

## New Hampshire Opioid Prescribing Advisory Council (OPAC) Monthly Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:**

September 14, 2020, 9-11AM

**Action Items:** (Any items that involved a motion should be included here, with motion/second info noted.)

#	Description	Owner	Status	Target Due Date	Status/ Resolution
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**Key Decisions:**

Decision to be made	Assigned to	Due date	Final Decision	Date of Decision	Who finally made the decision
Approval of August meeting minutes	Council	09/14/20	Minutes Approved with revisions	09/14/20	Council: 9:06AM Motion to accept August minutes with revisions (Bizarro-Thunberg), second by (Ricco Jonas). Motion passed.

**Agenda:**

- Welcome and call to order
- Vote to approve minutes from August 2020 meeting
- Remarks from Mary Greene from CMS
- Updates: Letter to Legislature
- Updates: Transition Progress
- Discussion: OPAC moving forward
- Closing remarks and adjourn

**Call to Order**

Dave Mara called the meeting to order at 9:04AM.

**Vote to Approve August Minutes**

Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg noted that there are a few spelling errors to change before approving the minutes (Kim Fallon written as Fallo and Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg spelled incorrectly). Bizarro-Thunberg said once these errors are changed, she makes a motion to approve. Michelle Ricco Jonas seconded the motion. Mara did a roll call, Bob Quinn abstained and the motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously with corrections.

**Remarks from Mary Greene from CMS**

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At 9:07AM, Mara mentioned this is the last meeting with MITRE and CMS involved due to their contract ending. Mara asked Mary Greene from CMS to make some remarks. Greene thanked everyone for participating with CMS in this project. Greene noted the project stemmed from a challenge at CMS, which was to reduce opioid use and misuse by identifying and mitigating certain prescribing issues. Greene discussed the beginnings of their involvement and how their goals were accomplished. Mara asked what next steps are with the algorithms that were developed. Greene responded that figuring out how another state could utilize these algorithms and adapt the tools to fit their needs is an important next step. Greene asked if there was any part of this that was or was not particularly helpful. Bizarro-Thunberg commented that the negative at beginning was the original assumption that there was a lot of bad prescribing going on, and then they wanted to make this a more positive approach and changed the name of the Council, so Bizarro-Thunberg encouraged Greene to look at it that way. Ricco Jonas added that she agrees, but the ability to collect and merge data would have been more helpful. She would recommend going forward with other states that they really consider what laws need to change as early as possible to include PDMP data. Hanks added that it would be an interesting lens if there were an opportunity to have collaboration and joint efforts with neighboring states, because the healthcare network is beyond just one state, like in the case of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Dave Strang echoed what Bizarro-Thunberg mentioned and added what he found helpful were the graphs and data where they showed different trends. Lucy Hodder added that working on definitions and the shared platform and insights in the data were excellent and the next challenge is trying to use what they have gathered collectively, and noted the supported data collection and expertise was very helpful. Mara thanked Greene and Anne on behalf of the State for the work they have done and bringing this to NH.

### Updates: Letter to Legislature

At 9:14AM, Mara moved the discussion to the draft letter to the legislature. Mara asked for suggestions and recommendations for legislation and for this letter. Bizarro-Thunberg commented to change the bill numbers to current bill numbers, because the ones listed are old numbers. Bizarro-Thunberg added that it should talk about OPAC and the role of OPAC and what they have accomplished and why this group wanted to support those concepts, and add context to the legislative year. Strang suggested leaving the bill numbers in there, but making it clear that it was from last year's session. Mike Auerbach added that they should add the sponsors of each bill. Bizarro-Thunberg added that the complication was that these bills were added to omnibus bills, so just focus on the concepts of the content. Hodder asked if this was a good place to add recommendations for the final report explaining why the Council cares about legislation that supports the availability of relevant data. Mara clarified they have done some reporting out to the Governor. Hodder added that this is an opportunity to spread the recommendations to the legislature, so they can understand the benefit of what the data was able to do. Hanks thanked Mara for not letting these bills lose traction and giving the Council the opportunity to make this a stronger letter. Nagel commented that the problem with HB1332 was there was a senate version as well, and that should be included in this list. Nagel asked if we should also look at legislation that increases access to other measures of care for an overall strategy. Mara thought that was not a bad idea because when the Council changed from OOMPAC to OPAC, there was discussion of other alternatives to pain medication. Nagel said another committee is working on that and it would have a lot of weight coming from this committee. Ricco Jonas talked about 2 previous bills about insurances covering alternative care, and it did not pass, but the contention was with the insurance side of things and might be worth looking back at. Nagel said if he is not mistaken there were problems with that bill and there is a best practice guidelines in the works because that is currently lacking. Mara said it is a working document and is just a framework to work with, so any comments or suggestions, send to him, and at the next meeting they will have a new amended letter. Bizarro-Thunberg added they may know more of the LSRs by that time for their reference.

### Updates: Transition Progress

At 9:34AM Mara moved the discussion to the transition progress. Chris Teixeira said the MITRE team has been working closely with the NH DHHS and they have been troubleshooting with access issues and were looking at how to look at pattern of life and relate them to opioid overdoses. Teixeira said they were looking at how to fuse those sources together and look at a patient's timeline and go from point of overdose and work backward. Andrew Chalsma added that the NH environments weren't as mature as

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they thought they would be to do this data science work and that is something that this project has been able to move along in some ways. Mara asked what are the next steps for us and where do we go as a state. Chalsma said later in the year we should discuss what is happening and they are getting closer and closer to the place where they had aimed to be. Chalsma added they need to keep pushing for adequate data access for the state. Mara asked that we as a state will find utility in the program MITRE developed. Chalsma said that MITRE provided code and documentation and that is excellent and what they have produced through this project is really useful. Chalsma said that it is not a turnkey solution like a software product, but they provided a wealth of intellectual information that is helpful. Hodder said that there was a lot of talk about stimulants and multidrug use and alcohol, and she challenges us as a group to see how we can use this to address that. Quinn added that we need to look at the correlation between the prescribing of stimulants and the use of methamphetamines. Nagel commented that opioid prescribing is more complicated and he has issue with the simple cause and effect that the increase in prescribing led to this and is open to a side-bar conversation on that with anyone who would want that.

### Discussion: OPAC moving forward

At 9:49AM, Mara moved the discussion to OPAC moving forward. Mara pulled up the Executive Order and Bylaws for OPAC and read Section 2 which says the purpose of OPAC. Mara asked what we want this Council to do moving forward and about amending the Executive Order and Bylaws and asked for comments. Bizarro-Thunberg said that it is important to look at OPAC's original charge and adapt to the change in resources from MITRE to DHHS, and to be realistic with the resources now available to them, and to continue to push to expand those resources. Mara said that maybe we can modify the goals and purpose. Auerbach said we should emphasize to the legislature that there should be an integrated approach to this issue and making sure there is collaboration with the dental community. Ricco Jonas said that we have to consider how to use the PDMP data and there is currently a collaborative effort underway with the ME's office. Ricco Jonas added that there are also educational efforts underway with funding. Mara added he is interested to see the fatality commission come together where there will be more access to data. Hodder said to Ricco Jonas she is glad that is happening, and thanked Mara for keeping this group on task and said that the council needs to assess the gap it is trying to fill and ensure they are not duplicating efforts. Quinn added that we can reference the Governor's Commission and look at their mission and compare it to ours to see that we are not duplicating efforts, but we are filling in a hole. Jonathan Ballard said he certainly sees the overlap in several crises.

### Closing remarks and adjourn

Mara said he could not be more grateful for a company that has been so accommodating and friendly and willing to help NH and MITRE are fantastic partners. Mara also added that Anne has always been a helpful constant from CMS and he is thankful. Teixeira said it has been a pleasure and he has learned a lot working with this group. Strang commented referring to the legislation discussion earlier that he doesn't know if he wants to support legislation that we don't know the language on. Bizarro-Thunberg said that we probably want to focus on concepts right now rather than specific language. Hanks said that we should specify the year that the bills we are in support of and write in that we support them "as they were written". Strang echoed that referencing the language from the prior session's bill is the best route.

Mara said at the next meeting we will discuss what legislation is out there and we won't move forward until we have guidance from whole board. Mara asked if anyone has new business. Nagel asked if we are able to meet face to face again. Mara said he is not sure about that because the rooms previously used have been smaller in nature, so maybe there will be an option to go somewhere they can distance, but is not sure when that would happen. The next meeting is Monday, October 12th, and Mara will send out the Zoom notification. Auerbach made a motion to adjourn, Strang seconded, Mara did a roll call and the meeting adjourned at 10:14AM.

### Next Meeting Date, Time, and Location:

October 12, 2020, 9-11AM via Zoom

## Opioid Prescribing Advisory Council

### Council Members:

In Attendance	Name	Email
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Mara, Esq NH Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health	<a href="mailto:David.Mara@nh.gov">David.Mara@nh.gov</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael P. Auerbach NH Dental Society	<a href="mailto:mauerbach@nhds.org">mauerbach@nhds.org</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jonathan Ballard, MD, MPH, MPhil NH Department of Health and Human Services	<a href="mailto:jonathan.ballard@dhhs.nh.gov">jonathan.ballard@dhhs.nh.gov</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard J. Barth, Jr., MD Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center	<a href="mailto:Richard.J.Barth@hitchcock.org">Richard.J.Barth@hitchcock.org</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathy A. Bizarro-Thunberg, MBA, FACHE NH Hospital Association	<a href="mailto:kbizarro@nhha.org">kbizarro@nhha.org</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Alex Casale NH Judicial Branch	<a href="mailto:Acasale@courts.state.nh.us">Acasale@courts.state.nh.us</a>
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In Attendance	Name	Email
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jay Schnitzer, MD, PhD VP, Chief Technology Officer MITRE	<a href="mailto:jschnitzer@mitre.org">jschnitzer@mitre.org</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David Strang, MD NH PDMP Advisory Council	<a href="mailto:davidstrangmd@yahoo.com">davidstrangmd@yahoo.com</a>
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. David Nagel	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Molly Rossignol	

**Persons appearing before the Council:** (This section includes only persons invited to speak or present before the Council, not the general public or other attendees.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chris Teixeira, MITRE	<a href="mailto:cteixeira@mitre.org">cteixeira@mitre.org</a>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mary Greene	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Woods	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rena McClain	