

BUDGET TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

July 25, 2025 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	Absent
Kate Frey	In person
Lauren McGinley	In person
Cheryle Pacapelli	Absent
Kristine Paquette	Absent
Sarah Shanahan	Absent
Shannon Swett	In person
Public	
Dan Andrus	Zoom
Elizabeth Biron	Zoom
Melissa Slivey	Zoom
Dianne Castrucci	In person
Vicki Harris	Zoom
Jennifer Lessard	In person
Liaison(s)/ Subject Matter Experts/ Invited Guests	
Jill Burke	In person
Elyssa Sage (proxy for Cheryle Pacapelli)	In person

BUDGET TASK FORCE

Center for Excellence on Addiction/JSI Staff	
Amy Daniels	In person
Olivia Skaltsis	In person
Jonathan Stewart	In person
Julia Tran	In person

Approve Minutes from 3/28/25 Meeting

Traci Fowler made a motion to approve the March 28 minutes as written; Shannon Swett first, Kate Frey second. All voted in favor.

Legislative Update

The Task Force reviewed related legislative updates that have occurred in New Hampshire. These updates focused on the Alcohol Fund, changes to the Governor's Commission, and other state budget updates.

One of the biggest changes is that the Alcohol Fund, instead of receiving its funding from alcohol gross profits, will receive funds appropriated from the state's general funds. The amount budgeted from general funds will be \$9.5 million per year, which is a cut of \$1.2 million from the \$10.7 million that was projected for FY26-27.

The Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs has been renamed to the Governor's Commission on Addiction, Treatment, and Prevention. The Task Force brainstormed possible opportunities with the rename, including the potential for future legislation re: cannabis revenue to go to the Commission and working more closely with the Opioid Abatement Task Force.

Another major change is that the Commission will now include a focus on gambling. It is intended that 0.25% of the revenue on video lottery terminals will go to the Commission. The Task Force discussed the possible implications of this change as it impacts the Commission's budget, and how the Commission can work with the Charitable Gaming Oversight Commission. This might mean recommending adding a seat for someone

BUDGET TASK FORCE

with subject matter expertise on the Commission. The Task Force compiled their existing inquiries on video lottery terminals, timing of transfer of funds, and the potential to include subject matter experts on gambling, for future research.

Logistics Update: Budget Task Force membership and Co-Chair

The Task Force Chairs announced that this will be Matt McKenney's last Budget Task Force meeting as Co-Chair, and that from now on, he will be chairing the Coordination & Cooperation Task Force. Matt will still attend Budget Task Force meetings as a member of the Commission to further connect the work of the Budget and C&C Task Forces.

In January 2026, many of the Task Force members' terms will expire as they were appointed in January 2023. Whether there will be a term limit is uncertain as the Governor's Commission awaits a new Chair to be elected, although it is recommended for terms to be staggered.

Overview: SFY26 Dashboard & Public Input Brief

The Task Force reviewed the SFY26 Financial Dashboard document and discussed possible changes based on the legislative updates. Since the Alcohol Fund is now allocated from general funds, there is no guarantee that funds will carry over from year to year. The Governor's Commission budget formerly bridged the biennium, but with the switch to general funds, the budget would now have to follow the biennium. Vendor contracts will likely go back to one year long instead of the current two year period. The Task Force expressed interest in developing a team to work on articulating high level talking points on the differences and impacts of using general funds versus the Alcohol Fund. This plan is on hold until the new Chair of the commission is elected.

The Task Force also reviewed the [Public Input Brief](#), a report summarizing themes from various public input sessions that took place this past spring. Cross cutting themes of the report included funding instability, workforce challenges and licensing barriers, recovery housing needs, local-level solutions, and integration of mental health and substance use services. It is important to note that this report was informed by people's personal

BUDGET TASK FORCE

experiences and was not corrected for accuracy. Most participants were professionals working in substance use and there were few people with lived experience.

Overview & Input: SFY25 Funding Crosswalk & suggestions for SFY26 format

The Task Force Chairs reviewed the [SFY25 Funding Crosswalk](#), which provides transparency to what programs are funded by the Governor's Commission and how funding is being braided. It is organized by the State Action Plan, and in addition to Commission funding, it also indicates if programs are funded by federal block grants, State Opioid Response, Opioid Abatement Commission, State Funds, or Other.

For programs listed as funded by the Opioid Abatement Commission on the crosswalk, this list does not include the 15% of funding set aside for municipalities. This information may be helpful to see what municipalities need and where resources can be aligned.

The SFY26 Funding Crosswalk will be updated in the fall. A note on the crosswalk is that it only captures activities reported by BDAS and SOR. It is not a comprehensive list of what all departments are doing or of all the funding sources for work related to alcohol and other drugs. The Task Force understands that this is a living document, and has regularly requested that this document remain updated and that additional funding sources continue to be added.

Initial Process Recommendations

By December, the Task Force will need to bring forward recommendations to the full Governor's Commission so that contracts can be ready for the next fiscal year. The Task Force plans on meeting in September, October, and November to prepare these recommendations and adapt to any changes that may unfold in the oncoming months.

Over the past two years, the Commission has been establishing relationships with the Opioid Abatement Commission, as evident by the overlap of members on both commissions. While there is not an existing formal process to share recommendations,

BUDGET TASK FORCE

the members have built capacity to make aligned funding recommendations, and has done so around statewide infrastructure such as supportive housing and peer recovery supports. The Task Force is reminded of the importance of showing up to both Commission meetings to help build relationships.

A member of the Task Force shared a new funding opportunity from the Opioid Abatement Commission. Granite United Way was chosen to establish the Opioid Abatement Community Grants Program, which will include responsive short term grants and larger multi-year grants. They are currently recruiting people to serve on their Community Advisory Team. More information can be found on the [Opioid Abatement Commission website](#).

Public Comment

Melissa Silvey asked whether there will be a dedicated website for the Opioid Abatement Community Grants Program.

After public comment was completed, Traci Fowler moved to adjourn. John Burns first, Shannon Swett seconded, and all voted in favor.

Decisions/Recommendations Made

1. The Task Force approved the minutes from the March 28th Task Force Meeting.
2. In addition to the Sept and November meetings, the Task Force will hold an additional meeting on October 24th to develop the proposed SFY27 slate.
3. The Task Force will finalize their recommendations for the SFY27 slate at the November Task Force meeting. The November meeting date was rescheduled to November 21st.

Next Steps

- The next Budget Task Force meeting will take place on Friday, September 26th, at 9:30 am.