

**New Hampshire Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
Department of Justice, 1 Granite Place South, Concord, NH
December 02, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

Attending In-person:

Senator Cindy Rosenwald	Commission Chair
James Boffetti	Attorney General's Designee
Traci Fowler	NH Charitable Foundation
Jason Henry	Governor Appointed, County Corrections Superintendent
Kathryn Kindopp	Governor Appointed, County Nursing Home Supervisor
Rachel Miller	State Treasury
Toni Pappas	Governor Appointed, County of +100k
Paul Raymond	Assistant Commissioner, DOC (sitting in for Helen Hanks)
Emily Rice	Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs Appointed
Jennifer Sabin	DHHS Commissioner's Designee
Peter Spanos	Governor Appointed, County of <100k

Attending Virtually:

Bobbie Bagley	Governor Appointed, City with 75k+
Elizabeth Dragon	Governor Appointed, City with <75k
Patrick Tufts	Chair of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs

Absent:

Patricia Conway	Governor Appointed, County Attorney
Dave Mara	Governor's Designee
Bianca Monroe	Attorney General Appointed
David Nagel MD	Representative, NH House of Representatives
Ellen Riiska	New Hampshire School Administrators Association Appointed
Kevin Rourke	Governor Appointed, Municipal Police Chief
Dr. Seddon Savage	Governor's Commission on Alcohol & Other Drugs Appointed
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. Twelve members were physically present, and three members were participating virtually. A quorum¹ was established at that time.
- Approved reason for members attending virtually:
 - Bobbi Bagley: The Commissioner’s job responsibilities make it practically impossible for him/her to attend in person.
 - Elizabeth Dragon: The Commissioner’s job responsibilities make it practically impossible for him/her to attend in person.
 - Patick Tufts: The Commissioner is traveling out of state.
 - Related Documents: [Remote Meeting Participation Authorization](#)

Adoption of Minutes of October 21, 2024

- A correction note was made for a missing footnote on Page 2, where the quorum was referenced.
- Motion: Commissioner Toni Pappas motioned to adopt the meeting minutes with Commissioner Jason Henry seconded the motion.
- Outcome: Commission members voted 11 in favor of adopting minutes and 1 abstained.
 - Paul Raymond (sitting in for Helen Hanks at this meeting) abstained from voting as he was not present at the meeting for the minutes being voted on for adoption.
- Related Documents: [OAC October 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)

Open to Public Comment

- Matt Plache, Executive Director at White Horse Recovery Center:
 - White Horse is a Recovery Community Organization (RCO) with locations in Berlin, Center Ossipee, Littleton, and North Conway
 - Informed the Commission that the funding they had awarded has been able to support and help a lot of people.
 - Shared a few stories where individuals were able to get connected to support services instead of being incarcerated, which would not have been possible without the RCOs.
 - Transportation and housing still remain the biggest barriers needing to be addressed.
- Alison Welsh, Project Director at Cheshire County Treatment Court (CCTC):
 - The initial funding received focused on felony level offenders, and CCTC would like to request more funding to continue their work.
 - Some proposed ways to utilize funding going forward would be through supportive activities such as behavior modification incentives, equine therapy, health club memberships, and substance-free events.
 - Funding could also be used to meet needs such as dental care (dentures, extractions, abscess care, etc.), transportation challenges, and housing instability.
 - Currently CCTC is trying to add a focus on the impact of trauma to their program, which would also have some funding allocated to train staff for trauma certification.

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

- A Commissioner asked, “Do you have state funding that you won’t be getting anymore?” which was answered with “Yes, but it is supporting staff salary. Don’t have enough funding from the state for the peer support individual. BJA grant is currently cover this role, but it will be expiring in October of 2025.”

Update on Settlements and Funds Distribution to Subdivisions

- Summary of amounts received to date from all settlement sources can be found and viewed at [Opioid Abatement Settlement Summary as of 11/20/2024](#).
- Business remaining from the previous meeting was a discussion about the subdivisions who had not submitted reports, Commissioner James Boffetti sent out a reminder email after the October Commission meeting, with the only community presently without a report submitted being Franklin.
- Assessed a breakdown of individual payments to subdivisions, Opioid Abatement Commission and grants awarded from the Opioid Abatement Trust Fund after G&C (Governor & Council) approval.
- Commissioner Jennifer Sabin informed the other Commission members that the funding chart from the (CFO) reported that there is 26 million in the account at the Treasury.

Update on RFP for Facilitating Organization (FO)

- It was decided at the October Commission meeting that a discussion between the OAC (Commissioner Dave Mara, Commissioner Patrick Tufts, and Commissioner James Boffetti) and DHHS was needed before the December Commission meeting.
- This discussion would focus on how the OAC could get funding out into the community through the form of up-front payments, and not through a cost reimbursement format.
- An option offered at the meeting was utilizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Community Development Financial Authority (CDFA), since CDFa is a government organization, it could expedite efforts on the front end, and CDFa would be acting as the FO so they would be able to get payments out up-front as well.
- A discussion among Commission members followed about the lack of detail at this time from the proposed CDFa MOU.
- Anticipating updated payment terms for the Request for Proposals (RFP) as well as more detail from CDFa for discussion at the next Commission meeting.
- Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Commissioner Traci Fowler, and Commissioner Patrick Tufts will meet with DHHS and CDFa to confirm all essential and necessary details.

Update on Commission Dashboard and New Position at DHHS

- Commissioner Jennifer Sabin shared that the position within DHHS has been filled and the new staff person started last week.
- This new staff person will ensure DHHS has the ability to produce charts and graphics showing where monies are being distributed and how they are being utilized.
- There was a question inquiring if the new staff person would be the point of contact for the Commission, the question was deferred to Katja Fox the Director of the Division for Behavioral Health within DHHS, who said she would circle back with the Commission on the contact person question.

Other Business Discussed

- Department of Safety (DOS) “No Safe Experience” Campaign proposal by Captain Steve Lavoie from the NH State Police on behalf of DOS Commissioner Quinn:
 - Provided proposed budget to the Commission showing monthly breakdown of funding being requested, the total being requested is \$964,500.00.
 - For 2025 the amount being asked for is \$495,000.00.
 - For 2026 the amount being asked for is \$495,200.00.
 - DOS believes that the number of media activity shows it is a successful campaign.
 - A discussion among Commission members followed regarding the measurement of success, the numbers from the campaign developer Cooks Communication, and the numbers from media traffic and in-person events.
 - This campaign originated in DOS, initiated and appointed by the Governor, and was funded by ARPA funding until now.
 - Promotion of their messaging is being directed to certain groups of people, an alternative would be to utilize strategies that are proven effective at behavior change.
 - Commission members felt this would be an appropriate use of Opioid Abatement funding and that these funds were intended for precisely these types of endeavors, especially as this awareness campaign is already developed and implemented.
 - At the October Commission meeting Commissioner Jennifer Sabin mentioned that State Opioid Response (SOR) has requirements for activities targeting 15-26 year-olds, with educating and raising awareness for the use of fentanyl being the objective, the Commission discussed using this as an educational source.
 - It was also mentioned that DHHS has developed and released the “Strong As Granite” campaign for priority populations.
 - Funding for 1 year was discussed and a detailed metrics was requested to avoid ceasing the campaign, then the metrics were reevaluated.
- Motion: Commissioner James Boffetti motioned to approve funding for 1 year \$495,000.00, and Commissioner Peter Spanos seconded the motion.
- Outcome: Further discussion among Commission members followed:
 - If not voted on for funding today, the newly appointed Governor may include funding into the State Budget to continue the “No Safe Experience” Campaign.
 - Must ensure that efforts are in alignment with data already being used, not competing but collaborating with DHHS, with DHHS and DOS working jointly.
 - There is concern about having inaccurate information being shared. For instance, a child has a safe experience using a substance but the message being shared is that there is NO SAFE experience, there is no trust being built by the message. Do not want to provide information that is unhelpful, and there is no information about where to find test kits, naloxone, and/or treatment resources. Would it be helpful to include DHHS information that is already available.
 - From a public health perspective, this is a social media campaign, an online click may or may not show that the information is reaching the intended population, urged DOS to ask Cooks Communication to go deeper in the data to see if clicks are just clicks or if the clicks are backed up by data to show effective messaging.
 - DHHS would need to develop a MOU with DOS that includes a retroactive date of 01/01/2025 and for 1 Year of funding in the amount of \$495,000.00.

- Motion: Commissioner James Boffetti amended his initial motion to be retroactive to 01/01/2025, and Commissioner Jason Henry seconded the motion.
 - Commissioner Peter Spanos asked if this motion would have the Commission Chair speaking with DOS Commissioner Quinn and the new Governor regarding future funding of this campaign, Commissioner James Boffetti said he could have this future conversation.
- Outcome: Commission members voted 11 in favor of the motion and 2 abstained, the motion passed.

At this point in the meeting the Commission went into Non-public session.

- When the decisions discussed during the non-public session are approved by G&C, the minutes will be made available to the public.

Date of Next Meeting and Discussion Topics

- Next meeting will be 01/13/2025 at 1:00 p.m.
- Discussion on MOU / RFP
- Contract Renewals (non-public)

Adjournment

- At the call of the Chair, the meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

