1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – The Chair began the meeting and reviewed the structure of conducting a virtual commission meeting. The Chair drew the attention of the members to the CDC Provisional Data Report on Drug Overdose and Death Counts. He shared there has been a 12% decrease in overdoses in NH, despite there being a rise in national data. The Chair also shared the Governor’s COVID-19 Equity Response Team report and noted that health crises widen the already existing disparities.

   The Chair then asked the Commission members to suggest future speakers for Commission meetings in advance. Steve Ahnen suggested including the patient’s voice or a lived experience presenter. Alex Casale recommended a speaker on equity and inclusion as it relates to substance use disorders and the criminal justice system. Tim Lena suggested a speaker on social justice and marijuana. Senator Watters suggested a speaker from the ACLU New Hampshire to present on the reduction of sentencing related to substance possession. The Chair thanked the Commission members for their suggestions and stated that the Bureau and he will invite speakers to present on those topics in the future.

   The Chair announced that Executive Director Annette Escalante is leaving her position at the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services and thanked her for her efforts over her career to the Commission and the state. Annette Escalante thanked the Commission for the level of passion and support they have provided during her years at the Bureau. The Chair then moved to the next agenda item.
2. **Consent Agenda** - The Chair asked the Commission members to participate in a roll call vote to approve the August Commission minutes and the Commission overview document. Benjamin Jean abstained from voting on the minutes and the Commission overview document. The remaining Commission members approved the minutes and overview document.

3. **DHHS Commissioner’s Update** – Director Katja Fox provided an update on DHHS efforts in Commissioner Lori Shibinette’s absence. Director Fox shared the plan for the Executive Director position and their hopes to fill it quickly. Jaime Powers and Katja Fox will work to provide coverage for the Executive Director’s position until it is filled. SAMHSA announced that New Hampshire has been awarded the second wave of State Opioid Response grant dollars. One year of $28.1 million dollars will fund the Doorway systems, the Adverse Childhood Experiences initiative, the Work to Succeed initiative for DCYF involved families, Medication Assisted Treatment, room and board stipends, peer recovery support services, and other programs. Director Fox then introduced Don Hunter to provide a report on the Doorways’ activities.

   Mr. Hunter provided a PowerPoint presentation of highlights on the Doorway Monthly Activity reports. The number of new client calls has continued to increase, the number of individuals seen has increased, but the number of Narcan distributions has decreased. The Doorways have continued to provide services to clients using telehealth. They have applied to use extension funds to provide gap services until the second round of State Opioid Response grant dollars are secured for seamless transitions to the new funding.

   The Chair then opened the meeting for questions. Tym Rourke asked when the funds will be distributed to the programs. Director Fox shared that Don Hunter and other team members have been working on the over 30 contracts that are part of this award to get them approved as quickly as possible. Alex Casale asked if recovery homes receive funds to support people who are using medically assisted treatment because there are homes that don’t currently accept people who are using that treatment path. Director Fox replied that the funds will support housing people who use medically assisted treatment. Steve Ahnen asked how this grant amount compared to the first grant. Director Fox shared that it is level funding compared to the original grant. Seddon Savage asked if there is funding for increasing workforce support.

4. **Executive Director’s Update** – Executive Director Annette Escalante reviewed the Financial Dashboard. She highlighted that the Bureau is waiting to receive a report on the exact amount of close out dollars for fiscal year 2020 and that the final amount will be shared before the October Commission meeting. The Executive Director shared the contracts that are outstanding and will soon be finalized.

   The Chair then opened the meeting to questions from the Commission members. Stephanie Savard clarified that the transitional housing funding was rolled into the most recent RFP for treatment. Executive Director Escalante agreed. Stephanie Savard asked if the funding for expansion of treatment beds was secured. Director Fox shared that there wasn’t expanded funding in these contracts but that any recommendations on increased support should be brought forth. Dave Mara shared there are CARES Act funds that, based on recommendations from stakeholders, was earmarked for rental assistance and recovery housing supports. Tym Rourke asked how the funds to
support harm reduction are being distributed. Executive Director Escalante shared they are hoping to direct the funds through the Department of Public Health instead of through an RFP. Mr. Rourke shared a concern that safe syringe programs won’t have the funds needed to purchase the quantity of supplies needed to follow best practices around distribution during COVID-19. Seeing no more questions, the Chair continued to the next agenda item and introduced Amy Daniels, Associate Director of JSI.

5. **Upcoming Governor’s Commission Reports** – Amy Daniels shared two reports from last year, in final draft, that will be sent to Commission members for review following this meeting. Ms. Daniels shared the 2019 State Fiscal Annual report for the Commission. The report is built to mirror the strategic plan. It is not an exhaustive list of every activity done by the state, but brief and informative on the progress of Commission Strategic Plan strategies. Commission members will also receive a survey to indicate the action on strategies for SFY 2020 with an opportunity to describe that work. Ms. Daniels also shared the midyear report draft will be shared for content review. When Ms. Daniels completed her presentation, the Chair asked for questions from the members. With no questions, the Chair began the next agenda item.

6. **Task Force Updates**
   - **Prevention** – Task Force Chair Tim Lena shared that Shannon Bresaw has stepped down as Co-Chair and the committee is preparing for three-year strategic planning.
   - **Treatment** – Task Force Chair Stephanie Savard shared the primary focus of the committee is on the involuntary commitment strategy and collecting information to present a recommendation at the next Commission meeting.
   - **Recovery** – Task Force Chair Keith Howard shared the focus of the committee has been on emergency peer support services.
   - **Joint Military** – Task Force Chair General Mikolaities shared Operation Purple Star is focused on outreach to families and military youth in schools. Task Force members from the Joint Military Task force will be joining other task forces to integrate and collaborate better. General Mikolaities also shared they are providing Deterra bags to over 20,000 students in NH.
   - **Healthcare** – Task Force Chair Seddon Savage shared they are examining the impact of telehealth on engaging the patients in treatment and aftercare. They are also examining the rise of alcohol use disorders and developing strategies in greater screening and education materials.
   - **Perinatal Exposure** – Patrick Tufts provided the Perinatal Report on behalf of the Task Force Chair Monica Edgar. JSI will be receiving another year of funding from the NH Charitable Foundation to provide expanded support to the task force. They identified 6 focus areas for the next year: maternal opioid misuse, substance exposed infant pilot, medication options for women with substance use disorders, doula services model, telehealth and technology access, and managed care organizational priorities.
   - **Data** – Task Force Chair Steve Ahnen shared a report.
   - **Opioid** – Task Force Chair Seddon Savage shared their focus is on sources for data on opioid use and how to integrate these data sets to make them more available.

7. **Other Business** – Patrick Tufts shared that the next Commission meeting will be an opportunity for the Task Forces to make funding recommendations on gaps in services. There will be a minimum of $1.2 million dollars to expend. The Chair shared he will be following up to create a slate of guest speakers based on the Commission recommendations.

    Alex Casale shared that Judge Nadeau was asked to be on a National Commission focused on COVID-19 and the criminal justice system.
8. **Public Comment** – The Chair opened the meeting to public comment. The Chair recognized John Burns to address the Commission. Mr. Burns expressed his disappointment in the decrease in funding for recovery supports, though he was encouraged to hear about the State Opioid Response grant continuance. He was looking for assurances that the deficit in recovery funding won’t be continued into the next grant cycle. Mr. Burns also noted the gap in female respite beds. Susan McKeown recommended someone from the Brain Injury Association to speak to the impacts of overdose on brain activity. Ms. McKeown asked if there was funding for a family support coordinator. Diane Castrucci asked if there is education and training funds in the State Opioid Response second round of funding. Ending the public comment period, the Chair then called a roll call vote to end the meeting. There was unanimous consent to end the meeting.

*Next Meeting*

*October 23, 2020*

*9:30am - 11:30am*