



HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE

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

Task Force Co-Chairs: Seddon Savage & Lindy Keller

Thursday, September 28, 2017

Minutes

Present: Julie Hazell-Felch, Rebecca Sky, Peter Ames, Melissa Silvey, Ann Branen, Gerard Hevern, Allison Piersall, Regina Flynn, Anna Ghosh, Kimberly Fortier, Kathy Bizzaro-Thunberg, Tom Barnes, Dan Potenza, Lindy Keller, Cynthia Cohen, Peter Mason, Laurie Harding, Mary Bidgood-Wilson

On Phone: Carol Furlong, Seddon Savage, Kerry Nolte, Molly Rossingnol

I. Minutes

- The July and August minutes were approved.
 - o Kimberly is going to fix the pie chart readability issues that were mentioned at the August meeting.
 - o Regina and Kimberly will follow up after the meeting about if the "deaths by age" should be age adjusted.

II. Newport Data

- Sullivan County has traditionally been perceived as severely impacted by the opioid epidemic. However, data shows that their overdose deaths are lower in number when adjusted per capita, and their ED visits are higher. What are they doing to prevent deaths?
 - o Anna will follow up with Amy Pepin about this data question.

III. Rise of Methamphetamines and other Stimulants

- Documents were sent to the group from NIDA and AAFP.
- To what extent do health care providers need to be aware of this to identify it? If they do identify it, what do they do about it? How involved should the task force be in addressing this?
 - o The task force should make information available to providers.
 - o Seddon can get information and resources posted on the Medical Society website.
 - o It will be important to get information that the Task Force supports or develops, to all of the professional boards and licensing organizations.
 - Lindy or Seddon will reach out to Joe Shoemaker to ensure information dissemination for the licensing boards.
 - Bi-State Primary Care Association can also disseminate information
 - o Molly and Seddon will create a bulleted list of things to focus on for providers and will send to Lindy and Adelaide.
- Molly will look at ASAM data and try to get that for the group to review before the next meeting.
- There are no medications to treat methamphetamine addiction. MAT with Suboxone or Vivitrol will not work – we need this information to get to physicians
- Medical personnel need to become more aware of substance use and addiction in general, there are common things across all substances that people should know.
- The Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services are looking into developing some public information for this issue.

IV. Harm Reduction Efforts

- The NHHRC document, "Having the Conversation" was endorsed by the Governor's Commission since the Task Force's last meeting.

- This document should be disseminated through all of the bodies discussed above (professional boards and organizations, licensing boards, etc.)
- The document was already sent out via BDAS – there is a little blurb to go with the document.
 - Kerry will send the document and the blurb to disseminate it to the group.
 - Cynthia will post the document on the NHNA website.
 - Rebecca has already shared the document with the hospitals she's working with – they have said that they will incorporate it into their next work cycle.
 - Rebecca plans to bring Kerry in to speak to the EDs at a later date.
 - The document has been posted on the nurse practitioner website, which went out to their Facebook page as well.
 - Kathy will work with the Hospital Association to get the document on the agenda of the next meeting of the CNOs and CMOs
- Dean has put together a companion document that could be given directly to those using drugs. The messaging is similar.
 - This document is available on the Harm Reduction Coalition website (<http://nhhrc.org/>)
 - Kerry will send this document to the group as well.
- When communicating about the document for providers, folks can include a sentence about the companion document for people injecting drugs with the link to the document.
- Both of these documents could be shared at waiver trainings and with the EDs.
- The Harm Reduction Conference will be held on January 18 at the Policy Standards Facility in Concord, NH. A save the date will be distributed as soon as it is available.
 - The save the date should go out at the end of November, after a lot of fall events have happened.
- Harm reduction should be on the radar of those that are planning all conferences; task force members will mention it as a topic to the groups they are a part of.

V. Concern from Dave Mara

- There is a concern in the community that opioids are being prescribed for diagnoses that don't require them, such as strep throat.
- The group will look to monitor legislation so that it doesn't try to establish a list of diagnoses appropriate to use opioids for – this decision should be made by the judgement of the provider.
 - However, providers should still be looking for ways to reduce opioid prescriptions.
- Information on how to use prescriptions and when they may be needed could be helpful for nurses and nurse practitioners that are managing patients.
 - Providers need to have the conversation with patients before surgery and during illness, that managing pain does not mean experiencing no pain.
 - There is an opportunity to talk with the Board of Medicine about how they approve CMEs on this topic.
- Federal legislation will become active on February 1, 2018 – limiting opioid prescriptions to 7 days. Additionally, immediate release medication must be prescribed and tried before extended release. (This will take effect for first time prescriptions)
- This topic will be covered in greater detail in the October meeting.
- Seddon will tell Dave Mara that she has raised the conversation with this group and they will plan to talk about it in October.
 - Seddon will invite Dave Mara to a future meeting of the health care task force.

VI. Education on Substance Use Disorder Burnout and Stigma

- Kerry held a meeting of a subgroup on this topic – they discussed having a train the trainer model primarily focused on acute care.

- It would begin with engaging champions that self-identify to do a more intense training that they can take back to their organization
- Additional modules could be requested by facilities.
- One of the Committees of the IDNs is a workforce expansion group – they focus on recruitment, retention, and education and training.
- The Education and Training Subcommittee is chaired by Nancy Frank and co-chaired by Peter Mason.
 - This group is trying to decide what a state-wide priority is and what a regional IDN priority is. How do these two things align?
 - Kerry should be on this group because the group is planning to identify experts and disseminate modules to all of the IDNs.
 - Peter will connect Lindy, Seddon, Kerry, and Rebecca to this group so they can begin to discuss a way that the Health Care Task Force priorities can be incorporated.
 - Kerry will ensure that all of the Task Force’s objectives are met before it is determined if the Task Force should pursue additional work.
 - Melissa Silvey will provide Kevin Irwin information that he can bring to the education group.
 - The Health Care Task Force will help to advise this group and will distribute whatever is developed.

VII. Other

- Dr. Gerard Hevern was recently awarded the 2018 Family Physician of the Year. Congratulations Gerry!!
 - Gerry will send a recording of his award video and presentation “Do Common Things, Uncommonly Well” to Adelaide – she will distribute to the group.
- Dan Potenza could present to the group at a later meeting about treating SUD in the DOC and the associated public health opportunities.
- Moving forward, the task force may be more intentional about inviting representatives from particular organizations to share perspectives at a particular meeting.
- Kimberly can now provide the group a link to the CDC. She will ask if they have any methamphetamine resources that they recommend.
- Kimberly will send information on the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Heroin Response Symposium in Atlanta.
- The CMC event “Healing Hearts, Opening Minds: Informing the Journey from Addiction through Recovery” will take place on October 6. Registration details are available on EventBrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/healing-hearts-opening-minds-informing-the-journey-from-addiction-through-recovery-tickets-37855012361?aff=es2>)
- The MAT Community of Practice will launch on November 19th 2:30-4:30 at the Hospital Association. Anyone involved with MAT is invited to attend. This will be a way to share knowledge, challenges, and practices. There will be a short presentation from an MAT care team.
 - Adelaide will send the information for this event to the group.

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 26, 2017
9:00am-10:30am
NH Hospital Association, 125 Airport Road, Concord
Call In: 719-394-0264, (PIN: 18841)