



DATA AND EVALUATION TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Chair: Paul Lakevicius and James Vara

September 8, 2016

Minutes

Purpose: The NH SEOW is a multidisciplinary advisory group that works to improve the quality and efficiency of data systems and the availability and utility of data products that describe substance use and behavioral health issues to inform prevention and treatment policy, programs and services in the state.

I. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting Attendees: : James Vara, Neil Twitchell, Jonathan Stewart, Paul Lakevicius, Abbot Willard, Ben Chan, Kim Fallon, Tym Rourke, Rachel Kohn, Joe Harding, Emily Kachanian, Karen Lamb, Maria Pilakos, Allison Parent, Amy Pepin, Sheena McAroy, Amy Costello (Phone), Maureen Mustard (Phone) and Aita Romain (Phone)

Why the SEOW? – James Vara

- James Vara indicated that there have been recommendations through an executive order to form a data related taskforce related to an overdose committee/taskforce. The goal is to develop data products to be useful to all avenues including the legislature, organizations and community at large.
- Some states such as Rhode Island have robust overdose committee that utilizes data to inform strategies.
- Our goal is to ensure NH has a centralized data system to observe current data on Substance Misuse. In addition, agencies can inform us on the data that need and share with us the current data present thus promoting collaboration and cross-sharing among agencies.
- Joe Harding indicated that the right kind of data can be helpful in targeting an overdose prevention program and assessing what resources are needed for high risk communities.
- Ben Chan inquired if this particular committee will only focus on overdose deaths. Or rather will it include behavioral health, comorbidity risks. The main objective of this group is to observe data trends and determine outcomes.
- Neil Twitchell asked if the committee is somewhat similar to the Fatality Review. It has been well-established that the state has a lots of fatality reviews. However, there is currently no existing capacity to focus on the fatality review. We need to capture broader opportunities to assess gaps and barriers in our current system.

Evolution of the SEOW to the Data and Evaluation Task Force- Tym Rourke

- The SEOW has created an opportunity, challenges and expectations to produce data products that previously did not exist as data was inaccessible. Due to the barriers of data availability, the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drugs received the lowest rates of funding in the state. In order to increase the funding, we need to provide appropriate data to the legislature to justify our concerns.
- Tym Rourke added that a data taskforce along with 7 other taskforces were created to curb substance use in the state. However, the data taskforce remained inactive as there was no epidemiological capacity at the moment and the Bureau contracted with the Center for Excellence to provide data needs and technical assistance.
- By contracting with the Center, there was more data available creating a more robust report. Therefore NH became one of the states with better access to data on substance use.
- However, the main difficulty is that legislators cannot derive substance use data from one source and would like data dashboard to allow accessibility and enhance feasibility of the data. The SB533 was enacted to respond to these concerns.
- The reporting requirements are bi-annual reports due October 1st and March 1st. Eleven set of indicators from the diverse stakeholders are required to report to the legislature.
- The data dashboard will be updated twice a year including a caveat that we do not have all the available data. The State Epidemiological Work Group would also present annual to some legislative committees to inform policy decision-making.
- Governor's Commission is hoping that the SEOW will promote collaborations and cross-sharing among agencies to enact a robust data workforce to maximize the impact on the state. The SEOW will work on identifying metrics while simultaneously providing updates as the data taskforce. The data will demonstrate outcomes and promote a comprehensive approach to target high risk groups.
- In addition, Tym Rourke indicated that the state is currently working on writing the state plan for the next cycle. The Center has made recommendations including setting benchmarks to 3 year plan rather than 5 year plan. In addition, we can utilize the data to allocate specific measures for funding and strategy. The state plan is due on June 2016.
- Tym Rourke mentioned that only 5% of Alcohol fund is allocated to the Governor's Commission of Alcohol and Drugs. With the increase of data accessibility, we can report on what do we need? What would it cost? Every taskforce is working towards this goal to integrate in our budgetary request.

Next Steps

- Jonathan reported that a sub-group of SEOW members have been working to report on the indicators by September 15th. The next steps will be aggregating the data to produce a report due to the legislature on October 1st, 2016.
- Tym Rourke invited members of the SEOW/Data Taskforce to the next Governor's Commission meeting scheduled on October 28th. Please note that the location will be in Bartlett, NH as the NH Behavioral Health Conference is happening at this location.
- James Vara is interested in attending SEOW meetings and Paul mentioned that we may need to re-visit the frequency of meetings in our next SEOW meeting.

Next Meeting:

Friday, November 4, 1:00-3:00 PM
Community Health Institute, 501 South Street, Bow
Call-In Information:
Number: 1-866-210-1669
Passcode: 9060313#