

# GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

May 10, 2019

Governor & Council Chambers

CONCORD, NH

## MINUTES

### **Members Present:**

Steve Ahnen, *NH Hospital Association*  
Kara Buxton, *Division of Children, Youth and Families*  
Celeste Clark, *Prevention Professional*  
Frank Edelblut, *Department of Education*  
John Elias, *New Hampshire Insurance Department*  
Becky Ewing, *Treatment Professional*  
William Hatch, *NH State Representative*  
Keith Howard, *Recovery Representative*  
Don Hunter, *Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services*  
David King, *NH Courts*  
Chuck Lloyd, *Community College System of NH*  
Gordon MacDonald, *NH Attorney General's Office*  
David Mara, *Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health*  
Jeff Meyers, *NH Department of Health & Human Services*  
Michael Milliken, *NH Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement*  
Mark Patterson, *NH National Guard*  
Chris Placy, *Public Member*  
Robert Quinn, *NH Department of Safety*  
Tym Rourke, *NH Charitable Foundation*  
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 by welcoming the Commission members and the public. He then asked the group to provide introductions around the table due to the number of proxy representatives at this meeting.

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

There was a motion by Steven Ahnen to approve the minutes from March 22, 2019. The motion was seconded by Representative Hatch. The minutes were approved with all in favor with Chuck Lloyd abstaining.

### **3. NH DHHS Commissioner's Update**

Commissioner Meyers provided a brief update on the State Opioid Response Grant funding noting that the supplemental funds coming to the state will have the same guidelines. He also stated that some of the funding will be able to be used to fill existing gaps, such as housing. Patrick congratulated the team at DHHS for their work on securing these important dollars.

### **4. Executive Director's Update provided by Don Hunter**

Don Hunter provided the update as Annette Escalante was not able to. Don presented the financial dashboards to the group, outlining what is currently in contracts and obligations to date. He noted that there is nearly \$2M of available

funds, this is an increase due to non-expended funds from closed contracts and that there are 45 projects or contracts funded in part or in full by the Commission.

Tym Rourke asked a clarifying question on the recovery centers contract, asking if the overall contract had been reduced because other funds were being pursued. Keith Howard also noted that if other funds are not identified, the impact would be negative. Commissioner Meyers indicated that Recovery Organization's billing for Medicaid is part of the reason for the adjustment to the contract. Commission Edelbult asked if the billing to Medicaid could realistically make up the full amount of \$250,000 that the contract was reduced over the prior year. Don Hunter replied that an amount has not yet been estimated, but likely no. Seddon Savage reminded the group that investments in recovery defray and prevent additional treatment costs. Senator Watters noted that the group could budget \$700,000 and reduce the payment amount if the Medicaid funding is secured. Becky Ewing asked if training for billing is being provided, as this can be a barrier for some agencies. Katja Fox replied that training is being provided and the current billing for these services to Medicaid is sporadic. She reminded the group that there is a facilitating organization that is in place to support the work on the ground and that there is other funding in the current budget in the House. Keith Howard noted that the recovery centers have been moving toward Medicaid billing, but it is taking time and it is not much money that would be provided even when billing is full scale. Commissioner Meyers stated that DHHS is working hard to support these organizations and noted that the services being provided are billable and the recovery organizations are obligated to take advantage of the federal dollars.

Senator Watters made a motion to adjust the budget for this contract to \$700,000, less the amount secured through Medicaid billing. Keith Howard seconded the motion. Patrick opened the floor for discussion. Tym Rourke noted that the New Hampshire Legislature and the DHHS have worked hard to allow for Medicaid billing for these types of services, noting that other states don't have these provisions. He noted that this group would not want to do a disservice to the Medicaid system. He asked if an incentive program could be put in place to tie funding to performance of achieving reimbursement. Senator Watters agreed that incentives could work in FY 2021, but that FY 2020 is already here. Stephanie Savard added that the treatment community went through a similar process and that DHHS was supportive during that transition. She asked in the facilitating organization could provide an assessment of the status of each Recovery Organization. Patrick noted that it could be beneficial to spend some time gathering further information on the topic and add further discussion to June agenda. Senator Watters made a motion to table this motion until June. The motion was seconded by Tym Rourke. The motion passed with all in favor.

##### **5. Mid-Year Data Report Presentation – Jonathan Stewart, Center for Excellence**

Jonathan Stewart, Center for Excellence, opened by thanking the Commission. He noted that on a number of indicators the statistics have plateaued, and some have declined. This indicates that in general, things are getting better. He reminded the group that this data is only representative of individuals receiving services that are funded by BDAS. He stated that 4200 people received BDAS services, down about 2000 people over the previous year. This is due to the fact that as people get access to Medicaid, they don't get support directly from a BDAS contract. Jonathan presented various charts and graphs on substance use disorder services across the state.

Keith Howard asked why it appears as though success rates have dropped over time (chart 12). Jonathan stated that there is not a current hypothesis on why that might be. He noted that chart contains all levels of care provided and disaggregated data by treatment type could be more meaningful. Stephanie Savard noted that harm reduction initiatives around the same time could be a possible influence. Jonathan followed up by stating that Medicaid status might also impact this outcome. Senator Watters noted that there was a small decline in overdose deaths with large decline in ER visits. Seddon Savage stated that because private use of Narcan is hard to track and she is concerned that fewer people aren't actually not using, they just aren't showing up in this data. Amy Daniels Pepin stated that it is

true, that we do not know that the same number of people are accessing treatment. However, we do know that fewer people are accessing treatment through BDAS system, and that is positive.

## **6. Task Force Updates**

### **▪ Opioid**

Seddon Savage presented the Justice Impacted Report to the Commission. She noted that several sectors of the justice system helped the task force put this together. She went on to say that key leaders have reviewed the report and provided suggestions. She requested that unless there are glaring omissions or mistakes, that the full Commission endorse the use of this plan by the task force. Patrick stated that the report would be sent out to the group and voted to be approved via email. Seddon also stated that HB359 now includes language to utilize the previously piloted informational card to be distributed with opioid medications. This means that the Commission is now noted in this legislation. Tym Rourke stated that the Commission should only be responsible for approving the language to be used on the card. The group agreed.

### **▪ Prevention**

No report.

### **▪ Treatment**

Stephanie Savard stated that the Treatment Task Force is gathering the various residential treatment providers for best practice sharing on the Doorway System. The group then plans to reach out to outpatient treatment providers.

### **▪ Joint Military**

Mark Patterson provided the update noting that the Task Force developed and presented a military culture training. He also stated that they have more grant funding to continue to provide this training.

### **▪ Recovery**

Keith Howard shared that the Recovery Task Force recently had a presentation from Chucky's Fight.

### **▪ 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.

### **▪ Perinatal Exposure**

Dr. Becky Ewing reported that the Perinatal Exposure Task Force is developing new priorities and that their work around Plans of Safe Care continues.

### **▪ Data**

Steve Ahnen reported that the Data Task force is developing an understanding on how to integrate data through current barriers and that they have another meeting upcoming.

## **7. Alcohol Use Disorder Treatment & SOR Discussion**

Patrick asked Katja Fox to speak to this agenda item. She noted that there would be more information on this topic for the June meeting. She also noted that teen data would be repressed in upcoming data reports due to low utilization numbers.

## **8. Other Business**

Frank Edelbult noted that vaping as emerging issue in K-12 community and requested this be a future agenda item for this group. Celeste Clark noted that the Prevention Task Force is noting the same thing, especially concerning youth vaping THC oil. Commissioner Quinn added that highway safety is also watching for this.

## **9. Public Comment**

Public Comment was made by Cheryl Pacapelli stating that all Recovery Centers are credentialed to start billing Medicaid and they are waiting for final details to fully roll this out. She noted that two services are billable: telephone

support and recovery coached and that the recoup of funding from this will be small. Kate Frey from New Futures commented that they are working on policy development around vaping and would like to be in touch with the Prevention Task Force.

*The next Governor's Commission meeting  
June 21, 2019 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the  
NH State House  
Governor & Council Chambers  
Concord, NH*