

BUDGET TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

July 26th, 2024 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 | In person |
| Annette Escalante | In person |
| Kate Frey | In person |
| Richard Frost | Absent |
| Lauren McGinley | In person |
| Cheryle Pacapelli | Absent |
| Kristine Paquette | Absent |
| Sarah Shanahan | Absent |
| Shannon Swett | In person |
| Public | |
| Emma Denson | Zoom |
| Julia Howard | In person |
| Diane Castrucci | In person |
| Liaison(s)/ Subject Matter Experts/ Invited Guests | |
| Michelle Lennon (proxy for Cheryle Pacapelli) | In person |
| Jill Burke | Zoom |
| Center for Excellence on Addiction/JSI Staff | |

BUDGET TASK FORCE

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| Amy Daniels | In person |
| Olivia Skaltsis | In person |
| Becca Spaulding | In person |

Approve Minutes from March 22nd Meeting

Shannon Swett made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Kate Frey seconded. All voted in favor, except for John Burns and Annette Escalante, who abstained due to their absence at the March meeting.

One Year Update: Care at the Crossroads Discussion

The Task Force Chairs provided a refresher on the findings of the June 2023 Care at the Crossroads report. The overall takeaway was that issues in recent years have had more to do with how money is moving than with the amount of funds available.

Diane shared an update about the financial trainings. The first six months provided many lessons learned, during which time some of those lessons were applied. A calendar of training for all of 2025 is being worked on. The next round of training will be open to more people than the pilot round.

FY25 and FY26 Current Dashboard Review

The Task Force Chairs reviewed the recommendations made by the Budget Task Force to the Commission at the end of 2023 for FY25 and FY26. The first two of the four recommendations had been tabled due to lack of funds, however the Commission Chair has expressed support for further discussion as funds became available. The tabled recommendations were: 1.) Develop an actionable cross-sector, cross-stakeholder unified financing strategy for NH's SUD continuum of care, using \$250K for each of up to 2 years, and 2.) Increase funding for Harm Reduction programs and services, using \$400K. The Budget Task Force agreed that these two tabled recommendations remain a priority.

The Chairs shared that the carry-forward dollars from last year amount to \$833K, which is enough to cover the previously tabled recommendations. After some discussion, the

BUDGET TASK FORCE

Task Force agreed that the first recommendation (the development of a unified financing strategy for SUD services) would require more extensive planning and close alignment with DHHS. It was proposed that the Task Force recommend that \$250K in carryover funds be reserved until December 2024 to create and maintain a time-limited work group to focus on this planning. The Task Force Chairs agreed to have a planning meeting with the JSI team to discuss next steps, including what the goals should be for the first few work group meetings. The Chairs will provide an update regarding the formation of the work group at the next Task Force meeting.

Additionally, it was proposed that the Task Force recommend that \$400K of the carryover funds be used to fulfill the second recommendation, which was to increase funding for Harm Reduction programs and services, but with a focus on Coos and Carroll counties.

Annette Escalante made a motion that the Task Force make both of the above recommendations to the Commission. Karen Collins seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with the exception of Lauren McGinley, who abstained.

Public Comment

Members of the public shared their thoughts and updates throughout the meeting, so no additional comments were made during the Public Comment section of the meeting.

Decisions/Recommendations Made

1. The Task Force approved the minutes from the March 22nd Task Force meeting.
2. The Task Force voted to create a workgroup to determine if/how the development of a unified financing strategy for NH SUD services would be beneficial to help NH maximize resources and serve as a tool to help DHHS achieve their vision as articulated in the 2024-25 Roadmap. The Task Force recommends that \$250K of the carry-forward dollars be reserved until December 2024 for developing the potential development of the unified financing strategy.

BUDGET TASK FORCE

3. The Task Force voted to recommend using \$400K of the SFY25 dollars to increase funding for harm reduction programs and services with priority placed on work within Coos and Carroll counties.

Next Steps

- The next Budget Task Force meeting will take place on Friday, September 27th, at 9:30 am.
- The Budget Task Force Co-Chairs will hold a planning meeting with the Center team to determine the initial goals of the work group.