

Governor's Commission on Addiction, Treatment, & Prevention

BUDGET TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2026 9:30-11:00 am

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

Attendance

Name	Attendance
Task Force Members	
Shannon Swett (Co-Chair)	In Person
John Burns	In Person
Alissa Cannon	In Person
Karen Collins	Absent
Kate Frey	In Person
Lauren McGinley	In Person
Cheryle Pacapelli (Jen Lessard proxy)	In Person
Kristine Paquette	Absent
Sarah Shanahan	In Person
Public	
Dan Andrus	In Person
Dianne Castrucci	In Person
Kourtney Soucy	Zoom
Liaison(s)/ Subject Matter Experts/ Invited Guests	
Jill Burke	Zoom
Elizabeth Biron	Zoom
Center for Excellence on Addiction/JSI Staff	
Amy Daniels	In Person
Olivia DiGeronimo	In Person
Julia Tran	In Person

Welcome & Introductions

All participants, in person and on Zoom, introduced themselves.

Shannon Swett announced that Traci Fowler, previous co-chair of the Budget Task Force, was asked to co-chair the Data Task Force. The Budget Task Force is pending a new co-chair.

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Approve Minutes from 1/23/26 Meeting

Shannon asked for a motion to approve the January minutes as written; Kate Frey motioned first, Alissa Cannon seconded. All in favor, no abstentions.

BDAS Updates on RFPs

Jill Burke presented updates on RFPs, which have been posted on the [DHHS website](#). BDAS is currently on target to award contracts providing direct services for a July 1st start date. Training, technical assistance, and evaluation contracts are set to start in the second half of July. The collegiate recovery RFP will need to be reposted and edited with price limitation, leading to a possible delay in start until September.

At the Governor's Commission meeting in February, the Budget co-chairs brought forth questions as discussed at the January Budget Task Force meeting. BDAS informed that they are looking very closely at whether contracts can be retroactive if they do not start until July, taking contracts on a case by case basis. Members of the Task Force had additional clarifying questions regarding the RFPs, such as whether BDAS can add a set budget to RFPs (they are working on this), and if the collegiate recovery RFP is only awarded to colleges (it is not limited to colleges).

Jill encouraged vendors to invoice on a regular basis and draw down funds as the state looks at how budgets are spent down to determine future budget needs. However, Budget Task Force members explained that context is needed to understand why it may be a challenge for vendors to spend down their funds, such as if they have late contracts. Vendors' finance departments have also reported challenges with how the Department followed federal standards, even for 100% state funds. This creates challenges in spending funds and meeting vendor needs, as state funds have typically been more flexible than Federal funds for certain purchases and programming needs. This way of monitoring according to Federal guidelines impacts how contractors respond to RFPs; smaller non-profits may not be as familiar with federal regulations or have the capacity needed to apply

The Task Force discussed the possibility of carry-forward funding returning to general funds. Carry-forward is not an option for block grants or Governor's Commission funding. The new contracts will not include carry-forward. The Budget Task Force's ability to advocate is limited, but some members will individually bring this issue to the attention of the new Providers' Association.

Membership Updates

All the Task Force co-chairs met with Annette to discuss each Task Force's membership. The Chair of the Governor's Commission is responsible for determining Task Force membership. All current Task Force members have had their membership extended for an additional six months, until June 2026.

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If current members have an interest in continuing on the Budget Task Force and/or have a preference for a one, two, or three year term, they should let Shannon know. Members should also inform Shannon if they are interested in shifting onto other Task Forces.

The Budget Task Force was asked to add more non-vendor representation. If members have recommendations for new Task Force membership, they can provide them to Shannon.

The Problem Gambling Task Force was announced as a new task force. All co-chairs intend on coordinating and working together across task forces, especially for strategic planning.

Discussion on Supporting Strategic Planning

The current Strategic Plan ends in June 2027, but there is a possibility that the plan will be extended. The new Strategic Plan is being developed within the next eighteen months to two years.

Amy Daniels asked the group what they want to prioritize in their work as a Task Force to support strategic planning. Members shared the following ideas: creating a repository of all funding sources, education and awareness strategies on the impacts of moving from Alcohol Funds to General Funds, and providing general provider education on budgets, contracts, and process.

The group also considered updating the financial crosswalk to include funding from priority departments. Priority departments identified by Budget Task Force members included: Department of Corrections, Department of Justice, Department of Safety, Department of Education, and the Administrative Office of the Courts. Having a comprehensive picture of funding sources will be helpful for better cross-departmental collaboration, to see the real impacts of funding, and to identify gaps. There is the risk that an updated crosswalk may suggest that there is more money invested towards substance use disorder services than policy-makers realize, which could lead to additional scrutiny. The Task Force needs to clearly state the importance of the Governor's Commission having separate funding. The [Care at the Crossroads](#) report is referenced as a resource to guide their framing.

Members shared that they understand the funding landscape through anecdotes, but that the data is missing to identify barriers. This information will be important to inform strategic planning, but it is unsure who or what organization may have the capacity to collect it.

Although the Task Force is not able to engage with advocacy, members as individuals or as providers can support the work of New Futures and/or attend Governor's Commission or Opioid Abatement Commission meetings. The Task Force agreed that they want to provide the Commission with the right information to make funding decisions.

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Public Comment & Adjourn

Dianne Castrucci expressed their thanks to the Task Force for allowing them to provide input throughout the meeting.

After public comment was completed, Alissa Cannon moved to adjourn. Sarah Shanahan seconded, all in favor.

Decisions/Recommendations Made

1. The Task Force approved the minutes from the January 23rd Task Force meeting.

Next Steps

1. The next Budget Task Force meeting will take place on Friday, May 22nd, at 9:30 am.
2. Members should let Shannon know if they would like to continue their membership after June 2026, their preference for terms, and/or if they would like to move to a different Task Force.