

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

January 25, 2019

Governor & Council Chambers

CONCORD, NH

MINUTES

Members Present:

Helene Anzalone, *NH Department of Education*

John Barthelmes, *Department of Safety*

Cheryl Coletti-Lawson, *NH Business and Industry Association*

Monica Edgar, *Treatment Professional*

Annette Escalante, *Executive Director and Director of the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services*

Katja Fox, *NH Department of Health & Human Services*

Helen Hanks, *Department of Corrections*

William Hatch, *NH State Representative*

Timothy Lena, *Prevention Professional*

Chuck Lloyd, *NH Community College System*

David Mara, *Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health*

David Mikolaities, *NH National Guard*

Honorable Tina Nadeau, *NH Courts*

Jennifer Patterson, *NH Insurance Department*

Dr. Dan Potenza, *Suicide Prevention Council*

Joseph Ribsam, *NH Department of Children, Youth and Families*

Tym Rourke, *NH Charitable Foundation*

Seddon Savage, MD, *NH Medical Society*

Stephanie Savard, *Treatment Professional*

Kate Thomson, *NH Nurses' Association*

Patrick Tufts, *Granite United Way*

Jim Young, *NH Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement*

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Patrick Tufts opened the meeting, welcomed Commission members and the public.

2. Strategic Plan Launch

Patrick Tufts opened by acknowledging the press presence at the meeting and asked Dave Mara, Tim Lena and Stephanie Savard to join him at the front of the room for a formal launch of the Commission's Strategic Plan. Patrick noted that the plan is a collaboration of Commission members, Commission Task Force members, and other key stakeholders. The plan serves as a blueprint for shared efforts, keeping the focus on alignment, coordination, innovation, and accountability. Dave Mara added that Governor Chris Sununu supports the plan and that it aligns with the Governor's Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative. Furthermore, Stephanie Savard and Tim Lena noted a strong support from Task Force members and their excitement in having a plan to work from across task forces.

3. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson to approve the minutes from December 14, 2018. The motion was seconded by Helen Hanks. The minutes were approved with all in favor.

4. NH DHHS Commissioner's Update provided by Katja Fox

Katja provided a brief update on the State Opioid Response Grant funding and programming. She noted as part of the application, there is a requirement to hire a coordinator for the project. DHHS hired Russ Keene for this role. She introduced Russ to the group, and he provided brief background information. Katja informed the Commission that

Russ' role is to coordinate all federal grants for opioids. This will allow for better alignment, less duplication and no gaps in services.

Katja also stated that all nine public forums were held at the Doorways. All were well attended meetings with audiences ranging from 50-200 people. Each meeting was regionally focused what the local needs and experiences are and will help inform the State going forward. Since 1/2/19 there have been 197 in person visits to the Doorways, this number is expected to increase sustainably since only a soft opening has been done thus far.

Patrick Tufts congratulated the Department and the Doorways for such a successful start. He noted that the professionalism, compassion, were very impressive and is a testament to their get it done attitude.

5. Executive Director's Update

• Financial Dashboard

Annette Escalante presented the financial dashboards, outlining what is currently in contracts and obligations to date. Patrick thanked Annette for keeping the Commission informed.

6. Featured Task Force Update - Perinatal Exposure

Monica Edgar thanked the Commission for their time and asked for their support on the materials to be presented. The task force has been working on developing these materials since September. Monica introduced Martha Bradley from Center for Excellence to explain more about the new marketing campaign from the task force. Martha informed the Commission that the materials distributed were for a campaign called "Today is for me." This campaign is targeted to pregnant women specifically to deter them from using any amount alcohol and marijuana while pregnant. She told the group the goal of the campaign is to motivate against the use of all kinds of alcohol while pregnant while emphasizing the health of the developing fetus and the autonomy of pregnant women. She noted that the task force is looking for the Commission's support and endorsement on this outreach campaign. Senator Waters asked why the images reflect women further along in pregnancy when health effects of substance use are typically seen early. Martha Bradley stated that was good feedback and that other images show women who do not appear pregnant. The images strive to be health affirming overall. Tym Rouke offered his support of the campaign and thanked the Center for Excellence for their time and effort. He also thanked the Commission for their consideration. Commissioner Helen Hanks asked if there would be a component to the campaign that deterred women from using opioids during pregnancy. Martha noted that at this time all talking points to focus on alcohol and marijuana, but the healthcare tool kit directs back to SBIRT for all substances. A motion for the Commission to endorse the roll out of this project was made by Chuck Lloyd and seconded by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson. Motion passed all in favor.

7. Prevention Task Force "Double Down on Prevention" Proposal - Tim Lena

Tim Lena thanked the Commission and stated that New Hampshire will not be able to treat our way out of the opioid epidemic but rather an investment in prevention should be made. He stated that Governor Sununu is very interested in what kind of prevention strategies can be used across the state and is interested in investing more money in to prevention. Tim informed the members that the Prevention Task Force is requesting the Commission to continue the investment of 1.4M from previous years and to double down on that amount bringing the investment to 2.8M. Time shared a story of a young woman who passed away on her 16th birthday from an opioid overdose. Another member of the community told him that in first grade, he knew that she was headed for trouble. Tim used this story to indicate the importance of Adverse Childhood Experiences on substance use. The prevention plan outlined emphasizes the use of preventing ACES to protect the most vulnerable populations with evidence-based practices. Patrick Tufts thanked the Prevention Task Force for their work, building upon other work with new and bold steps. He asked Tim who else is involved with the task force. Tim responded by stating the Prevention Task Force consists of 25 members who are connected across the state (community coalitions, schools, law enforcement, direct service providers) to various

prevention efforts. Dave Mara stated that Governor Chris Sununu is in support of the proposal as written. He believes that it is the last piece of the puzzle, which included critical programs with early intervention and is very cost effective. Senator Waters stated that he is impressed with the focus on young children, specifically the home visiting component. Jennifer Patterson also supported the proposal and stated as a school board member in Concord, she knows this is an important effort for children of New Hampshire. Tym Rourke noted that New Hampshire Charitable Foundation has been investing in prevention for the last seven years, outpacing the state, that has changed, and this plan is comprehensive. He stated that this plan allows us to build on progress with the Regional Public Health Network system. Patrick Tufts thanked the Charitable Foundation for their leadership over the years, noting their investment helped to get the state where we are today. Helene Anzalone agreed that partnering around the early childhood efforts with the same focus and action plan supports the children of New Hampshire. Stephanie Sevard noted a gap in the plan, stating that children's whose parents are in treatment need a certain level of programming and this could be a missing piece for prevention. Tim Lena made a motion for the Commission to approve 2.8M in spending as outlined. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson. Motion passes with all in favor.

8. State Fiscal Year 2020 - Patrick Tufts

Patrick Tufts stated that based on conversations with The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, he recommended the following contracts for renewal, based on the potential impact for not renewing. Patrick made a motion to approve the funding as shown. There was discussion around the contract for Harbor Homes 450,000. Annette Escalante informed the commission that this proposal is not tied to the balance on the dashboard provided earlier, this recommendation is for the upcoming fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Cheryl Coletti-Lawson. Motion passed with all in favor with Stephanie Savard abstaining.

9. Task Force Updates

- **Prevention**
No further update given.
- **Treatment**
Stephanie Savard stated that the Treatment Task Force spent their most recent meeting discussing HB481. The group is currently focused on bringing in speakers on various best practice to learn from. Recently the task force members learned about acupuncture and addiction.
- **Recovery**
Patrick Tufts shared that he attended the last Recovery Task Force meeting. He stated that group had a good conversation on HB481 as well.
- **Joint Military**
Brigadier General David Mikolitis asked Sgt. Mark Patterson to provide the update. Mark stated the group is in the final stages of developing the letter for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs that is focused on the challenges of providers and reimbursement rates. A draft is attached for review. The Task Force is continuing to work on developing a military culture training for treatment providers. Furthermore, the Joint Military Task Force continues to work to bring attention to the Ask the Question campaign/
- **Perinatal Exposure**
Monica Edgar reported that there is a summit scheduled for Tuesday on Plans of Safe Care for mothers and children. These plans are to be in place before an infant with substance exposure is discharged home from the hospital. She reported there is a great day planned with talented speakers on this issue.
- **Data**
Commissioner Hanks provided the update for the Task Force stating that the group is newly reenergized. She reported there was a large turnout for the last meeting to review past objectives and identify areas to potentially expand. The group is interested to look at the effects of substance use disorder on public health issues such as

hepatitis C and HIV. Commissioner Hanks acknowledge that this group is addressing perceived and known barriers to data sharing.

- **Opioid**

Dr. Savage replied 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 hopes to have a draft of their assessment by next Commission meeting. She also updated the Commission on the Opioid Card Pilot project. She stated that there was no feedback from individuals receiving the card with their medications. There is new bill currently in the legislature that would require for stickers and/or a red cap for opioid prescriptions.

- **Healthcare**

Dr. Savage replied that the Healthcare Task Force discussed the Medical Society's stance on cannabis and had good conversation on the issue.

10. Commissions Position on New Hampshire House Bill 481

Patrick Tufts informed the Commission that they have been asked to formally take a position on the recreational use of marijuana and New Hampshire House Bill 481. He stated that he met with eleven Commission members and attended two task force meetings on the topic. During those meetings, he said he learned a lot from professionals and based on that feedback, Patrick made a motion for the Commission to oppose HB 481 as written. The motion was seconded by Tim Lena. Cheryl Coletti-Lawson shared that as a person in long term recovery, she was personally opposed to the bill, however, as a representative of the business community which is neutral on the issue, she would abstain from the vote. Dr. Seddon Savage shared the New Hampshire Medical Society's stance on recreational use of cannabis. She stated that the group does not oppose this type of legislation in general, as long as particular guidelines are met. The guidelines are as follows: When data and evidence from states that have current use laws are favorable or neutral in impact to the public, when there is a regulatory process in place for oversight on product safety, and when there is a system in place to measure the impact on the public. She stated that HB 481 does not meet this criterion as outlined. Chief Justice Tina Nadeau stated she would abstain from the vote as a representative of the New Hampshire Courts. Brigadier General David Mikolaities stated he would abstain from the vote on behalf of the New Hampshire National Guard. Tim Lena shared that the Prevention Task Force has established materials for child safety in regards to this issue. He stated the concern of the task force is that as availability increases so does the potential risk for young people. Tim stated because of that he would vote to oppose the legislation. Tym Rouke stated that the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation does not have a position. He shared that he would vote as a member of the Commission, pursuant of the strategic plan and that the bill does not align with the goals outlined. Jennifer Patterson stated she would abstain as a representative of the New Hampshire Insurance Department. Commissioner Barthelmes stated he would vote as a representative of the Department of Safety to oppose the bill. He shared the departments concern around driving and highway safety. Helene Anzalone stated she would abstain from the vote as a representative of the Department of Education. Patrick Tufts shared that he received written votes from Keith Howard and Steven Ahnen who were unable to attend, both opposing the legislation. Representative Hatch encouraged those who can find the time to bring the materials to the hearings to share with legislators. Patrick called for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor, noting the above abstentions.

11. Public Comment

Public Comment was made by Susan McKeown thanking the Commission Members for their action on prevention and recreational use of cannabis today. Amy Pepin reminded the group that her team would be working on a mid-year report due march. She asked those who need to provide information for that report to be attentive to receiving notice for their input as the turnaround would be two weeks.

*The next Governor's Commission meeting
February 22, 2019 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the
NH State House
Governor & Council Chambers
Concord, NH*