

## GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

9:30am-11:30am

Meeting via Zoom

### Members Present:

Steve Ahnen, *NH Hospital Association*

David Bettencourt, *New Hampshire Insurance Department*

Mathew Culver, *Representative for NH Liquor Commission, Division of Enforcement*

Alex Casale, *Representative for NH Courts*

Russ Conte, *Suicide Prevention Council*

Jen Doris, *Representative for Department of Education*

Jess Edwards, *NH House Representative*

Keith Howard, *Recovery Representative*

Tim Lena, *Prevention Professional*

Helen Hanks, *Department of Corrections*

Chuck Lloyd, *Community College System of NH*

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

Gordon MacDonald, *Department of Justice*

Matt McKenney, *Business & Industry Association*

David Mikolaities, *NH National Guard*

Tina Nadeau, *NH Courts*

Chris Nicolopoulos, *NH Insurance Department*

Jaime Powers, *Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services*

Robert Quinn, *NH Department of Safety*

Tym Rourke, *NH Charitable Foundation*

Kathie Saari, *Faith Community Representative*

Seddon Savage, *NH Medical Society*

Stephanie Savard, *Treatment Professional*

Patrick Tufts, *Chair, Granite United Way*

David Watters, *NH State Senator*

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Roll Call – Patrick Tufts, the Governor's Commission Chair, welcomed and introduced new members to the Governor's Commission. The Chair then called a Roll Call to open the meeting. Proceeding the roll call the Chair welcomed the members of the public and shared that the agenda had been changed to reflect suggestions to include public comment earlier in the agenda. The Chair then welcomed the guest speaker.
2. Guest Speaker: Richard Rawson, PhD, Research Professor, Vermont Center for Behavior & Health – Patrick Tufts introduced Dr. Rawson to present on stimulants. Dr. Rawson shared a PowerPoint slide show called Stimulants 2021: Epidemiology, Effects and Treatment. Dr. Rawson shared that he has over 50 years of experience researching stimulants like methamphetamine and he will be sharing the current data partnered with that experience.  
Dr. Rawson shared that the treatment model currently for stimulants has shifted from encouraging people to seek recovery to encouraging harm reduction to keep them alive first because so much of the current stimulants are mixed with fentanyl. Dr. Rawson encouraged that treatment focused on stimulants look to address the disparities experienced by people of color. Dr. Rawson shared the

longer people are kept in treatment the more likely they will survive. Dr. Rawson shared that methamphetamine use disorders can cause brain damage, but it is possible for people to recover brain function after prolonged treatment and recovery. Dr. Rawson shared the data supports people with methamphetamine use disorders having treatment centered in their community and having robust harm reduction available. There are no current FDA approved medications for the treatment of methamphetamine use disorders, but the most effective non-medication treatment is contingency management. Dr. Rawson shared that other states have used funds from the State Opioid Response grants to be used for contingency management treatment plans.

At the culmination of Dr. Rawson's presentation, the Chair opened the meeting to questions from members. Seddon Savage asked if alternative rewards like hiking in nature have an impact on the treatment of stimulant use disorders. Dr. Rawson shared that exercise could increase the dopamine response. The Chair thanked Dr. Rawson for his presentation and moved on to the next part of the agenda.

3. Public Comment – The Chair opened the meeting for speakers from the public and asked for comments. Bob Batson shared that he was representing Team Wolfeboro and that they were recommending that the National Guard be given money to produce a public awareness campaign on marijuana. The Chair thanked Mr. Batson and welcomed John Burns to speak. Mr. Burns thanked the chair and Dr. Rawson for his presentation on stimulants. Mr. Burns asked that the Commission vote in favor to increase funding for recovery supports. The Chair thanked Mr. Burns and then seeing no further comments moved on to welcome Katja Fox.
4. DHHS Department Update – Katja Fox, Director, DHHS Division for Behavioral Health – Director Fox announced that they have found a Suicide Prevention Coordinator, Jennifer Sabin, who will be joining DHHS in March. Director Fox shared that they will be receiving about 6.8 million dollars of additional funding from the federal block grant. Director Fox disclosed that there was less than half a million dollars awarded to support mental health services. Director Fox shared that they are also aware of the need for stimulant messaging. The Chair thanked Director Fox and seeing no questions from the members, asked Jaime Powers to provide the Executive Director's update.
5. Executive Director's Update – Jaime Powers thanked the Chair and began her update. Executive Director Powers shared the contracts that have passed Governor and Council. The Chair proceeded to the next agenda item after thanking the Executive Director for her update.
6. Funding Recommendations – Patrick Tufts presented the funding recommendations as a slate to be voted on by the Commission. The Chair shared that he would be abstaining from the vote on the slate of funding recommendations. The slate was provided in the meeting packet and contained recommendations from the Task Forces, recommendations from the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services and recommendations from the Governor. The Chair then reviewed the different recommendations from each Task Force. The Chair recognized the collaboration that occurred between task forces.

The Chair asked for questions on the recommendations from Commission members. Senator Watters asked what can be done to expedite the funding of these recommendations. The Chair shared that he could recommend that contracts be expedited. Director Fox shared that many contracts are looking to be expedited but there is a system that all contracts need to pass through. She shared that they are moving forward with hiring staff to help execute contracts but to ensure transparency contracts need to be approved through the current system. Senator Watters asked what data is being collected in youth serving funded programs to demonstrate if they have a need for additional funding. Director Fox shared that there are potentially additional one-time dollars to support the expanded need. Tym Rourke asked about the funding support purposed for NHCORR and how the state is supporting housing access. Jaime Powers shared that there is expected funding to fill the gap in recovery housing. Steve Ahnen disclosed that the Foundation for Health Communities is on the slate

and they are a member of the New Hampshire Hospital Association. Tina Nadeau asked that the recovery housing issue be reviewed because she is aware of the importance for housing people in recovery. The Chair advised that the funding recommendation not change but that there would be an opportunity later to review this potential funding gap at a later meeting. That would give the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services time to review the additional funding opportunities while still providing funding to NHCORR. Ending the discussion, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the slate of funding recommendations. Steven Ahnen made the motion to approve the slate, and Senator Watters seconded the motion. A majority vote approved the motion to fund the slate of recommendations. The Chair then thanked the Commission members, JSI and the staff at the Bureau for their work to approve this funding.

7. Other Business – The Chair asked members for other business updates. Senator Watters thanked the Chair for sharing the survey on a recovery monument. With no other business to share, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

***Next Meeting***  
***April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021***  
***9:30am-11:30am***