



MEETING AGENDA

August 23, 2019

9:30am-11:30am

State House, Governor & Council Chambers
Concord, New Hampshire

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Patrick Tufts (*5 minutes*)
2. Approval of Minutes (Attached) (VOTE) (*5 minutes*)
3. Recovery Friendly Workplace Guest Speakers- Shannon Bresaw – Granite United Way, Mark McKinney – Hypertherm, and John Burns – SOS Recovery (*30 minutes*)
4. DHHS Commissioner's Update (*10 minutes*)
5. Executive Director's Update – Annette Escalante (*10 minutes*)
 - Financial Dashboard SFY 19/20 (Attached)
 - Status Update on Prevention & Recovery Funding Recommendations
6. Future Funding Process Recommendations (Attached) – Patrick Tufts (*15 minutes*)
 - Discussion
7. Annual Report Update – Amy Daniels, Center for Excellence (*10 minutes*)
8. Task Force Updates (*20 minutes*)
 - Prevention
 - Treatment
 - Recovery
 - Joint Military
 - Healthcare
 - Perinatal Exposure
 - Data
 - Opioid
9. Other Business (*5 minutes*)
10. Public Comment (*10 minutes*)

GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUGS

August 23, 2019

Governor & Council Chambers

CONCORD, NH

MINUTES

Members Present:

Steve Ahnen, *NH Hospital Association*
Mark Armaganian, *NH Liquor Commission Division of Enforcement*
Annette Escalante, *Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services*
Katja Fox, *NH Department of Health & Human Services*
Heather Gage, *NH Department of Education*
Helen Hanks, *NH Department of Corrections*
William Hatch, *NH House of Representatives*
Keith Howard, *Recovery Representative*
Tim Lena, *Prevention Professional*
Chuck Lloyd, *Community College System of NH*
Gordon MacDonalad, *NH Attorney General*
Dave Mara, *Governor Sununu's Office*
David Mikolaities, *NH National Guard*
Tina Nadeau, *NH Courts*
Jennifer Patterson, *NH Insurance Department*
Chris Placy, *Public Member*
Seddon Savage, *NH Medical Society*
Stephanie Savard, *Treatment Professional*
Kate Thomson, *NH Nurses' Association*
Patrick Tufts, *Granite United Way*
Col. Christopher Wagner, *NH Department of Safety*

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Patrick Tufts opened the meeting by welcoming the Commission members and the public. He informed the Commission members that Cheryl Coletti-Lawson has resigned and that he will work with the Business and Industry Association to identify a replacement. Patrick noted the importance of the business community's participation in the Commission. Patrick then congratulated Stephanie Savard for her recent promotion and noted her ability to help lead a great organization at an important time.

2. Approval of Minutes

There was a motion by Representative Hatch to approve the minutes from June 21, 2019. The motion was seconded by Helen Hanks. The minutes were approved with all in favor.

3. Recovery Friendly Workplace Guest Presentation

Patrick informed the Commission they would be hearing about an exciting initiative that is gaining momentum across the state, Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW). He welcomed the guests and asked Shannon Bresaw to begin the presentation. Shannon opened by detailing her role with United Way as well as RFW. She went on to describe the Governor's Initiative, Recovery Friendly Workplace, as a partnership with the business community to address the opioid and substance use disorder crisis in our state by promoting health, safety and wellness in the workplace. Shannon went on to discuss the organizational chart for RFW and its funding streams both federal and state, public and private. She noted that 70% of us employers indicate that they have been impacted by addiction, but only 17% feel equipped to deal with that at the workplace. She highlighted that statistic to demonstrate that RFW is designed to empower employers to address these issues through training, support and resources. Shannon also stated that the approach is to address addiction and substance use disorder as a medical concern, the same

way other medical concerns are dealt with every day at work. Shannon went on to say that Governor Sununu's leadership is so important to the initiative's success and that she also work closely with Commissioner Caswell from the Office of Business and Economic Affairs. She noted that this initiative is accessible to all businesses in all parts of the state.

Shannon went on to say that 25 companies signed on as early adopters of the program and there are 112 businesses engaged now. She shared that they've found is that businesses have different needs and barriers to becoming recovery friendly based on size, industry type, location, and culture of the business. She stated that many businesses are looking for example policies and to be connected to community resources. Shannon went on to say that \$900,000 was recently awarded by CDFA to five nonprofits, primarily recovery organizations, to carry out support services within the initiative.

Shannon then introduced Matt McKenney from Hypertherm and asked him to share a little about their journey. Matt started by saying it is a privilege to be involved with this program. He noted that Hypertherm allows him to invest a lot of time on this initiative because it is so impactful. He went on to say that Hypertherm was on this journey before the State was formally supporting RFW. He informed the Commission that in 2015 the company began paying attention to the issue of addiction due to personal stories of loss of their employees. Furthermore, in 2016 the company established resource cards and put them in discrete places, along with bracelets supporting the cause. There was a significant response and nearly 70% of employees were wearing the bracelets. Matt shared that Hypertherm has struggled a bit along the way but have found local resources that have been very helpful. He noted that in 2018 they were asked to participate in RFW as an early adopter. They were able to share some insights for policy, circumstances, organizations they've had good luck with. He went on to say that the support from their Recovery Friendly Advisor has been incredible and has allowed them to move forward quickly. Matt also stated that through the CDFA projects, they now have a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor on-site to support employees as part of Headrest.

Shannon then introduced John Burns from SOS Recovery and asked him to discuss his participation in RFW. John thanked the Commission for the opportunity and noted that he is a person in long-term recovery and that his daughter also struggles with substance use disorder. He went on to say that through funding from CDFA they have established a RFW program at SOS with a program manager and two coordinators. They are working to assist businesses in Stafford and Rockingham Counties build a culture of being recovery friendly. John noted that providing services in the workplace often allows people to keep their job which stabilizes the rest of their lives, like housing. He stated that they are working within structures that already exist for the business, like Employee Assistance Programs. John went on to say that the other approach they are working on is to get job placements for people in recovery. He noted that a job and career is very meaningful as people are looking for purpose after beginning their recovery.

Shannon thanked both Matt and John for sharing. Patrick asked if any Commission Members had questions for their guests. Seddon Savage asked about the project's sustainability plan. Shannon noted that they are actively pursuing funding opportunities, including long-term sustainable approaches. Dave Mara noted that due to the early results of the program, he believes it will be funded because of results achieved. He noted that New Hampshire gets calls from all over the country about this program. He went on to say that member Chris Placy was a big part of the development of the initiative. He also noted that this initiative is highly focused on prevention. John Burns added that there is a lot of value to companies in regards to turnover reductions and production increases so employers could invest in this strategy in the future. Heather Gage asked if any schools or school districts are involved as large employers. Shannon noted that some higher education institutions are involved but not school districts. She stated that there are some challenges related to stigma and public relations aspect, but that they would love to partner with schools. Katya Fox asked what role this program has in recruitment for new employees. Matt McKenney responded that Hypertherm advertises being part of the RFW program on their website, there is information in the interview rooms and they openly talk about it being a positive recruitment element.

4. NH DHHS Commissioner's Update

Katja Fox provided the update in lieu of Commissioner Meyers. She asked the Commission members if they were receiving the monthly report via email. Many people indicated, yes, they received it. She then provided a brief update on the State Opioid Response Grant noting that overall the project is going well. She stated that 705 individuals were served in July, and almost 4,000 in seven months. She also stated that the marketing campaign launched just after the 4th of July on television, radio, bus advertisements, on social media, etc. Amy Daniels from the Center for Excellence followed up by saying that the target audience is everyone in New Hampshire, so broad dissemination is being conducted. They plan to mobilize regional public health networks and human services partners to distribute print materials when they are available. She encouraged Commission members to listen to one of the "hear our stories" testimonials to see the faces of this campaign. Keith Howard asked if the advertising is public service or paid. Amy indicated the advertisements are paid, however, due to their relationships with media partners, they are also getting free runs as well. Steve Ahnen asked if there was a social media toolkit available. Amy indicated that when the print materials are ready, the kits will also be ready. She encouraged everyone to add to their email signature: "You are not alone. Call your local doorway or call 211."

5. Executive Director's Update

Annette presented the financial dashboard to the group, outlining what is currently in contracts and obligations to date, with 19 contracts for 2020. She provided an additional handout detailing the \$2.6M invested in prevention services. Patrick thanked Annette for the additional information, saying it is helpful for Commission members. Annette noted she will have a similar document for the recovery services investment when a budget has been approved.

6. Future Funding Process Recommendations

Patrick informed the Commission members that he had met with Task Force Chairs and other members for the development of a policy to inform the review of funding requests. Based on that feedback, he noted that he created a recommendation, which is included in the packet. This recommendation covers how to request time on the agenda without a financial request, and with a financial request. He went over the recommended process noting that funding requests should come from Task Forces and be presented three times a year. Patrick opened the floor for discussion on the attached process recommendation. Commissioner Hanks noted that having a policy like this would be very helpful. She asked if as part of the process, perspective could be provided on where else groups have looked for funding prior to their request to the Commission. Patrick noted that a template of questions can be developed and that can be included. Stephanie Savard and Tim Lena both noted the importance of requests coming through the Task Forces. Patrick added that if something comes to him, he will send it directly to the appropriate Task Force. Patrick asked Amy Daniels for her feedback. She noted some general guardrails about this not being an open Request for Proposals would be helpful. Patrick agreed that stronger language could be utilized to emphasize the connection to the group's strategic plan. Patrick agreed to make edits to the document based on this feedback and send to the group via email.

7. Annual Report Update – Amy Daniels, Center for Excellence

Amy reminded the Commission Members that the Commission's Annual Report for SFY 2019 (July 2018-June 2019) is due to the State on October 1st. She reminded the group that this report will be structured around the action plan. She also reminded the group that the template that needs to be completed has been sent. She also noted that staff is available to assist Task Force Chairs, if needed. She added that her team needs strategy updates and financial updates along with a breakout of opioid dollars for departments noting that the more thorough the notes, the better.

8. Task Force Updates

▪ Opioid

Seddon Savage stated that the Opioid Task Force is focusing now on expansion of syringe services to reduce infectious disease and needles in public and gradually move people into treatment. She then distributed Opioid

Information Cards seeking the approval of the Commission for the content. She reminded the group that 18 months ago, the Task Force started this effort to provide general information to individuals receiving an opioid prescription. However, this work was adapted by the legislature to be an orange card distributed inside the prescription bag rather than utilizing a red cap as previously planned. Steve Ahnen made a motion to approve the content of the card. Keith Howard seconded the motion. Helen Hanks asked Seddon to double check on including take-back locations. Seddon agreed. Tim Lena asked how they are ensuring that pharmacies are printing and using the card. Seddon noted that the only indication is that it is now required by law. Stephanie Sevard asked who is responsible for tracking the distribution. Helen Hanks recommended the Board of Pharmacy. Seddon noted they had some concerns about implementation but are working to have this included in their audit procedures. Jennifer Patterson asked how this would be implemented for mail order prescriptions. Seddon said she would look into it. Noting no other discussion, Patrick called for a vote and the motion passed with all in favor.

Seddon shared that the Task Force has elected to be trained in naloxone and suggested that other Task Forces consider that as well.

- **Prevention**

Tim Lena stated that the Prevention Task Force is working on different federal opportunities, as well as working with the Center for Excellence on subcommittee goals and work plans. He noted they also recently had a presentation on Smart Approaches to Marijuana.

- **Treatment**

Stephanie Savard stated that the Treatment Task Force is continuing to develop the literature review on involuntary commitment based on substance use disorder and will have something to present to the group soon. She noted that 38 states have some type of law around this issue. She also stated that Washington State seems to be the most useful model and the Task Force will have a presentation from them in September. She noted the group is also looking at specialty populations and their treatments, including veterans, to see if treatment approaches need changes in order to properly serve individuals.

- **Recovery**

Keith Howard noted that September is recovery month and there are a few different rallies being held across the state. He also shared that August is Overdose Awareness month with six events around the state next Thursday from 8-930am.

- **Joint Military**

Major General David Mikolaities provided the update noting that the Task Force needs to expand scope. He noted that they plan to meet three times a year as a group and use the rest of the year to have members integrate into other task forces. Patrick stated that is excellent and welcomes the idea to have them serve as Military experts on other Task Forces.

- **Healthcare**

Dr. Savage reported that the Healthcare Task Force is looking into the limitations of the Behavioral Health workforce. They've identified compassion fatigue and compensation as problems. She noted there could potentially be a role for the commission to support increases in compensation.

- **Perinatal Exposure**

Perinatal Exposure Task Force is expanding their work around Plans of Safe Care and they are preparing information on this work to provide directly to patients.

- **Data**

Steve Ahnen reported that the Data Task force recently had a presentation on rural drug use and disease. He also noted they have spent time talking about increasing lived experience perspective and is looking forward to more of that.

9. Other Business

Patrick noted as previously mentioned, recommendations on how to incorporate people with lived experience in the

Commission's work is forthcoming and will be discussed at the October meeting.

10. Public Comment

Public Comment was made by Diane **Pepin Castrucci from the NH Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors Association**. She noted two upcoming events: The Behavioral Health Summit being held on December 16th and 17th in Manchester and The NH Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors Association Annual meeting on November 15th. She noted the keynote presentation is on the topic of brain injury and substance use and brain injury after overdose, she stated that it is a good example of a specialized care that needs modified treatment for substance use disorders.

Susan McKeown thanked the Treatment Task Force on their work on involuntary admission for substance use disorders.

Reverend Jason Wells introduced himself to the Commission stating that he is from the NH Council of Churches. He noted that the council is made up of 9 denominations and they have an addiction and recovery committee. He stated they are working on a program called "Recovery Ready Churches" to train clergy to respond after addiction related deaths. He then thanked the Commission and Recovery Friendly Workplace for their work in the community.

Frank Staples of Smart Recovery addressed the Commission with a concern. He noted that Manchester pharmacies recently stopped selling syringes. He stated that the current syringe service program is not sufficient, which drives people to buying and selling needles on the street. He asked the Commission member if someone can help address this problem with the pharmacies. Seddon Savage responded that this is an important issue, but that it also does not have an easy solution. She thanked him for bringing it up. Keith Howard noted that Hannaford has returned to selling them. Frank thanked him for that information.

*The next Governor's Commission meeting
October 25, 2019 from 9:30 am to 11:30 am at the
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