

**New Hampshire Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Department of Justice, 1 Granite Place South, Concord, NH
March 11, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

Attending In-person:

Senator Cindy Rosenwald	Commission Chair
Elizabeth Dragon	Governor Appointed, City with <75k
Traci Fowler	NH Charitable Foundation
Jason Henry	Governor Appointed, County Corrections Superintendent
Kathryn Kindopp	Governor Appointed, County Nursing Home Supervisor
Dave Mara	Governor's Designee
Rachel Miller	State Treasury
Bianca Monroe	Attorney General Appointed
Toni Pappas	Governor Appointed, County of +100k
Emily Rice	Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs Appointed
Jennifer Sabin	DHHS Commissioner's Designee
Dr. Seddon Savage	Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs Appointed
Peter Spanos	Governor Appointed, County of <100k

Attending Virtually:

Bobbie Bagley	Governor Appointed, City with 75k+
Helen Hanks	Commissioner, Department of Corrections

Absent:

James Boffetti	Attorney General's Designee
Patricia Conway	Governor Appointed, County Attorney
David Nagel MD	Representative, NH House of Representatives
Ellen Riiska	New Hampshire School Administrators Association Appointed
Kevin Rourke	Governor Appointed, Municipal Police Chief
Patrick Tufts	Chair of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs
James Watkins	Governor Appointed, Municipal Fire Chief
VACANT	Governor Appointed, Town with <20k

Welcome and Roll Call

- Senator Rosenwald opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. with a roll call. Ten members were physically present. A quorum¹ was not established at that time.

Adoption of Minutes from February 12, 2024

- This agenda item was not addressed since at least 11 Commission members would need to be present to approve these Minutes.

Open to Public Comment

- Mitchell Yeaton, CEO of White Horse Recovery in Ossipee NH, introduced himself (<https://whitehorserecovery.org>). He stated that he was attending this meeting because he has an active interest in learning more about the Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, as it directly relates to what White Horse Recovery supports.
 - Commissioner Mara asked if Mr. Yeaton could explain more about what White Horse Recovery does in case anyone in attendance was not aware.
 - Mr. Yeaton explained that:
 - White Horse Recovery does clinical support for substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health in two locations, Ossipee and North Conway.
 - They also run Peer Support Services through their Recovery Community Organization (RCO) in four locations: Ossipee, North Conway, Littleton and Berlin.
 - White Horse Recovery is actively working on a collaboration with the County Corrections Department to use the SMART Recovery groups and case management work within the correction units.
 - They provide a 24/7 emergency support crisis team for Mental Health. Huggins Hospital in Wolfeboro and Memorial Hospital in North Conway are partners that offer services and supports with the 24/7 Mental Health Crisis Support.
 - White Horse Recovery offers Peer Support to these hospitals as well, for instance, when a patient comes into the Emergency Department (ED) experiencing an overdose (OD), White Horse staff will come in and try to navigate the patient into recovery supports and services. Commissioner Fowler commented that the Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs and the Opioid Abatement Commission both support RCOs that comprise the Recovery Infrastructure within NH.
 - Commissioner Henry shared that during his time as the Superintendent at Carrol County, they had been working with White Horse Recovery for 7+ years.
- Nathin Fink, Senior Director of Advancement from New Hampshire Children's Trust, and Tracy Vergason, Senior Program Director from New Hampshire Children's Trust (<https://www.nhchildrenstrust.org>), introduced themselves to the Commission. NH Children's Trust is the State's lead for Primary Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect. They also serve as the Facilitating Organization (FO) for Family Resource Centers (FRCs) across the state, some of which are TLC Archways, as well as facilitate the State's Kinship Navigation Program (<https://www.nhchildrenstrust.org/kinship>). 80% of the individuals

¹ Eleven members constitutes a quorum pursuant to RSA 126-A: 85, IV.

- that use these resources have substance misuse as the eligibility factor for this program.
- At this time Senator Rosenwald asked that if those in attendance could please identify themselves for the minutes and to please add their comments and contact information in the chat of the virtual platform.
 - Public Comment (from virtual attendees):
 - Carrie McFadden, COO Peer Support Community Partners, email address carrie@peersupportcommunitypartners.com and organization's website <https://www.peersupportcommunitypartners.com>. Provides grief supports and services to those who experience loss due to an overdose, currently only located in Massachusetts, here to listen and learn more about programming.
 - Alyssa Subsinsky, New England Community Health Solutions Manager with Emergent BioSolutions, a supplier of Narcan, email address subsinska@ebsi.com.
 - Senator Rosenwald asked that those present virtually, to please type their comments and contact information into the chat, with the following section including information that was provided within that meeting feature:
 - Tina Pettingill, she/her: Hello from Groups Recover Together - happy to be listening and involved!
 - Liz Scruton: Thank you so much Traci for your passion here!
 - Bobbie Bagley: Including me at the Nashua Health Department because of the ARPA funds ending. Or the money going back to the CDC because they have not reappropriated its use.
 - Liz Scruton: We appreciate the committee's thoughtfulness, and the opportunity to tell you a little bit about our Kinship Navigation Program! We were not anticipating a presentation or vote today. But do highly appreciate your discretion in your processes. We would be happy to provide you with anything else which can be helpful in the future.
 - Bobbie Bagley: Would that be a part something that we could put in as a part of the facilitating organization - to solicit applications for projects that fit under the priorities of the Opioid Abatement?
 - Carrie McFadden: I appreciate the discussion of a transparent process. However, I am unclear as to how we would get before this group and would appreciate next steps if available to get our program before the group for educational purposes. Thank you.

Discussion of Progress for Awarding Grants

PLEASE NOTE: During this discussion, a quorum was established when Commissioner Spanos and Commissioner Dragon physically joined the meeting.

- Senator Rosenwald opened the discussion to the commission members on the present progress for awarding grants, and encouraged members to keep in mind a few things about awarding grants:
 - The three different processes that were used to fund the first 3 grants,
 - The need to try and reduce workload on the Department, the Commission and the applicants when making funding options / awards available, and
 - To avoid substituting this funding for things that State or Federal funding should be supporting / providing.

- Commissioner Sabin gave a brief overview of what is currently contracted:
 - RGA 1.0
 - The first 17 agreements have been procured (actually 19 projects in total as one partner has three scopes of work within one agreement),
 - The majority of these agreements were related to infrastructure, which includes things like peer supports and harm reduction, and
 - These contracts will continue through May of 2025.
 - RGA 2.0
 - Reimbursements being made to six Counties and one Police Department.
 - RGA 3.0
 - Funding / support for housing investment.
- Commissioner Savage shared that the Commission should consider a few options for awarding grant funding:
 - Online application for limited amounts of funding, on a periodic basis, to support smaller projects / opportunities (awarding 20k -50k for example),
 - Consider what would benefit / bolster smaller organizations,
 - Identify areas where gaps in service exist and put out proposals for larger grants to address / reduce these gaps, and
 - Provide a combination of funding types to satisfy different organizations and needs.
- Chief Mara agrees that the funding from the Commission:
 - Should not be supplemental funding for services and/or supports that other State or Federal funds should be covering / providing,
 - Should address larger issues like housing and transportation 1-2 times per year, and
 - Could provide opportunities more frequently for smaller entities, doing work in communities, to obtain funding that will strengthen their ability to continue servicing and supporting their community work.
- Commission members named other similar organizations that distribute funding:
 - Granite United Way (<https://www.graniteuw.org>)
 - NH Charitable Foundation (<https://www.nhcf.org>)
 - Endowment for Health (<https://endowmentforhealth.org>)
- Discussion continued regarding other considerations to think about when developing funding opportunities:
 - NH has a strong philanthropic community working strategically with state agencies and with commissions.
 - The logistics of moving funding from the Commission to entities and not the oversight.
 - Creating funding awards of varied sizes and amounts to fill the obligation set by the Commission to make improvements to opioid crisis in NH.
 - Considering all the funding gaps by reviewing and utilizing the crosswalk from Governor's Commission [February meeting](#).
 - Funds from this Commission as well as the Governor's Commission offer more flexibility than other funding sources /streams, allowing funding from this Commission to provide funding streams to areas that other funding braids cannot.

Proposed Motion(s)

- Motion on Request for Proposal (RFP)
 - Commissioner Dragon motioned to have the Commission move forward with the

Request for Proposal (RFP) process to identify and contract with a facilitating organization that can assist with funding small grants. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fowler.

- Comment(s): Commission members discussed assigning a subcommittee to examine and develop the structure of the RFP. The subcommittee consists of Commission members: Bobbie Bagley, Traci Fowler, Chief Dave Mara, Emily Rice, Dr. Seddon Savage, and Jennifer Sabin.
- Outcome: Commission members voted unanimously with 14 in favor and 0 opposed.

Adoption of Minutes of February 12, 2024

- Commissioner Henry made the motion to adopt the meeting minutes from February 12, 2024, which was seconded by Commissioner Rice.
- Comment(s): Alex Casile - page 3 edit, yearly budget instead of combined 4-year budget.
- Senator Rosenwald completed a roll call to approve the Minutes. The outcome was 12 members voting yes, and two members abstaining from voting.

Discussion on Prevention

- Presented by Commissioner Fowler, she explained to the Commission that she wanted to share more information about the Kinship Navigator Program in case others were not aware of it and how it relates to prevention.
- She stated that one of the things when we think about prevention is trauma, and there is a known connection between the two, by strengthening families it is going to increase / further positive outcomes, especially families where the loss of a parent contributes to the trauma being experienced.
- 500 families per year are impacted by loss of life, often grandparents with fixed income have to pick up the pieces and become caregivers for children, and the Kinship Navigator Program helps these families through the challenges and hardships that trauma brings.
- The Commission discussed how best to fill gaps, looking at the awards already granted, and funding programs in services / areas that are often overlooked / under resourced, like the Kinship Navigator Program (<https://www.nhchildrenstrust.org/kinship>).

Update on New Position at DHHS

- Commissioner Sabin informed the Commission that it is under development and still in progress, has not been approved yet.

Other Business

- Commissioner Sabin stated that on Friday there would be a rule making meeting.

Date of Next Meeting and Discussion Topics

- Next meeting will be 4/8/2024 at 1:00 p.m.
- Prevention Needs and Gaps
- Report from Committee
- Funding Balance from Commissioner Boffetti

Adjournment

- At the call of the Chair, the meeting adjourned at 3:13 p.m.