

Governor's Commission on Addiction, Treatment, & Prevention

BUDGET TASK FORCE

Meeting Minutes

July 24, 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
Elyssa Sage	In person
Karen Collins	Zoom
Kate Frey	In person
Lauren McGinley	In person
Cheryle Pacapelli	In person
Kristine Paquette	In person
Sarah Shanahan	In person
Public	
Dan Andrus	In person
Center for Excellence on Addiction/JSI Staff	
Amy Daniels	In person
Olivia DiGeronimo	In person
Julia Tran	Zoom

Welcome & Introductions

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

Approve Minutes from 3/27/26 Meeting

Shannon Swett asked for a motion to approve the March minutes as written; John Burns motioned first, Sarah Shanahan seconded. All in favor, no abstentions.

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Membership Updates

The Budget Task Force welcomed a new member, Elyssa Sage. Elyssa was previously on the Data Task Force.

Membership appointments are staggered, and as of this meeting, all current members have been randomly assigned to a one, two, or three year term. Shannon has reached out to a prospective Budget co-chair and is waiting to hear back on their availability. She is also waiting to hear from the NH Fiscal Policy Institute on whether there is someone who would be able to join the Task Force as a member and can provide a different perspective to the group.

As for the other Task Forces, Coordination & Cooperation are also welcoming new members, while the Data Task Force is adjusting their approach and working to recruit new members by connecting with state departments and seeking representation from data stewards. Along with Traci Fowler, Tori Jennison is co-chairing the Data Task Force.

BDAS Updates on RFPs

Although Jill Burke was not able to attend this meeting, they were still able to provide updates to Shannon in advance: Most RFPs have been approved. All direct service contracts have been approved prior to June 30, preventing any service gaps. The technical assistance RFP will not be in effect until mid-August.

Task Force members, some of whom also serve as vendors, expressed positive feedback on BDAS's timing and work on processing these contracts. Vendors are getting paid faster, and the process is much smoother than it has been in the past. Progress has been made on the [recommendations](#) shared by the Task Force in December. The best way to share feedback with BDAS is to reach out to Katja Fox, Jill Burke, or someone on the Commission. Commission meetings also have a public comment period.

The Task Force's SFY27 recommendations to serve core infrastructure/statewide investments are ending in June. Opioid Abatement Commission funds, which also support RCOs and harm reduction coalition, are also ending this fiscal year. The group is working on how to target recommendations to prevent significant impacts to this work. Since the Governor's Commission provides recommendations to BDAS in December for FY28, the Task Force will most likely need to schedule additional meetings in the fall to prepare these recommendations in advance of that December meeting.

At the Opioid Abatement Commission's August meeting, they are considering extending their contracts that are ending next June. Public comment at this meeting provides a potential opportunity to advocate for investments supporting core infrastructure for the whole SUD prevention and treatment system.

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New Futures Update on Alcohol Fund

Kate Frey provided updates on the Alcohol Fund. House Bill 2 (HB 2) added language requiring General Funds appropriation for the Governor's Commission. New Futures advocates for utilizing the Alcohol Fund and has identified that the language in HB 2 offers up opportunity for an "either or" interpretation; Governor's Commission does not have to be strictly funded by General Funds.

New Futures proposed that language be added that the General Court makes an appropriation "equivalent" to 5% of liquor gross profits, as has historically comprised the Alcohol Fund in the past. This 5% figure has been decreasing, and New Futures is also thinking of ways to ensure the Alcohol Fund remains stable. Karen Collins asked if there was a way to incorporate language around supplementing shortages from other funding sources, i.e. keep the 5% figure but add language on supplementing with additional amounts appropriated from General Funds.

Another challenge with the switch to General Funds is that vendors will have more difficulty getting carry forward funds approved. Vendors are not receiving accurate information, impacting how much they are spending, the level at which they are spending, and reimbursement times. Smaller vendors who may not have robust legal counsels have expressed that they are wary of working with the State due to possible issues with timing of disbursement. Other vendors have seen administrative burden increasing, with many additional hours and effort needing to be expended on navigating changes.

Vendors are requesting clarification on contractor carry forward and carry forward on non-lapsing funds. The Task Force emphasized the need for internal education and communication for providers and DHHS around financing, OMB guidelines, and communicating with vendors in advance.

Brainstorming Engagement with Providers' Association

Shannon, who is also Chair of the Board of the Providers' Association, asked the Task Force if there was interest in having the ASAP Alliance present on how they and the Task Force can collaborate. The Task Force was in agreement, with the amendment of having more round-table discussions with the ASAP Alliance.

Request for Information from NH Departments

In the following week, Annette Escalante will send a request to all departmental entities on the Governor's Commission for SFY2026 expenditures related to alcohol and other drug use. The request will ask what is being funded, the amount expended, where funding comes from (federal, state, or general), the primary category of the program, and the primary substance targeted. This information will be collected for the Annual Report.

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Strategic Planning Updates

The Coordination & Cooperation Task Force is planning on disseminating a survey about how the system is working and what can be improved. This survey is targeted towards professionals in the field and people with lived experiences. It will be launched during September Recovery Month, and the survey team plans on meeting with RCO directors for feedback on survey language before finalizing.

Shannon asked: can a question can be included, directed towards providers, that asks about their experiences as contractors? The Public Input survey is not able to include that question, since the survey is anonymous and one organization can submit multiple responses. However, the Task Force can put in a TA request to develop a different survey targeted towards vendors. Shannon made a motion that the Task Force chair send a request to Chair of the Commission in seeking TA in putting a survey together to vendors who receive SUD funds. Kristine Paquette first, Sarah Shanahan seconds. All in favor, no abstentions.

Public Comment & Adjourn

Dan Andrus shared that it was a great meeting.

A Task Force member expressed an interest in learning more about gambling revenue. Shannon will connect with the Gambling Task Force co-chairs to see if additional information can be shared with the Budget Task Force. Another opportunity to learn more about the gambling landscape is at NHADACA's annual meeting on September 24. There will be an invited speaker discussing problem gambling as the keynote.

After public comment was completed, Cheryle Pacapelli moved to adjourn. John Burns seconded, all in favor.

Decisions/Recommendations Made

1. The Task Force approved the minutes from the March 27th Task Force meeting.
2. The Task Force Chair will put in a TA request with the Governor Commission's Chair to develop a survey for vendors receiving SUD funds.

Next Steps

1. The next Budget Task Force meeting will take place on Friday, September 25th, at 9:30 am.
2. The Task Force Chair will invite the ASAP Alliance to a future Task Force meeting.