GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND TREATMENT

June 22, 2018

NH Fire Academy Dormitory

CONCORD, NH

MINUTES

Members Present:
Jim Young, *NH Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement*
Commissioner John Barthelmes, *NH Department of Safety*
Cheryl Coletti-Lawson, *Business and Industry Association*
Representative Hatch, *NH House of Representatives*
Annette Escalante, *Executive Director and Director of the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services*
Bhagirath Khatiwada, *NH Department of Education*
Todd Gardner, BSN, RN, *NH Nurses Association*
Commissioner Helen Hanks, *Department of Corrections*
Kevin Irwin, *Recovery Representative*
Timothy Lena, *Prevention Professional*
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*
John Elias, *NH Insurance Department*
Chris Placy, *Public Member*
Seddon Savage, MD, *NH Medical Society*
Meghan Shea, *Treatment Professional*
Kara Buxton, *NH Division for Children, Youth & Families*
Patrick Tufts, *Granite United Way*

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
   Patrick Tufts opened the meeting and introductions were done around the table.

2. **Approval of Minutes**
   There was a motion by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson to approve the minutes from 5/9/2018. The motion was seconded by Seddon Savage. The minutes were approved with all in favor.

3. **Role of Chair and Executive Director**
   Patrick stated that he and Annette Escalante had met and had some discussion regarding the role of Chair and Executive Director. The purpose was to better define the two roles, as requested by members of the Commission in previous meetings. Patrick stated that he and Annette would provide clarity regarding these roles in writing by the August Commission meeting. Annette concurred.

4. **State Plan Timeline Update**
   Amy Pepin, Center for Excellence, provided information to the members regarding the status of the State Plan development process. Given the recent change in Commission leadership and membership, as well as the recent developments in funding opportunities available in NH, Patrick recommended that the Commission delay the release of the plan to the Fall of 2018. The purpose of this is so we can ensure that the plan is in alignment with these new funding sources. Amy also recommended that we ensure we have a plan that we are able to utilize most effectively.

Feedback that has already been provided by Task Forces, key informants, and other stakeholders will remain in the plan. Patrick asked for an informal vote by the Commission to ensure support of this timeline. All voted in favor.

5. **DHHS Commissioner Update**

- **Federal Funding**

Commissioner Meyers provided an overview of the recent announcement of $930 million in Federal funding available across the country with a 15% set-aside targeted to 10 states, including New Hampshire (NH). NH must apply for the funds by August 13, 2018 and the funds must be received by September 30, 2018. There is $22.9 million available to NH through this funding source, known as the State Opioid Response Grants. There are a number of restrictions regarding the use of these funds. DHHS is working to identify a process to ensure feedback from stakeholders across the state. The funds can be spent on prevention, treatment and recovery, using only Evidence-Based Programs. There is a strong emphasis on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services. DHHS already has ideas for this application and will also be communicating closely with the Governor's Office, as well as the public and key stakeholders. DHHS will have two years from the date of the award to spend the money. Services must begin within three months of receipt. DHHS will work to ensure the funds are allocated across the state and across the continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery. They are also planning to ensure continued and expanded access to services to address concerns by treatment providers concerning rate cuts. Commissioner Meyers stated that these funds cannot be used as the state share for Medicaid reimbursement funds. This will likely not be a competitive process because time is too short. Therefore, DHHS will likely be issuing sole source agreements given the tight timeline for awarding funds and commencing services.

Commissioner Meyers also mentioned that he was just made aware of CDC Public Health Crisis Funding in the amount of $1-4 million that would be coming to NH in 4-6 weeks. These funds would be used to enhance the ability to collect data and monitor outcomes related to opioid use. Commissioner Meyers stated that this influx of Federal funds shows that the Federal Government is responding to this crisis.

Representative Hatch asked if the Commissioner felt that we have the infrastructure in NH to accept these funds. Commissioner Meyers stated that he believed that we do. He also clarified that the funds can't be used to build buildings or buy beds. MAT is a central focus and DHHS will be looking at the capacity that exists or needs to be built to expand these services across the state.

Todd Gardner asked whether the funding could be used to develop future capacity, such as training for LADC's. Commissioner Meyers said that it could not be used for that purpose, but that this funding might allow for other funds to be freed up for infrastructure, workforce, etc.

Seddon Savage stated that it will be critically important to address sustainability through this funding opportunity. She mentioned that the Opioid Task Force has developed a robust set of priorities and strategies for every sector that could be used to inform the decision-making process. She discussed the need to integrate SUD training into all types of training programs in the state.

Tim Lena mentioned that he felt Drug Free Community (DFC) Coalitions should be considered in terms of prevention as they are "shovel ready."

- **Status of Funding for SUD services**

Commissioner Meyers discussed the fact that three items were pulled from the agenda at the most recent Governor & Council meeting. He stated that audits of all treatment providers were currently taking place to ensure transparency

and public accountability. He is grateful to providers for stepping up during this crisis. DHHS is working to ensure that the funds are being used in accordance with standards and that agencies have appropriate policies and procedures in place, as well as internal controls. Funds provided by DHHS must be allocated correctly according to Federal regulations. One of the items pulled from G&C was the Harbor Homes contract. Their audit will go out next week and he anticipates the request will go on the July G&C agenda.

- **Medicaid Expansion**

Medicaid Expansion will soon be law. The Governor will organize a public signing. They are currently working with actuary and the system to be able to safely and easily move forward in January 2019. DHHS is working to release draft information on July 9 regarding RFPs and model contracts and will also hold 6 public hearings/evening meetings in Council districts and Concord. There will be a website comment period open for 3 weeks. There will be a 6-month transition period so that the new Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) will have time before the July 2019 start date. Provisions will be made for behavioral health to ensure capacity for SUD services. They will also be addressing SUD service capacity issues, waiting times in hospital emergency departments, credentialing, rigor and accountability.

- **Financial Dashboard**

Abby Shockley presented the financial dashboards. She described that page one shows figures at a glance and the following three pages by contract. Abby pointed out that the agencies with stars next to their names were still spending some funds from 2017.

Patrick asked if there were any questions for Commissioner Meyers or Abby concerning their presentations. Commissioner Meyers was asked if there would be a formal process for Governor's Commission input into the plan for the State Opioid Response funding. The Commissioner said that they planned to hold some meetings in July to solicit input. They would also have a parallel process whereby members of the Commission and the public can also submit ideas, comments, and questions. Amy Pepin also assured Commission members that they will forward all task force approved documents to DHHS for their consideration.

6. **FY19 Funding Summary**

Patrick presented a funding summary to Commission members that outlined the status of committed and available Governor's Commission funds. The "Funding at a glance" document showed that for FY19, we were in the final year of the 3-year contracts. We are funded at 3.4% for FY19 for a total of $7,278,334. Out of those funds, $6,855,355 is committed in contracts, leaving $422,979 uncommitted. There is also an FY18 uncommitted carryover of $423,000 for a total of $845,979 uncommitted for FY19. There is also additional revenue that will come to the Commission in FY19 in the form of marijuana fines (average $19,000 per month) for an anticipated total of $228,000 for the year. Therefore, the estimated FY19 adjusted total amount of uncommitted funds available is $1,073,979. For FY20, we will be funded at 5% for a total of $10,200,000.

Patrick stated that we will be able to leverage the money that we have given all the other funding sources allocated to SUD services, including NH Housing and CDFA funding. Patrick intends to provide a crib sheet for all meetings so that information is clear to Commission members.

Kevin Irwin asked if there was an agreement in place for the replacement funds for the Alcohol Fund. The Commissioner has every expectation that they will be moving forward with the funding from the NH Hospitals to bring the alcohol fund to 5%. Under the SB313, funds will move from alcohol fund to the granite advantage trust fund in December 2018. When money starts moving, additional money will start flowing to the Commission from the Hospitals and their Community Benefits funds.

7. **Task Force Updates**

- **Prevention**

Tim Lena stated that the Prevention Task Force and its subcommittees continue to meet and address the priorities outlined for the State Plan.

- **Treatment**

No report.

- **Recovery**

Kevin Irwin discussed the progress being made establishing standards and oversight for recovery housing. They will be sending a document to the Commission before the next meeting regarding status of recovery investments through the facilitating organization and others.

- **Joint Military**

Rick Frost discussed the "Ask the Question" campaign and their efforts to finalize steps to be able to promote campaign.

Dr. Breuder has been nominated and approved as a Vice Chair of this task force.

- **Prenatal Exposure**

Monica Edgar reported that this has been a very active group, with significant leadership from Rekha Sreedhara. They have recently completed a strategic plan that they are calling a priority map. The update will go to Amy Pepin at the Center for Excellence for inclusion in the State Plan. They are also working on the "Know What Matters" Maternal Health Campaign.

- **Data**

Report deferred until next meeting.

- **Opioid**

Dr. Savage reported that the Opioid Task Force is looking closely at justice affected individuals from pre-trial to probation/parole and in prison. They are also working on a small project developing a pharmacy card to pilot in chain pharmacies that includes safety messages regarding opioids. Dr. Savage asked for some time on the August agenda to present to the Commission.

- **Healthcare**

Dr. Savage reported that the Healthcare Task Force is looking at improvements that can be made across the healthcare system, including pharmacological and psycho-social care for Opioid Use Disorders (OUD). They are looking at emergency departments, inpatient, and primary care entry points. They are also looking at a training on addressing stigma. Dr. Savage also discussed barriers to County jail participation and Commissioner Hanks will send contact information that may be helpful to Dr. Savage.

Patrick Tufts closed out the regular business meeting portion by stating that there were two open positions on the Commission, including a non-professional public seat. The other opening is just to determine who Judge Kelly plans to designate as his representative for the NH District/Circuit Court seat previously occupied by Judge Gordon, who recently retired. Patrick stated that he has heard from several Commission members who would like to find a way to keep Judge Gordon involved in the Commission if possible.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment was made by Alex Casale regarding NH Drug Courts. He stated that there are now Drug Courts in every County of the state except for Sullivan County. He discussed some of the barriers in establishing one there. Commissioner Hanks offered to provide assistance if needed.

Motion to Adjourn by Representative Hatch and seconded by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned.

The next Governor's Commission meeting
August 24, 2018 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the
NH Fire Academy Dormitory
98 Smokey Bear Drive,
Concord, NH
Rooms 5, 6 and 7