

# GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

February 22, 2019

Governor & Council Chambers

CONCORD, NH

## MINUTES

### Members Present:

Mark Armaganian, *NH Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement*  
Shannon Bresaw, *Prevention Professional*  
Frank Edelblut, *NH Department of Education*  
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*  
William Hatch, *NH State Representative*  
Keith Howard, *Recovery Representative*  
Ben Jean, *Department of Corrections*  
Chuck Lloyd, *NH Community College System*  
Gordon MacDonald, *NH Attorney General's Office*  
David Mara, *Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health*  
Bill Conway, *NH National Guard*  
Alex Casale, *NH Courts*  
Sherman Packard, *NH State Representative*  
Jennifer Patterson, *NH Insurance Department*  
Chris Placy, *Public Member*  
Joseph Ribsam, *NH Department of Children, Youth and Families*  
Seddon Savage, *NH Medical Society*  
Stephanie Savard, *Treatment Professional*  
Kate Thomson, *NH Nurses' Association*  
Patrick Tufts, *Granite United Way*  
David Watters, *NH Senate*

### **1. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

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

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

There was a motion by Representative Hatch to approve the minutes from January 25, 2019. The motion was seconded by Chuck Lloyd. The minutes were approved with all in favor.

### **3. Presentation by Guest Speakers: Anthony C Linardos and Beverly Mason, USDA**

Anthony Linardos opened by describing what the USDA is and how it strives to improve quality of life for rural communities. He noted that they invest 200M annually in programs across New Hampshire and Vermont across program types, including rural housing, business development, substance use disorders programming. Anthony also noted that the USDA pulls down federal funding, of which there is more. He talked through the various types of investments that the USDA makes, their varying requirements, criteria and restrictions. Senator David Watters asked a follow up question about a program highlighted in Utah. Anthony stated he would reach out to the USDA staff in that location for more details. Patrick asked Anthony for the timeline on their grants. Anthony noted the grant opportunities are typically launched in July or August. Dave Mara asked Anthony to supply for the group a grid of eligible towns in order to help service providers be prepared for the funding opportunities this summer. Anthony agreed. Chris Placy noted the example of a behavioral health center would be good for New Hampshire to explore.

#### 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 that the Doorway at LRGH will be featured on Circus on Showtime this upcoming weekend. Katja provided a hand out summarizing the Doorway Activity from 1/1/19-2/3/19 across the state. Patrick Tufts noted surprise at the number of walk ins taken by the Doorways. Stephanie Savard asked for more detailed information based on Doorway location as well as if it was accessed by phone or by walking in. Stephanie also asked if DHHS could provide a breakout of who is accessing the services (someone with a SUD, family member, friend, etc.) Katja noted this as the reason for total served being over 400 and the number of assessments totaling 187. She also stated that some individuals refuse the assessment and only ask for a referral to treatment. Senator Watters asked if after assessment, if the level of care needed by the individual is always available. Katja indicated that no, that is not always possible but interim services are provided in the meantime. There were concerns stated by multiple members of the Commission on the need for long term tracking of individuals, of gaps in services and the difficulty still existing to navigate this system.

#### 5. Executive Director's Update

- **Financial Dashboard**

Annette Escalante presented the financial dashboards, outlining what is currently in contracts and obligations to date. She noted that the contract for Granite Pathways' Peer Family Support Services was overlooked at last month's meeting for renewal. She indicated a total of \$105,000 needed to renew the contract. Stephanie Savard made a motion to approve the funding to renew this contract. The motion was seconded by Representative Hatch. The motion passed with all in favor. Patrick Tufts indicated the Commission needed to vote to approve the funding for the staff of the Governor's office. Representative Hatch made a motion to approve this funding. The motion was seconded by Gordon MacDonald. The motion passed with all in favor. Lastly, Patrick indicated the need to adjust the Center for Excellence's contract into 2020. Monica Edgar noted she would be unable to chair the Perinatal Task Force without the support of the Center. Patrick Tufts made a motion to approve this funding. The motion was seconded by Monica Edgar. Motion passed with all in favor.

#### 6. Task Force Updates

- **Recovery**

No update provided. Patrick Tufts welcomed new Recovery Representative, Keith Howard.

- **Joint Military**

Bill Conway provided the update, stating the group is in the final stages of developing a military culture training for treatment providers. This training is scheduled to roll out in April.

- **Perinatal Exposure**

Monica Edgar reported that the summit on Plans of Safe Care for mothers and children was successful. She indicated that she would like to bring a full report on this event back to the Commission at a later date.

- **Data**

No update provided.

- **Opioid**

Dr. Savage reported that the Opioid Task Force is finishing up their work on 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 stated that the Task Force is looking at a new bill currently in the legislature that would require for stickers and/or a red cap for opioid prescriptions.

- **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.

- **Prevention**

Shannon Bresaw provided the update noting that the Prevention Task Force is incredibly grateful for investment the Commission made last month. She noted the task force is especially excited about addressing prevention in early childhood, as this has not been done before by the Commission at this level. Shannon also shared that they've received feedback that there are requests coming in through the Doorways and 2-1-1 system around prevention resources for the community. She noted that the group wants to ensure that prevention providers have given updated information to 2-1-1.

**7. Other Business**

Senator Watters noted that he is sponsoring SB209 and invited Commission members to reach out to him with any questions.

Patrick Tufts noted that the date for the upcoming retreat for the Commission may not be needed. He asked the group if they would be interested in visiting a Doorway partner in lieu of a traditional retreat. The group agreed.

**8. Public Comment**

Dellie Champagne asked if DHHS could provide a breakdown of people served by ages, or by children verses adults served by the Doorways. She noted this would be helpful for the work of the Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative. Katja said she would take that idea back to the department. Public Comment was made by Susan McKeown adding that a breakdown by family and friends could also be helpful. Susan also asked for a status update on the work around looking into involuntary commitment based on substance use disorder from the Treatment Task Force. Stephanie Savard noted she would have a summary from the group at the next meeting.

*The next Governor's Commission meeting  
May 10, 2019 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the  
NH State House  
Governor & Council Chambers  
Concord, NH*