UNADOPTED MINUTES

Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Remote Organizational Meeting
Friday, April 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

CALL TO ORDER Representative Mark Pearson (Acting Chair) opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. with an RSA 91-A disclosure statement and roll call of Committee members. The meeting was held virtually using Zoom and recorded.

ATTENDING Representative Mark Pearson; Representative Jess Edwards; Representative Jeffrey Salloway; Senator Bob Giuda; and Senator Cindy Rosenwald.

A quorum was established.

ABSENT None.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS First**,** Representative Salloway nominated Representative Pearson as chair, which motion was seconded by Senator Rosenwald. The committee members unanimously elected Representative Pearson as chair. Second, Representative Pearson nominated Representative Edwards as vice-chair, which motion was seconded by Representative Salloway. The committee members unanimously elected Representative Edwards as vice chair. Third, Representative Pearson nominated Senator Giuda as clerk, which motion was seconded by Representative Salloway. The committee members unanimously elected Senator Giuda as clerk.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES Motion to accept the draft minutes from the November 13, 2020 remote regular meeting and place on file made by Senator Giuda, seconded by Senator Rosenwald. The Committee accepted the minutes on a 5-0 roll call vote.

Review of enabling legislation for the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee and required RSA and Chapter Law Reports Representative Pearson provided an overview of the enabling legislation under RSA 126-A:13, *et* seq. He discussed with his committee members the format for future meetings: (1) Issues for future agenda items to be generated by committee members for agency response; (2) timely receipt of mandated reports to be read by committee members with in-person reporting by agency staff before the committee at the membership's request if needed; and (3) agenda to be set by the chair with input from the committee members. The committee members unanimously agreed to adopt Representative Pearson's proposed format for future meetings.

Discussion of Future Meeting Dates The committee settled on **Friday, June 4 at 10 a.m.** as the next meeting date/time. Moving forward, meetings to be held on the fourth Friday of the

month. Future meetings to be held **Friday, June 25** and **Friday July 23**. The committee will not be meeting during the month of August.

Discussion or updates of subcommittee(s): Formation of a Subcommittee on Foster Care Representative Kimberly Rice appeared before the committee to request the establishment and formation of a subcommittee on Foster Care. Representative Pearson moved to approve the request, which was seconded by Senator Rosenwald. The motion to establish the subcommittee on Foster Care was approved on a 5-0 roll call vote. Representative Edwards requested that the justification document submitted by Representative Rice be "firmed up." The committee approved the sunsetting of the subcommittee on November 30, 2023.

Discussion on a comprehensive review of the closed loop referral system by the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee Representative Jess Edwards provided an overview of the documents requested and questions he posed to the Department regarding the closed loop referral system. Jonathan Ballard, MD, Chief Medical Officer for the Department, and Director David Wieters, DHHS Bureau of Information Systems, were available to the committee and fielded questions from members of the committee. Representative Pearson directed Representative Edwards and Senator Rosenwald to continue discussions with the Department and to be prepared to provide an update at the June 4 regular meeting.

Topics Committee Members have requested requiring DHHS Response First, Representative Pearson recognized Senator Giuda to speak to the committee on his concerns around the Navigant report on Long Term Supports and Services (LTSS). Although the item was intended to be framed as a future agenda item, discussions were made on the topic. Senator Giuda read an email to the committee members. Director Deborah Scheetz, DHHS Long Term Supports and Services, fielded questions posed by the committee. It was discussed that this would be addressed at a future meeting. Second, Representative Edwards requested that the Department present on the Commissioner's authority in RSA 126-A:4, II, to establish, reorganize, or abolish such divisions, offices, bureaus, or other components of the department as may from time to time be necessary to carry out the mission and duties of the department. Representative Pearson suggested that given the June 4 agenda already being full with the continued discussion on the closed loop referral process that this new item should be carried over to the July meeting.

DHHS Commissioner's Update Associate Commissioner Ann Landry provide an update for Commissioner Shibinette. She highlighted progress around behavioral health and COVID-19 vaccination administration including the following:

Behavioral Health:

- The Department continues to work on the transformation of the behavioral health system.
- This includes the implementation of the system of care (see SB 14) and the 10-year plan for mental health.

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- Another exciting program that addresses the 10-year plan is critical time intervention. The Department has been working with consultants (A&M) and starting to engage with stakeholders to develop the program, which is evidence based and focuses on transitions from institutions. The Department will initially work with individuals transitioning from NHH and Designated Receiving Facilities to coordinate care for 9 months after discharge.
- The Department recently received word that we will be getting supplemental funding for our two Block Grants. This one time funding is for Substance Abuse is $6.5M and for Mental Health is $2.9M with certain set asides and requirements.

COVID-19 Vaccination Administration (PIT):

- Continue to march forward with vaccine administration –
    - 47% of total population has received one shot
    - 29% of total population has completed vaccination
    - 57% of age eligible have received one shot
    - 35% of age eligible have completed
- Continue to offer testing throughout the State through our fixed sites and partnerships; Department seeing a decline in demand at fixed sites.
- Call volume at 211 is decreasing as well indicating residents are accessing information and resources through regular/local communication channels.
- The Department working with overnight camps to offer testing and collaborating with DOE to implement situation-specific surveillance testing for schools.

Senator Rosenwald made a request of Associate Commissioner Landry for more detailed information around vaccine administration in hard to served or underserved regions or populations. Associate Commissioner Landry to facilitate working with the Department's Division of Public Health Services to respond to the request for additional information.

HB 4 (2019) Plan for Dental Care for Medicaid Recipients Status Update Henry Lipman, FACHE, Medicaid Director, and Sarah Finne, DMD, MPH, Medicaid Dental Director, Division for Medicaid Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, provided a status update on the planned implementation of adult dental benefit program. Representative Salloway noted that the tabled House bill dealing with the subject matter needed an updated fiscal note and missing data needed for discussion at the House session. Representative Pearson noted the Senate bill dealing with the issue. Director Lipman provided that the information Representative Salloway mentioned was available and included in the Department's fiscal analysis on SB 150.

DD and ABD Waitlist Quarterly Report Director Deborah Scheetz, Director, Long Term Care Support Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, provide an update with the following highlights:

March 31, 2021 Third Quarter SFY21 WL Report -- HHS Oversight (PIT)

- Continue As of March 31, 2021, all SFY 21 Quarter Three, As, Bs and Cs were funded for the Developmental Disability Waiver (DD). All individuals were funded for the Acquired Brain Disorder Waiver (ABD), and In-Home Support Waiver (IHS). There were 0 people waiting for services on the Bureau of Developmental Services (BDS) Developmental Disability waiver, Acquired Brain Disorder Waiver (ABD), and In-Home Support Waiver (IHS).
- Developmental Disability Waiver: As of March 31, 2021, BDS has allocated funds to 443 individuals thus far in SFY21 as follows:
    - o 183 As and Bs with the original budget appropriation.
    - o 232 Cs with the original budget appropriation
    - o 28 Cs with BDS funds due to vacancy dollars.
- Acquired Brain Disorder Waiver: As of March 31, 2021, BDS has allocated funds on behalf of 18 individuals, thus far in SFY 21.
- In Home Support Waiver: As of 3/31/21, BDS has allocated funds on behalf of 43 individuals thus far in SFY 21.
- Due to the COVID-19 Emergency, service provision has been delayed for several individuals. Area Agencies report several factors that are creating the delay in starting new services, which include: (1) workforce shortages; (2) limited vendor capacity to respond to request for proposals (RFPs); (3) individual/family choice to delay some services; and (4) standing up vaccination clinics in collaboration with regional public health networks for staff and individuals in the developmental services system.
- Agencies continue to prioritize supports for individuals in crisis (COVID+ people served were 46 January 14 in February, and 10 in March) as well as the initiation of services for individuals that are new to waiver services (As and Bs). There has been a shift to 1:1 staff / individual ratios to provide individualized supports to individuals that have been affected by COVID. The shift to remote services has provided flexibility, but not enough to offset the 1:1 staffing requirements. The closing of Crotched Mountain adult residential services also contributed to delays in the provision of new services for individuals in receipt of Wait List funds due to the immediate need to transition people from Crotched Mountain to alternative residential services. The Bureau of Developmental Services continues to monitor start data in partnership with the Area Agencies.
- Individuals in need of Wait List funding vary from day to day as Area Agencies work with people, their families, and providers to plan for services. With the COVID-19 Emergency continuing, some families are still choosing to not start services, reduce services, or temporarily suspend services. The situation remains more fluid now than historically. The Department uses a combination of funds to meet the Wait List needs, including the original budget appropriation and vacancy dollars.

CARRYOVER REPORTS FROM MEETING The following reports scheduled to be heard this date needed to be carried over to the June 4 meeting due to lack of time: (1) SB 118 (2019) **Child**

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Fatality Review Committee Annual Report – Sai Cherala, MD, Bureau of Population Health and Community Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; (2) HB 237 (2019) **New Hampshire Rare Disease Advisory Council Annual Report** - Sai Cherala, MD, Bureau of Population Health and Community Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; and (3) **Newborn Screening Advisory Committee Annual Report** – Tricia Tilley, Deputy Director, and Sai Cherala, MD, Bureau of Population Health and Community Services, Division of Public Health Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

ADJOURNMENT Motion to adjourn made by Representative Pearson, seconded by Representative Edwards. The committee members unanimously agreed to adjourn on a voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

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