

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

January 15th, 2021

9:30am-11:30am

Meeting via Zoom

Members Present:

Governor Chris Sununu

Steve Ahnen, *NH Hospital Association*

Alex Casale, *NH Courts*

Russ Conte, *New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Council*

Jennifer Doris, *Department of Education*

Scott Dunn, *NH Liquor Commission*

Nicholas Duffy, *Department of Corrections*

Monica Edgar, *Treatment Professional*

Keith Howard, *Recovery Representative*

Tim Lena, *Prevention Professional*

Chuck Lloyd, *Community College System of NH*

Chris Nicolopoulos, *Insurance Department*

Dave Mara, *Governor's Advisor on Addiction & Behavioral Health*

Matt McKenney, *Business & Industry Association*

David Mikolaities, *NH National Guard*

Honorable Tina Nadeau, *New Hampshire Superior Court*

Jamie Powers, *Executive Director, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services*

Robert Quinn, *Department of Safety*

Tym Rourke, *NH Charitable Foundation*

Kathie Saari, *Faith Community Representative*

Seddon Savage, *NH Medical Society*

Stephanie Savard, *Treatment Professional*

Kate Thomson, *NH Nurses Association*

Patrick Tufts, *Chair, Granite United Way*

David Watters, *NH State Senator*

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks and Roll Call – Patrick Tufts, the Commission Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed the Commission and members of the public. He then proceeded to run a roll call of all the Commission members in attendance. Next the Chair welcomed Governor Chris Sununu and ceded the meeting to hear remarks from the Governor.

The Governor shared that he is grateful for the continued strategic focus and commitment of the Commission. The Governor shared that there is funding in the CARES Act that will support the Doorways and their ancillary services like housing for people experiencing homelessness and transitional housing. The Governor identified that there is a rise in methamphetamine and stimulant use in New Hampshire. The Governor would like to see an increase in prevention, treatment and recovery services that address stimulant use. He impressed that the goal is to be proactive on this issue instead of reactive like was the case with opioid use. The Chair thanked the Governor and then asked for questions. Senator Watters shared that he submitted a bill that is focused on safe injection sites and asked the Governor to be aware of it. There were no further questions, so the Chair thanked the Governor and continued to the next item on the agenda.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the October 23rd, 2020 meeting minutes of the Commission. Keith Howard made a motion to approve the October minutes and General Mikolaities seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote. Next the Chair welcomed Katja Fox to provide an update for the Department of Health and Human Services.

2. DHHS Department Update – Katja Fox, Director of the NH DHHS Division for Behavioral Health, shared that the SAMHSA block grant that funds look like they will be doubled for the coming year. Director Fox shared that the details are currently limited, but they are very excited about the increased opportunity this will provide. Director Fox shared that the state received 2 million dollars to address mental health during this COVID crisis and it looks like those funds could be extended for another year. Director Fox mentioned that they are in the process of hiring a suicide prevention coordinator to work with the Suicide Prevention Council within the division.

Director Fox invited Don Hunter to present on the Doorways data. Mr. Hunter shared a slideshow on the 2020 Doorway trends and shared some information on the sustainability of the State Opioid Response grant. The Chair asked for any questions for Mr. Hunter on his presentation. There being no questions the Chair then welcomed Jaime Powers as the new Executive Director for the Governor's Commission.

3. Executive Director's Update – Jaime Powers, the new Executive Director for the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs and the Director for the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services thanked the Chair for welcoming her. Executive Director Powers shared that she is looking forward to working with the Commission to connect and unite the different pathways of prevention, treatment, and recovery to remove the silos in those services. The Executive Director then shared an update on the Governor's Commission contracts. The Executive Director shared that there are 27 contracts in place for state fiscal year 2021, of those about 16 contracts will lapse if not extended or renewed. Executive Director Powers shared there are around 3 million dollars in state fiscal year 2021 that can still be allocated and an additional 1 million dollars that will be saved for any emergency funding needs. The Executive Director shared the contracts unit has been understaffed with at least one-third of positions unfilled and the delay in funding has been due to new language needed for new grants that required approval by state and federal contacts.

The Executive Director shared that New Hampshire is one of two New England states that will see a reduction in opioid overdose deaths for 2020 but she shared that the Doorway data does reflect a rise in methamphetamine use. Following the Executive Director's report, the Chair asked for any questions from the Commission. Keith Howard asked about the 34% cut for the recovery community centers in New Hampshire. The Executive Director shared the Bureau is looking for additional funding streams to fill the gap caused when additional recovery community organizations were funded. Tym Rourke asked for an update on the Phoenix House services in New Hampshire. The Executive Director shared that their special receivership they obtained in Rhode Island was to help them maintain their services during COVID. The Chair then welcomed Dave Mara to speak on the next agenda item.

4. Governor's Request – Dave Mara, the Governor's Advisor on Behavioral Health, shared that the Governor is interested in developing a plan to address the rise in methamphetamine use. Mr. Mara highlighted that it is important to address the disease and not just the substance. Mr. Mara reported when looking at the data there has been a rise in of methamphetamine seizures seen by the State Police and other enforcement departments. Mr. Mara also shared that they are looking to see if there is a connection between the rise in methamphetamine use and stimulant prescriptions.

Mr. Mara has a technical expert that he would like to have present at the next Governor's Commission meeting. Mr. Mara shared that the Governor's Office would like to expand state and local responses to methamphetamine use and develop prevention messaging as quickly as possible. The Chair asked for questions from the Commission. Tim Lena, Prevention Task Force Chair, shared that a comprehensive strategy would be across the continuum of care. Stephanie Savard, Treatment Task Force Chair, shared a concern about creating a subcommittee that only focuses on methamphetamine use and how to create meaningful recommendations without silo-ing the effort. Mr. Mara shared that each task force could work together to develop a plan and a report instead of creating a separate task force. The Chair recommended that the conversation be moved to the Task Force chairs agenda to further discuss a strategy on addressing this issue. The Chair thanked Mr. Mara for his update and then invited Amy

Daniels from JSI, Inc. to report on the strategic planning process.

5. Strategic Planning Process – Amy Daniels of JSI, Inc. shared a slideshow on the Governor’s Commission strategic planning process. Ms. Daniels shared that the current strategic plan would expire at the end of this calendar year. The Center for Excellence has been working on ensuring that the next strategic plan includes diversity and equity with a focus on a product that can be understood by all people in New Hampshire. Ms. Daniels shared that they also want to include progress reports and ways to identify new gaps in services in the future plan. Ms. Daniels also shared they will be facilitating data collection, key informant interviews, and public input sessions to assist in developing the new strategic plan over the next year. The Chair shared that he was aligned on this process and asked for questions. There being no questions the Chair welcomed Jill Burke from the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services to share the prevention cost effectiveness report.

6. Prevention Cost Effectiveness Report – Jill Burke, the Administrator of the Prevention Services Unit of the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services, shared a slideshow on how the prevention cost effectiveness report was developed and summarized the results of that report. A comprehensive workgroup was assembled that reviewed prevention services that had a common target population, used an evidence-based strategy, and had data to show the effectiveness. Ms. Burke shared there was a lot of variability in data for the different programs and that precluded this workgroup from comparing the cost effectiveness of programs as a group. Ms. Burke shared that the challenges of measuring the cost effectiveness of prevention is because the changes in behavior are often long-term over time and data collection is different from program to program because of funding requirements. She shared that the prevention field needs standardized data collection and need to determine the true cost of program delivery. The Chair thanked Ms. Burke for her presentation and then asked for questions. There were no questions from the Commission. Next the chair asked for Task Force updates.

7. Task Force Updates

- **Prevention** – Tim Lena, Prevention Chair, shared that there is a retreat planned for next week to develop funding recommendations.
- **Treatment** – Stephanie Savard, Treatment Chair, shared that Shanna Large from Riverbend Community Mental Health will be joining the task force as a co-chair.
- **Recovery** – Keith Howard, Recovery Chair, shared that energy is being spent on filling the funding gap.
- **Joint Military** – General Mikolaities, Joint Military Chair, shared they are reviewing the data to make recommendations.
- **Healthcare** – Seddon Savage, Healthcare Chair, shared that they are formulating recommendations for telehealth beyond the pandemic and are educating on the rise in alcohol use.
- **Data** – Steve Ahnen, Data Chair, shared that they received young adult assessment survey data that they will be reviewing at a future meeting.
- **Opioid** – Seddon Savage, Opioid Chair, shared the task force has been creating a map that highlights opioid use data for different areas in the state. They are considering becoming a critical needs task force to address emerging needs like the rise in methamphetamine.

The Chair then reviewed that the next Commission meeting will be focused on funding proposals and asked the task forces be prepared to make recommendations at that time. The Chair then invited members of the public to make comments.

8. Public Comment – John Burns shared a frustration with the funding gaps in recovery. Mr. Burns also asked that public comment be moved to earlier in Commission meetings to make it more accessible for community members. Susan McKeown asked if alcohol is included in the increased State Opioid Response grant funding. Jaime Powers answered that it was not. Tym Rourke shared that he is deeply concerned in the delays in funding allocations and that having context from the contracts unit may help the Commission make better recommendations. Dan Wargo shared that he is finding it more challenging to meet the demands in rising substance use disorders. Cheryle Pacapelli shared that they are five months behind in receiving contracts from the Department of Health and Human

Services. The Chair thanked the public for their comments and committed to reviewing these suggestions. The Chair thanked everyone for attending and then adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting
February 16th, 2021
9:30am-11:30am