

BUDGET TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 27th, 2023 9:30 - 11:00 am

Hybrid: In-person at the Community Health Institute/JSI and virtually on Zoom

Attendance

Name	Attendance
Task Force Members	
Traci Fowler (Co-Chair)	In person
Matt McKenney (Co-Chair)	In person
John Burns	In person
Alissa Cannon	In person
Karen Collins	Zoom
Annette Escalante	Zoom
Kate Frey	In person
Powen Hsu	In person
Lauren McGinley	In person
Cheryle Pacapelli	In person
Kristine Paquette	In person
Sarah Shanahan	In person
Shannon Swett	In person
Center for Excellence on Addiction/JSI Staff	
Amy Daniels	In person
Becca Spaulding	In person
Grace Roy	Zoom
Rita Wojtas	Zoom

Welcome and brief remarks by co-chairs Traci Fowler and Matt McKenney.

Member Introductions and Attendance: Co-chairs Traci Fowler and Matt McKenney opened the meeting by asking members to introduce themselves. A quorum was present in person and Karen, Annette and Powen joined via zoom and stated their

BUDGET TASK FORCE

location and that they were alone in the rooms they were joining from.

Discussion, questions and requests followed introductions:

- Request to create and disseminate list of members, roles and affiliations to distribute to Task Force members - to be done by Center staff prior to next meeting.
- A question referenced the Commission's strategic planning process and how advocacy will fit into the new Task Force structure if it isn't specifically stated. Reminder that TFs can make policy recommendations to the full Commission.
- Request to the co-chairs to ask the Commission Chair about the process for making policy recommendations; and to define a process for how the Commission will monitor relevant legislation?
- Seeking clarity on the new State Plan/Action Plan. One member who had served on one of the prior Task Forces commented that there had been very little communication for the past couple of years and they were out of the loop. Center staff pointed folks to the website and highlighted a couple important documents:
 - The new state Action Plan was developed with broad stakeholder input. It will be good to keep this document handy, as an understanding of what is being funded and how it connects to the state plan will be an important frame of reference going forward. Website: <https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/governors-commission/>
 - State Action Plan and Dashboard: <https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/nh-gov-commission-action-plan-dashb oard/>
 - Stakeholder Input/Data Analysis that informed the Action Plan: https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Final-Dat a-Analysis-Report_GCActionPlan.pdf

A Task Force Orientation is being planned and more information will be shared soon. This will be a brief virtual learning session.

Budget Task Force Duties Review:

1. Reporting on alcohol and other drug (AOD) related State spending
2. Recommend strategic investments to full Commission, including:
 - a. Maintaining an on-going list of funding priorities should additional resources become available
 - b. Ensuring funding is available to meet emerging/ urgent needs and new priorities
3. Quantify and explain the anticipated federal funding cliff and/or other important

BUDGET TASK FORCE

event horizons.

Discussion of Duties:

There will be a big learning curve as we all get up to speed. We won't be able to make any recommendations unless we understand the current context and processes. So, our goal is to start by compiling our key questions and we'll go from there.

1. Reporting on alcohol and other drug (AOD) related State spending
 - The first duty applies to all departments, so the Budget Task Force will have to be well-aligned and communicating with the other task forces. Reminder that increased alignment is the intention for how this new Task Force infrastructure will operate. Key questions/comments:
 - Who is responsible for financial reporting?
 - Report of all state spending on alcohol and other drugs (AOD), not just commission spending – how successful has this been in the past? Are there examples to reference?
 - A point was made to consider related areas like the Social Determinants of Health when factoring AOD state spending
 - Do we have an understanding of how much federal grant money is in NH related to alcohol and other drugs?
 - Clarify timelines for moving money – better understand how/why things can get delayed

2. Maintaining a list of ongoing funding priorities, when certain funding becomes available, and funding priorities/urgent needs, quantifying anticipated federal funding cliff:
 - This will require us to understand how current funding recommendations are made and how progress is monitored.
 - We'll want to create a process for elevating and acting upon more urgent needs
 - Reminder that we are not making recommendations on individual organizations and that individual organizations are not to be coming to the Commission to pitch their requests. We have to work with the other Task Forces to develop a process for gathering recommendations and priorities for funding.
 - The funding is expanding, but the infrastructure isn't; this is an area to lean in

Traci proposes working groups to help us tackle our duties in a more efficient manner, rather than waiting for bi-monthly meetings. As the Budget Task Force, we have a lot of learning to catch up on about the Commission's budget so that we can maximize our time together and develop recommendations.

Approval for ad-hoc work groups will come from the Commission Chair, and is a more

BUDGET TASK FORCE

informal process.

GC investment dashboard: (copy of latest dashboard distributed in the meeting) – we know folks will have questions and there will be a learning curve. We want to ask HHS to walk us through this budget so we can all be on the same page. As a starting point, the goal for today is to compile our questions. First order of business is to understand this process, and then we can make recommendations for improvements/adjustments:

Discussion/Initial Questions:

- There's only a 5mil amount designated for this in FY24, which is not what the agency requested at 10mil in their budget
- Seeking explanation and clarity on this & what is the source of funds?
- Note the semantics when considering the context of the Alcohol Fund and how the Commission is funded, per state law. 10mil isn't full funding, it's level funding from 2018.
- Explanation of the Alcohol Fund, history and context is important for this group to understand.
- Seeking clarity on the carryforward and funds that are obligated but have not yet gotten into contract.
- What is the recommendation for FY24 obligations?
- How are current investments monitored (big buckets) and tracked to ensure alignment with the state plan? Where are the gaps? Where are the biggest areas of impact?
- Who is responsible for reporting out successes/impacts of these investments? The Commission has not elevated success stories, although there is great work being funded. A missed opportunity.

Charter Development: tabled due to lack of time. Amy, Traci, and Matt will work on a draft charter and send it to the task force for feedback, and finalize it at the next meeting

Public Comment:

Diane Castrucci, Executive Director of NHADACA. Hoping that there is strong treatment representation on the committee. Lots of different funding sources that come in. There's also ARPA funds. It will be good to see what's coming in and on what timeline.

Discussion of funding and concerns from organizations about whether or not their funding will be reduced, esp. In regards to situations where they are told that their funding will partially come from another source.

BUDGET TASK FORCE

It will be good to know what is or isn't public information, especially when people from the public come with less understanding of some of the material.

Next Meeting:

- We will aim to schedule a budget "101" overview with DHHS for February; will send Qs in advance. We'll get a meeting date out to TF members.
- March 31st is next officially scheduled meeting