

Approved Minutes
New Hampshire Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission
Regular Meeting
DHHS Brown Building Auditorium, 129 Pleasant St, Concord, NH
Monday, November 21, 2022 at 1:00 pm

Attending:

Attorney James **Boffetti** (Designee for the Attorney General)
David **Mara** (Governor's Designee)
Helen **Hanks** (Commissioner, Department of Corrections)
Representative Dennis **Acton** (House)
Jason **Henry** (County Corrections Superintendent appointed by Governor)
Emily **Rice** (Appointed by Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Treatment and Recovery)
Rachel **Miller** (Treasury)
Jennifer **Sabin** (DHHS Commissioner's Designee)
Thomas **Velardi** (County Attorney appointed by Governor)
Bobbie **Bagley** (City with 75k+ appointed by Governor)
Traci **Fowler** (NH Charitable Foundation)

Present via Zoom Platform:

Elizabeth **Dragon** (City with < 75k appointed by Governor)
Benjamin **Gaetjens-Oleson** (Governor's Appointment)

Absent:

Senator, Cindy **Rosenwald** (Chair)
Patrick **Tufts** (Chair of Governor's Commission on Drug and Alcohol Treatment, Prevention and Recovery)
Peter **Spanos** (County of <100k appointed by Governor)
Bianca **Monroe** (Appointed by the Attorney General)
Toni **Pappas** (County of +100k appointed by Governor)
Seddon **Savage**, MD, (Appointed by Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Prevention, Treatment and Recovery)
Kathryn **Kindopp** (Governor's Appointment)
Kevin **Rourke** (Municipal Police Chief appointed by Governor)

Representative Acton opened the meeting as the Acting Chair at 1:09 pm with a roll call of Commission members. A quorum of the Commission members physically present was established.¹

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

The first order of business was adoption of the minutes for the meeting of September 28, 2022. The minutes were adopted on a roll call vote with one member present abstaining.

The second order of business was a brief update on ongoing settlement news provided by Attorney Boffetti. A recent settlement has been announced about three major pharmacy chains, Walmart, Walgreens, and CVS. Tentative agreements have been reached with some Attorney Generals. NH has yet to make a decision as to whether or not to join. Settlement announcements are likely to come out regarding manufacturers Teva and Allergan.

The third order of business was an update from Jennifer Sabin on the new position having been approved by Division of Personnel. A request to post has been submitted. The posting will be internal for 5 days prior to posting publicly. Commissioner Sabin also brought to the meeting another RGA per the administrative rules as there are now additional settlement funds of at least \$500,000 in the Treasury and asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Bagley asked that we table this new RGA until we update our processes based on the subcommittee's work and what is being learned on the current applications. The question was raised on what amount should be include in the solicitation on the next RGA. Commissioner Hanks asked to clarify what amount of funding was stated as available in the last RGA and confirmed that the number of funding available would be less that amount. Commissioner Sabin stated that \$6.7 million was the amount available at the Treasury the day the RGA was posted and since then, additional payments have been received. The grant review subcommittee has been compiling a list of recommendations and process improvements and will present those at the next meeting. Commissioner Hanks stated for the record that we are tabling this motion in order to make process improvements under the awareness that rules require us to put forth another RGA when we have at least \$500,000 in the Treasury in settlement funds. It was noted that the Department has brought it forward per the rules. The Department will also bring examples of RFPs to the next meeting as an alternative to the RGA.

A motion was made to table the RGA to the next meeting. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 10 members physically present and 2 members via Zoom voting in the affirmative with 1 member physically present abstaining.

Representative Acton raised a question about an applicant that was denied, as they did not have 4 years of audited financials and asked if this is a standard requirement from the Department. Notwithstanding other reasons for withdrawing, Commissioner Sabin explained that any applicant is assigned a contract specialist with which they work back and forth and if the applicant cannot provide the required documentation, they would have withdrawn their application. Referring applicants back to the Department when they have a question is always best. Commissioner Rice clarified that no RGAs have been acted upon by the Commission i.e. no RGAs which have been accepted have been denied.

A motion was made to move into non-public session before reviewing the work of the subcommittee, as the applications under state law are confidential. A roll call vote was taken to move to non-public session. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Any members of the public online were asked to leave and welcome to rejoin following non-public session.

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

A motion to come out of non-public session was made and unanimously voted in favor among the commission members.

There was no public comment.

At the call of the Acting Chair, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.

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