

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS
October 26, 2018
Governor & Council Chambers
CONCORD, NH

MINUTES

Members Present:

Stephen Ahnen, *NH Hospital Association*
Commissioner John Barthelmes, *NH Department of Safety*
Alex Casale, *NH Courts*
Cheryl Coletti-Lawson, *NH Business and Industry Association*
Brigadier General Bill Conway, *NH National Guard*
Annette Escalante, *Executive Director and Director of the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services*
Katja Fox, *NH Department of Health & Human Services*
Ross Gittell, *NH Community College System*
Timothy Lena, *Prevention Professional*
David Mara, *Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health*
Michelle Myler, *NH Department of Education*
Ben Jean, *Department of Corrections*
Jennifer Patterson, *NH Insurance Department*
Chris Placy, *Public Member*
Tym Rourke, *NH Charitable Foundation*
Seddon Savage, MD, *NH Medical Society*
Stephanie Savard, *Treatment Professional*
Abby Shockley, *NH Department of Health & Human Services*
Kate Thomson, *NH Nurses' Association*
Patrick Tufts, *Granite United Way*
James Vera, *Office of the Attorney General*
Jim Young, *NH Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement*

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Patrick Tufts opened the meeting and introductions were done around the table. Welcome was made to new member, Kate Thompson, New Hampshire Nurses' Association.

2. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson to approve the minutes from August 24, 2018. The motion was seconded by Tim Lena. The minutes were approved with all in favor.

Jennifer Patterson responded to a question in the minutes from the August meeting stating that the new Commissioner of the NH insurance Department plans to reboot the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. This Committee provides advice on behavioral health services to private insurance. The intention of this Committee is to present findings and reconvene around December. She stated she will ensure all Governor's Commission members stay up to date on this Committee.

3. DHHS Commissioner Update - Provided by Abby Shockley

Abby informed the members that the State's SOR Proposal was approved in mid-September and FYI 9 was approved for those dollars. The Department anticipates a start date to this work on January 1, 2019. She stated the next Governor & Council meeting is upcoming on Wednesday. During that meeting the 9 contracts (8 for hubs, 1 to transfer addiction hotline to 2-1-1NH) will be presented. The remaining dollars and contracts will go through

Governor & Council in November and December. Abby stated the need to get money out into the community where it is most needed as quickly as possible. She informed the members that after the Hubs contracts are approved, each location will hold a community session for their community.

4. Executive Director's Update

• Financial Dashboard

Annette Escalante presented the financial dashboards. She highlighted 1.67M of uncommitted funds. Annette informed the members that there is an anticipated gap of approximately \$600,000 in the Federal SOR funding. This gap is due to the restrictions on the funding to be for opiate specific addiction. The State plans to also provide services through this system to individuals who do not have an opiate use disorder, but rather a different substance use disorder. Cheryl Coletti-Lawson asked for further detail about the population to be served. Annette stated it would include all other disorders and that she will bring more details to the December meeting.

Annette informed the members of the Commission that Facility License rules recently changed and no longer groups substance use disorder funding with nursing home funding. Furthermore, a new Medicaid rule change allows for billing by interns, as well as recovery coaches.

Patrick asked if there were any questions for Annette. Tym Rourke asked a clarifying question about the dashboard stating the number uncommitted was listed as \$2 million. Annette and Abby Shockley stated the discrepancy is due to a pending amount that is flowing through the procurement process.

5. Contract Recommendation

Patrick stated that during his time as Chair of the Commission he has learned a lot. One of the things he has been learning is that there are some gaps with the Commission. He reminded the group that there are plans to have an active legislative session. He stated that the members of the Commission would not be able to meet all upcoming requirements and extra support would be required from the Center for Excellence. He stated that the Center can help provide the opinion of the Commission to elected officials. He requested to amend the current contract with the Center for Excellence to \$150,000 more than it is now. Furthermore, he informed the group this would be important with new SOR funding and strategic plans. Tym Rourke added the field requires technical assistance across the state and demand is increasing. He also informed the group that New Hampshire Charitable Foundation would not reduce their investment if the Commission chose to increase. Jennifer Patterson added this investment is timely due to legislative needs. Cheryl Coletti-Lawson made a motion to increase the Center for Excellence's contract by \$150,000, seconded by Tim Lena. Motion passed with all in favor with Tym Rourke abstaining.

6. Strategic and State Plan(s) Update

Amy Pepin, Center for Excellence, informed the group that the strategic plan is continuing to be worked on and is on track to be ready for review in late November or early December. She stated the plan will be available for members to review. Pending any input this plan will be adopted and publicly posted at December meeting. She reminded the members that this plan will be brief (approximately 10 pages) and contain high level strategies that then link to the Task Force workplans. Patrick informed the group that he asked for the different look to this plan. He requested an executive summary type plan that would allow for easy reading for the public and legislators. He thanked Amy and her team for their effort on this project.

Dr. Seddon Savage asked if the strategic plan for the Governor's Commission would align with the State Opioid Response Plan. Patrick indicated that the State's plan influenced parts of the Commission's plan and that the pushed back timeline allowed for alignment.

Amy Pepin reminded the members that a semiannual report due in March. She indicated that in December members will be reminded that all departments and all task force information will be due in January. She also reminded them that task force members are designated by calendar year and members recommit in January.

7. Task Force Updates

• Prevention

Tim Lena stated that the Task Force had a presentation by Law Enforcement Against Do (LEAD) on a new pilot prevention project across the state. He informed the members this program uses an evidence-based prevention curriculum and can be offered to school districts. He encouraged the group to keep in mind the success stories and reminded them that a majority of young people are making good decisions.

Tim informed the group that the funding for the New Hampshire Prevention Certification Board will run out in June. He requested \$12,000 from the Commission to support this effort. This motion was seconded by Tym Rourke. During discussion, Annette said the state will support this effort. Members voted all in favor.

• Treatment

Stephanie Savard stated that the Treatment Task Force recently had the Integrated Delivery Networks (IDNs) across the state present to them. This was to educate the group based on the changing treatment landscape. She informed the group that all treatment providers are collaborating with local IDNs. Stephanie also shared that subgroups are working on other items, including telehealth for treatment as well as for supervision and identifying specialty populations for treatment (i.e. veterans).

• Recovery

Cheryl Pacapelli shared that the Recovery Task Force had been working on the 513 Medicaid rules and were very happy with that result. The group is now working on new legislation for voluntarily registration of recovery housing and new standards.

• Joint Military

Brigadier General Bill Conway asked Staff Sergeant Rick Frost to provide the update. Rick stated the final draft of the letter for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs is in its final stages of development. This letter outlines challenges of providers and reimbursement rates. A draft is attached for review. The Task Force is also developing a military culture training. Furthermore, the Joint Military Task Force requested to work with the Data Task Force on a project in the future. Patrick indicated he would connect Rick with Dr. Ballard to move that work forward.

Perinatal Exposure

No report.

Data

Patrick informed the group that Steve Ahnen has agreed to Chair the Data Task force.

Opioid

Dr. Savage reported that the Opioid Task Force is continuing to look closely at justice affected individuals from pre-trial to probation/parole and in prison. Dr. Savage stated she would have more information for the Commission soon. She reported the group will next look at the jail system. This would be very complicated due to county differences. She informed the group that the Opioid card pilot that was approved in August is running. She added that disposal info was included, and they are getting good feedback from pharmacies.

• Healthcare

Dr. Savage reported that the Healthcare Task Force is continuing to look at their 3 priorities: expanding SBIRT in primary care as well as OB/GYN settings, expanding MAT and treatment for people in distress, and harm reduction .

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment was made by Susan McKeown by asking the Commission about involuntary commitment for someone experiencing addiction. Many members highlighted problems with the current involuntary commitment for individuals with mental health problems. Patrick request the Treatment Task Force to look into this idea further.

James Vera informed the group that Prescription Drug Takeback Day is scheduled for tomorrow. Patrick requested the locations for drop offs be sent out to the group.

Tym Rourke requested an assessment from NH DHHS on gaps in the State Opioid Response plan for the December meeting. Annette agreed.

*The next Governor's Commission Meeting
December 14, 2018 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at
the NH State House
Governor & Council Chambers
Concord, NH*