



## Task Force on Holistic and Effective Responses to Illicit Drug Use

**Date:** 11.13.24

Open meeting law in-person location, staffing, and task force members in attendance:

**Task Force members in attendance:** Kurt DeVine, Ryan Kelly, Phil Baebenroth, Jillian Dease, Barry Edwards, Lauren Graber, Alex Kraak, Don Lannoye, Shane Myre, Dziwe Ntaba, Bradley Ray, Donovan Sather, Bill Ward

**Absent:** Chris Bates

**Design team:** Office of Addiction and Recovery, Management Analysis and Development (MAD): Jennifer Blanchard, Stephanie Klein, and Abra Pollock, Ari Edelman-McHenry, Emily Kaltenbach, Anne Siegler.

### Welcome and roll call

- Members and guests were welcomed
  - Jennifer Blanchard welcomed the Task Force members and guests
  - Noted it was a working meeting without planned public comment, though public could observe and submit comments to the Office of Addiction and Recovery. Contact information was provided.
- Co-Chairs Dr. Ryan Kelly and Dr. Kurt DeVine provided opening thoughts including:
  - Recognition of the challenges in evaluating recommendations, including scope and prioritization
  - Suggesting a framework for evaluating recommendations based on helping people meet substance use goals
  - Importance of viewing addiction as a disease and comparing treatment access to other medical conditions
  - Need to reduce stigma and understand the genetic/biological basis of addiction
- **Roll call and introductions:** Roll call was taken, and introductions were made.
- **Review of agenda:** Agenda and objectives for the meeting were reviewed.
- **Approve of minutes:** September meeting notes were approved.

## Review of voting results

The task force was provided an overview of the results of the first round of voting on Health Care and Social Determinants of Health recommendations for inclusion in the legislative report. Results included:

- 51 recommendations were voted on
- 18 received unanimous "yes" votes
- Recommendations that passed with 75% majority but had comments would be discussed using a Mural platform
- Recommendations that did not reach the 75% threshold to pass members would be given an opportunity to bring forward for discussion

## Discussion of recommendations

### Review of specific recommendations:

- Recommendation 3: Discussed concerns about coverage gaps and the scope of the Department of Corrections role in oversight.
- Recommendation 4: Discussed access to medications in correctional facilities, particularly challenges with methadone availability in rural areas
- Recommendation 5: Discussed removing the word "ALL" regarding medical providers and treatment program access
- Recommendation 20: Approved with language changes to include additional medications for opioid use disorder
- Recommendation 44: Discussed need for input from jail program administrators and funding policy

### Notable discussion points on recommendations:

- Access to health care including the geographic disparities in medication access, particularly in rural areas; need for consistent access to all FDA-approved medications; insurance coverage and barriers to treatment; special considerations for methadone administration.
- Youth related concerns including a need for clearer definitions of "youth"; variations in school district approaches to substance use; role of peer support programs; age-related treatment decision-making.
- Implementation considerations including funding mechanisms and available resources; rural vs. urban service availability; language access needs; cultural competency in services.

### Process updates:

- Several recommendations were moved to 100% approval after discussion and language modifications
- Some recommendations were identified for rewording and review in December
- Task force members can continue adding comments to the Mural platform
- Recommendations that didn't receive votes will be addressed in future meetings

## Next steps

- Additional recommendations will be reviewed in December
- Some recommendations will be brought back with refined language
- Co-chairs will work on prioritizing recommendations or a process for prioritization
- Members encouraged to continue providing feedback through Mural

## Action items

1. Staff will send next voting form next week
2. Members to continue adding comments to Mural board
3. Members to review new set of Harm Reduction, Data Collection, and Cross-cutting recommendations

## Next meeting and adjourn

The Task Force adjourned at adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 and will be a fully virtual meeting.