



# PREVENTION TASK FORCE

Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Prevention, Intervention, Treatment & Recovery

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## Prevention Task Force December 4, 2015

**Present:** Traci Fowler, Marissa Carlson, Tim Lena, Katie Kachavos, Susan McKeown, Celeste Clark, Mary Steady, Melissa Schoemmell, Valerie Morgan, Deb Naro, Kate Frey, Sarah Shanahan and Betsy Houde with special guest Nicole Rodler, Chair, NH Juvenile Court Diversion Network.

### Overview of NH's Juvenile Court Diversion Network

Betsy and Nicole Rodler from Juvenile Diversion Network were introduced, and presented an overview of Court Diversion and their current Alcohol Fund allocation proposal. Diversion not currently included in the Alcohol Fund (or any state funding), but the Prevention Task Force is recommending a portion of discretionary Alcohol Fund dollars be dedicated to the Juvenile Court Diversion Network (also ways to spend Alcohol Fund \$ being considered: LADCs at DCYF &/or large-scale Manchester project).

Overview of juvenile court diversion services: 1400 youth currently served, average \$1200/student for 3.5-6 month program (much less expensive than placement/incarceration which is \$499/day at Sununu Center). Diversion provides more consequences than a police warning, provides more services/supports than the court process, and benefits from rigorous accreditation standards. Diversion is currently required by the state, but \$0 funded. Also diversion is not available in every region of the state, with programs being lost due to funding. Recent changes and losses over the past 5 years were highlighted -- down from 30+ to 16 programs that are currently accredited). The funding request as outlined is only for accredited programs.

Data was presented about the relevance to substance misuse prevention. Specifically, only about 20% of youth are referred for substance-related arrests, but more than *twice as many* report use through court division because it is asked at intake. Programs either offer treatment onsite or have a formal relationship with a treatment program. While state-wide recidivism rate isn't available yet (new system in process), some local data is available showing rates in the 92%+ of youth being arrest-free one year after program completion.

The Juvenile Court Diversion Network's 2014 proposal for \$1.43 million was *not funded* but was identified by Governor's Commission as a priority. They have currently been asked to present a plan for \$100,000 given proposed Alcohol Fund availability. Reps presented 1-page progress report with 1-page resources request that would be submitted as part of that advocacy. They are currently working closely with the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice (SAG). Funding priorities would include helping restore/increase services in Carroll and Sullivan counties.

Recommendations included: emphasizing youth addiction issues and the investment of prevention and treatment services before use escalates further; highlighting local data that shows an even higher percentage of court diversion youth being substance-involved; highlighting the mandatory link with treatment services; working with DOE funding possibilities if Alcohol Fund doesn't come through; highlighting the substance misuse piece of the educational services provided; sharing local recidivism rates as available along with progress on getting future state-wide data; focusing information space on positives; extra highlighting of the totally

unfunded state mandate; more visuals; highlighting the continuing trend of program closures since 2009; including some of the standard accreditation requirements; add the word rigorous to any description of standards; and include that SAMHSA funds can't contribute to most parts of diversion (only education/treatment sections) though perhaps other federal funds can.

The group also discussed current and future relationships with School Resource Officers. Future funding from DOE could include a diversion piece.

### **Update on Peer-Based Parent/Caregiver Support Groups**

Susan shared information about Peer Support Groups for Families struggling with children using alcohol and other drugs. FASTER (Families Advocating Substance Treatment, Education and Recovery), Families Sharing Without Shame, Circle of Hope and Families Hoping and Coping. There are multiple groups around the state, although participation rates vary. Churches have been great places to talk about the groups and have conversations with individual parishioners. Susan stressed the importance of offering to go with someone who needs the group.

Plymouth, Littleton, Claremont will be starting in January/early February. The next NAMI training for program facilitators will be January 9-10th. The expectation is that trainers will be co-facilitating a group once they are trained. Susan needs motivated, interested people to attend the training. Please spread the word.

[www.NH4youth.org](http://www.NH4youth.org) -- lists all of the parent support groups

At Susan's recent training to run a Grief Group for parents losing loved ones to overdose, GRASP Program (Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing) They have partnered with Child and Family Services in Manchester, 464 Chestnut Street. Will likely be second Thursday of the month. Lois 325-5211 to learn more or register.

Tim requested more information on Parent Support Groups to give to Student Assistance Programs across the state. Also good resource for School Nurses. Mary indicated that there is a new School Nurse Coordinator who can be a good resource.

### **New Futures Update re: Joint Task Force Special Session/Legislation**

Kate Frey referenced a Joint Task Force meeting coming up that could use a parent speaker, especially on prescribing practices and use of PMP. Medical Society is pushing against legislation, while all of the trainings that Kate has attended shows that legitimate prescriptions can lead to misuse and addiction. This coming Wednesday, the insurer division will be presenting before the committee.

For insurance legislation, New Futures is advocating that a patient can have 72 hours of care while waiting for "prior authorization" from their insurance to decide if their treatment is medically necessary.

Katie K. indicated that leadership of the JTF is determined to NOT spend any money through this special session. This correlates with experiences that Kate and Mary have experienced.

### **Alternative Treatment Center Update**

Traci brought the group up to date as to the current status of ATC's. Where we left off, Traci had agreed to prepare a letter for the ATC's, which she shared with the group. Some feedback was provided to reorganize the letter a bit and to keep it positive and friendly to start. The PTF mission could be included as a footer. The letter could be sent to the board president and CEO. Traci will reach out to community coalitions that may have a connection with one of the ATC

contractors to get the most appropriate contact names. Traci will give each person a deadline to respond to her about getting together for further conversation and relationship building.

### **Update on Top 5 Dissemination**

Mary updated the group 11/3 press release to 97 media contacts. Posted on DOE web site and [nhstudentwellness.org](http://nhstudentwellness.org) under prevention.

They are emailing it to every superintendent and hard copies to principals to 262 schools. Also put together a webinar and are working with Jill Burke for further dissemination.

This version (Top 5) references the first Model School Policy document as a resource. It's located on the NH Center for Excellence web site. The templates and examples are included on the site.

Jack Wozmak will be presenting this document to the Superintendent's Association at an upcoming meeting. Some discussion ensued around whether we could get the document endorsed by the School Board Association. Jack has already presented to that group, and Mary agreed to follow up.

### **YRBS Update**

Val followed up with Division for Public Health Services on the status of the 2015 YRBS, and is anticipating community-level reports being available sometime this month. The data will be available through WISDOM on a password protected page which will enable school principals and superintendents to access it. They will also likely be sent a PDF of their report. The state is currently working with the State Epi Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) to determine the best way to format the reports based on the needs of the regions and what the former state epidemiologist did in the past. There will be NO state-level data shared on WISDOM for Central region because Plymouth does the TAP survey and the Timberlane Region due to some push back from certain schools in the region. Val will let the regions know when their schools have the results sent.

**Safe and Appropriate Messaging** topic was tabled until the next meeting due to a full agenda.

Next meeting February 5, 2016, 9:30am - 11:30am - *\*Feb. meeting was rescheduled to March 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 11:30am.*