

# COORDINATION AND COOPERATION TASK FORCE

## Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2025 10:00 - 11:30 am

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

### Attendance

Name	Attendance
<b>Task Force Members</b>	
Steve Ahnen	In Person
Helen Hanks	In Person
Carol Furlong	In Person
Lauren Chambers	Absent
Kara Morse	Zoom
Meghan Marcucci	Zoom
Jake Berry	Absent
Peter Ames	In Person
Phoebe Axtman	Zoom
Maggie Padgett	In Person
Dan Wargo	In Person
<b>Public</b>	
Dan Andrus	Zoom
Melissa Silvey	Zoom
Patrick Tufts	Zoom
Erin Magery	In Person
Destiny	In Person
<b>Center for Excellence on Addiction/JSI Staff</b>	
Olivia Skaltsis	In Person
Lauren Ferridge	In Person
Amy Daniels	Absent

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## Welcome & Introductions

All participants, in-person and on zoom, introduced themselves.

As not enough people were present at the start of the meeting to have a full quorum, the Task Force utilized the 1/3 quorum rule. Under these circumstances, a full roll call should be taken for every vote held.

Three Zoom attendees underwent the justification process. Kara Morse was in her office in Nashua, NH with no one in the room with her. She was unable to join the Task Force meeting in person due to patient care needs. Phoebe Axtman was at her practice in Concord, NH and was unable to attend the Task Force meeting due to staffing limitations at work. Meghan Marcucci was in a shared office space. She was unable to attend due to a conflicting in-person meeting. Carol Furlong made a motion to approve both members' contributions to a quorum. Peter Ames seconded. Maggie Padgett, Peter Ames, Steve Ahnen, Dan Wargo, and Carol Furlong all voted in favor. No abstentions.

## Review and Approve 10/3/24 Minutes

No comments, edits, or changes were made regarding the 10/3/24 minutes.

Steve Ahnen requested approval of the 10/3/24 meeting minutes. Carol Furlong made the motion to approve. Peter Ames seconded. Maggie Padgett, Peter Ames, Steve Ahnen, Dan Wargo, Carol Furlong, Kara Morse, Meghan Marcucci, and Phoebe Axtman all voted in favor. No abstentions.

Commissioner Hanks arrived at the Task Force meeting at 10:22. At this point, the meeting transitioned back to the normal quorum rule and is why her votes are not reflected in the initial roll call votes.

## Discussion with Governor's Commission Chair, Patrick Tufts

Patrick Tufts was invited to the meeting to discuss the role, importance, and purpose of the C&C Task Force within the broader scope of the Governor's Commission. He opened by sharing the status of potential funding changes this year and sharing the impact these changes could have on alcohol and opioid related work. Currently, the House budget proposes using Opioid Abatement dollars to fund the Governor's Commission work instead of the legislated Alcohol Fund. This could severely limit Governor's Commission programming and potentially violate the settlements.

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Patrick emphasized that people's voices are important to influence the legislature. Several Task Force members shared that they have access to data that supports the need to continue utilizing the Alcohol Fund for this work. Olivia asked that any data that task members have on alcohol use should be sent to her. Patrick hopes to use these data and stories to educate lawmakers on the importance and role of the Alcohol Fund. In this discussion, several Task Force members shared that they have seen an uptick in alcohol use and alcohol-related ED visits thus supporting the need to elevate voices, data, and stories.

Patrick commented that in the current uncertainty of the landscape, the Task Force may be faced with how to accomplish the same goals with less funding. While he posed it as an exciting challenge, he also encouraged the C&C Task Force to give advice to the other Governor's Commission Task Forces to make sure they are appropriately and effectively approaching conversations with the legislature. It is important not to overwhelm legislators and be succinct and impactful in the information reaching them and going out to the public.

## **Debrief C&C 2024 Road Show**

Commissioner Hanks commented that the Road Show was a great way to forge new partnerships and learn more in-depth about people's experiences and needs across the state. She reflected that she wished she had brought more members of her department rather than inviting more public members as the context learned at these meetings was invaluable.

The group commented that weather and distance of the meetings impeded the success of full in-person attendance, but having the 1/3 quorum rule helped extend attendance to people unable to travel.

Co-chair Steve Ahnen closed the discussion by prompting the Task Force to think about how they want to apply these takeaways to a potential Road Show or Road Show-alternative this year. He encouraged them to think about the areas they want to gain perspective in when considering planning for the coming year.

## **Upcoming Public Forums**

Olivia Skaltsis shared that 3 public forums had been planned for the spring. There are two in-person sessions, in Concord (4/15) and Bethlehem (4/16), and one virtual on zoom (4/22). All the sessions will be held from 4-6pm. There will also be a survey

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distributed for people unable to attend any of the sessions or if the public have additional thoughts to share later. After the forums, JSI will analyze and compile all the qualitative data into a report to be used as a tool for future recommendations to the Governor's Commission. Olivia encouraged Task Force members to attend the forums and invite members from their communities.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Closing Comments

Commissioner Hanks reviewed the proposed House budget cuts and shared an update on the budget revisions the state is currently processing. Presently, cuts are impacting previously funded positions in nursing, mental health, and case management staff among others. She encouraged the Task Force to continue advocating for funding for alcohol and opioid treatment funds and cautioned them that the way they advocate is equally as important.

Peter Ames motioned to close the meeting. Carol Furlong seconded the motion. All in favor, no abstentions.

## Decisions Made

1. Decision made to enact the 1/3 quorum rule.
2. The October 3rd, 2024 minutes were reviewed and approved.

## Next Steps

- The next C&C Task Force meeting is June 5th, 2025 in Bow, NH.
- Continued promotion and attendance of the upcoming public forums.