands in the pot. We are going to be very careful about how we spend it and how we invest it. We are thinking about long term and that is the challenge we are putting out to the organizations. We are seeing new ideas flourish out there such as better rural access whether recovery programs, treatment programs, more secure and better integration of prevention programs.

We are going to have a system that is stable for the long term, sustainable and with results at the end of the day. When we look at the opportunity that we have in terms of finding leadership for this group and one of the things I really want to push is making sure we have someone who:

- Understands and knows how to work in this world and with non-profits.
- Responsibility of financial management both to ourselves and the non-profit world.

I believe we have these qualities in Patrick Tufts. We do need someone who is a bit separated from it and has an understanding and experience which Patrick brings to the table with his organization and his personal experiences to provide good leadership. We have a lot of opportunities here and $50 million dollars from the hospitals in over five years we have more work to do. We are also going to keep on fighting for more dollars and at the end of the day if you don’t have system in place the money can be wasted and we are going to have standards to prevent that from happening. I am hoping people nominate Patrick Tufts for the Governor’s Commission Chairman to take us on the next phase that the commission goes into.

Annette Escalante

We do need to make a decision on the chairman for the Governor’s Commission today. Any comments or questions? The Governor mentioned a nominee, Patrick Tufts, anyone want to bring up that nomination for Patrick?

Seddon Savage: Could we have a discussion on this? When we are talking about leadership for such a critically important role in our state I think making a decision in two hours without the opportunity to consider. Any organization that I have been a part of or any leadership I’ve held we took a little time to review possibilities for the position. I do not know Patrick well and I do not know of the qualifications of some other people who sit on this body and I would like to explore that. I suspect there are some others who may feel similarly.
Cheryl Coletti-Lawson

This came up at the retreat if Annette feels overwhelmed I felt we should make a motion to have her resign. At the retreat Annette’s dual role was recognized and there was talk about the commitment of this role and not only who would be best suited but who would want to take on that role and I think a conversation is warranted. For myself I have worked with Patrick when I ran Hope for NH Recovery and it was a tremendous organization and it left me with a greater appreciation for non-profits. My experience with Patrick during that time was phenomenal.

The various members of the Governor’s Commission spoke out in turn of their support for Patrick Tufts in the leadership role of chairman for the Governor’s Commission and the vote taking place today.

Senator Bradley nominated Patrick Tufts for Chairman of the Governor’s Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment and Recover and the nomination was seconded by Attorney General Gordon MacDonald. There was a short discussion and the vote was then taken and all were in favor. Patrick will assume the new position in June 2018.

Patrick Tufts

I sit here out of a sense of service. I want to thank the Governor for everything that he has done. I want to thank Annette for her many years of service. I’d like to thank Shannon Swett-Bresaw who has taught me how important it is to sit at this table. I will not disappoint you in this service and you have 100% of my commitment. I am here for a reason and that is to serve and I believe in team effort, I am action oriented and solution focused. Thank you very much for the endorsement.

DHHS Commissioner Jeffrey Meyers

Senator Bradley stated that the Senate will meet for SB 313 [https://legiscan.com/NH/drafts/SB313/2018]

This bill: Establishes the New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care Program which shall replace the current New Hampshire Health Protection Program. Under this program, those individuals eligible to receive benefits under the Medicaid program and newly eligible adults shall choose coverage offered by one of the managed care organizations contracted as vendors under the Medicaid program. It establishes the granite workforce pilot program and increases the amount of liquor revenues to be deposited into the alcohol abuse prevention and treatment fund and provides that moneys deposited into the fund shall be transferred to the New Hampshire Granite Advantage Health Care trust fund for substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery.

What has happened in terms of the market place plans have variations between them in terms of what services they fund and that leads to inconsistencies. This new plan will strengthen our coverage in mental health and addiction treatment and this is a huge step. It connects people who are in the expansion group who are not already working to basically connect them with opportunities to work and services as well. The legislature appropriated $3 million and will address barriers such as transportation, training and subsidies to incentivize employers across the state.

Senator Jeb Bradley

Commissioner talked about some of the details of the bill and I would like to talk a little about the process. Chris’s leadership in helping us form the coalition not only here but in the flexibility we needed in Washington to be able to have a New Hampshire program is essential. Governor Sununu’s leadership has been fundamental and important. We wouldn’t be where we are today, on the cusp of a five-year program that gives certainty to all the providers in this room that they are going to be able to have the resources to build out substance abuse and mental health facilities that this state needs to deal with the two crisis’ that we have. We thank you.

I have worked with Commissioner Meyers for many years. Commissioner Meyers does an incredible job of navigating the different winds of the politics of Medicaid Expansion to get us through to a very solid, bipartisan agreement. We took the
bipartisan agreement to the House and Representative Kurk went through the bill line by line with Representative Byron and Representative Rosenwald and others and fashioned a number of technical changes but did not make substantial changes to the overall intent of what we are trying to do. Senator D’Allesandro and Senator Hennessey who both sat through the hearing that we had in the Senate will talk about the testimonials that people around the state gave us regarding the improvements in their own personal lives and to have a workforce that is healthier and better able to participate in a growing economy in New Hampshire. Those testimonials were vivid and so the most important thing that we can do is get this bill (SB 313) on the Governor’s desk and that Commissioner Meyers implements it and the five year commitment that we have is essential for the wellbeing, healthcare and the economy of the State of New Hampshire.

Financial Dashboard

The SFY 2018 Contracts

- Governor Commission appropriation $6,953,733 and balance forward from 6/30/17 $3,242,227=Total available $10,195,960
  - SFY 18 encumbered $9,047,628
  - Actual provider contracts spent $3,249,719
  - Expenses paid unencumbered to date $288,894
  - Provider contract funds unspent $5,797,909.00
  - Amount allocated $859,438

- Total appropriation $9,382,350
  - SFY 18 encumbered $8,535,776
  - Actual provider contract spent $3,892,328
  - Unencumbered payment $61,760.07
  - Provider contract funds unspent $4,643,449.00
  - Amount allocated $784,814.00

- Total appropriation $3,104,350
  - SFY 18 encumbered $2,766,322
  - Actual Provider Contract Spent $1,121,236.00
  - Provider contract funds unspent $1,645,086
  - Amount allocated $338,028

Next Steps for Strategic Planning/Discussion

- Tym Rourke planned to share the Commission’s position with Senator Bradley that they endorsed the use of the Alcohol Fund for Medicaid expansion with the expectation of the fund to be backfilled.
- Annette Escalante announced the creation of the new Public Policy Task Force with Kevin Irwin as Chair.
- An ad hoc committee of the Commission will convene to establish draft recommendations for roles and responsibilities of the Chair.
- Approach the Legislature to increase the alcohol fund to 8.4% with 5% to Medicaid Expansion and 3.4% to the Governor’s Commission. FYI - This is now no longer necessary with the hospital contribution to the Governor’s Commission fund.
- Accept principles as stated on page one of the draft plan.
  - Include suicide prevention, harm reduction coalition and Governor’s office in key informant interviews.
  - Stigma reduction needs to be addressed throughout the plan.
  - Need recommendations on other inputs to identify gaps and evidence informed strategies to include in the plan.
• Gaps identified include: stigma, early identification/intervention, suicide, methamphetamine or other substances, MAT and syringe exchange.
• Direct statement that clarifies that the recommendations come from evidence based practices/programs/initiatives.

**Proposed Timeline**

- Gather additional inputs (key informants or focus groups) April, May.
- Revise current draft, develop final plan May, June.
- June GC meeting plan to be disseminated for final approval.
- Final edits and changes made, distributed by July 1, 2018.

### Task Force Updates

**Prevention Task Force**

- The Prevention Task Force sub-committees that are broken down across the age span have begun meeting already on prioritizing our State Plan recommendations. We have also begun to flesh out possible budget cost for each recommended strategy so that it can be considered as we prioritize any “back filled” funds that the commission may receive going forward.”

**Treatment Task Force**

- We have broken up into small work groups to try to get more work done.
- We are trying to get improved technology resources to the rural areas and making sure we can bill for them.
- We are working on bringing forward some best practices that might be possible.
- We also have another work group who working on bringing services to special populations.
- We are trying to look outside of our window and see what is going on outside of NH and trying to bring in some new and creative ideas.
- We are hoping to bring in some folks to represent the IDNs (Integrated Delivery Networks) in what substance use treatment and integrated treatment programs are happening.
- We are also tossing around the idea for a co-chair.
  ➢ This is something that Patrick Tufts and Annette Escalante can look at.

**Recovery Task Force**

- We need to make goals measurable.
- Recommend greater and equitable public funding in relation to each other or devise formula for funding PRSS across all contracts.
- It is difficult to provide equal funding to RCOs.
  ➢ Some may be just starting up and require more than the existing ones.
- The committee had decided to make and easier-to-read report to include appendices and use priorities established.
- Kevin and Cheryl attended the BRSS-TACS Policy Academy in Rockville, MD on May 1 and 2 on Integrated Mental Health and Peer Recovery Support Services.

**Joint Military Task Force**

- We have some suggest new goals
  ➢ Inform and educate providers.
  ➢ Reduce Stigma.
  ➢ Ask the Question.
- The mission statement has advocacy and awareness and our goals reflect that.
We have had conversations with Senator Shaheen’s office regarding connecting VA and ATQ (Ask the Question) on a federal level. We will be meeting with DHMC leadership regarding operationalizing ATQ.

- Data Task Force
  - Joe Ebert was the chair of the Data Task Force and has since then has changed positions.
  - At this time it was decided that Lieutenant Bellows to serve to serve on the task force.
  - Kevin Irwin has agreed to chair the Data Task Force.
    ➢ Kevin is also the chair of the Recovery Task Force and Policy.

*NOTE: Annette Escalante has named Kevin Irwin as the chair to the Data Task Force*

- Healthcare Task Force
  - Jim Potter presented on the Opioid Task Force at the last commission meeting.
  - We are working on SBRIT billing and understanding it.
  - Benefits under Managed Care will be more uniform which will help simplify things.
    ➢ MAT and prior authorizations are challenging when dealing with several companies.
  - Training for MAT for almost 400 physicians by the end of this year.
  - We are working on practice changes while training providers.
  - There are several projects with regards to stigma education.
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  - We are tracking what is happening in the IDN’s to see how we can support the integrated delivery.

- Opioid Task Force
  - Trying to better understand how justice involved individuals with substance use disorders get addressed from the point of contact with law enforcement through probation/parole in the community.
  - Focusing on five different aspects of the system that is encountered with justice involved individuals from pretrial and drug courts to being incarcerated which is a different system, transition to the community and then separately looking at the juvenile justice system.
  - We hope to submit a plan to this group.

Meeting adjourned.

*The next Governor’s Commission meeting*

*June 22, 2018 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the NH Fire Academy Dormitory*  
*98 Smokey Bear Drive,*  
*Concord, NH*  
*Races 5, 6 and 7*