



**Governor's Task Force on Mental Health &  
Substance Use**

**Workgroup on Prescription Opioid Abuse, Heroin Resurgence &  
Special Topics**

**September 23, 2015**

**Via Conference Call**

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**Minutes**

**Attendees**

Sheriff Asa Buck, III, Co-Chair  
Brian Ingraham, Co-Chair  
Kurtis Taylor  
Dr. Ashwin Patkar  
Flo Stein

**Unable To Attend**

Justice Samuel J. Ervin, IV  
Dave Richard  
Rep. Susan Martin

1. **Welcome:** Mr. Buck and Mr. Ingraham welcomed the members to the meeting.
2. **Review of Agenda:** The Workgroup reviewed and approved the agenda by consensus.
3. **Duties, Agreement of Scope, Individual Assignments:** The Workgroup reviewed and discussed the duties of the Workgroup which are delineated below. The Workgroup determined a Workgroup member will be identified to have the responsibility for a duty:
  - a. **Examine efforts to heighten awareness of the dangers of prescription opioid misuse/abuse and provide recommendations to improve these efforts.**  
Responsible Member: Sheriff Buck
  - b. **Examine efforts to heighten awareness regarding the efficacy of and reduce stigma related to medication assisted treatment and provide recommendations to improve these efforts.** Responsible Member: Kurtis Taylor

- c. **Evaluate the use of heroin in North Carolina and provide recommendations on best practices for prevention, treatment, and recovery.** Responsible Member: To be determined.
- d. **DHHS Recommendation: Review the State Plan to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse and provide recommendations for implementation strategies.** Responsible Member: Brian Ingraham
- e. **Any other duties as assigned by the Co-Chairs of the Task Force.**

The Workgroup discussed the State Plan to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse and that the Workgroup is charged with providing recommendations for implementation strategies for this plan.. Mr. Ingraham stated Smoky Mountain LME/MCO has initiated efforts regarding prescription opioid misuse/abuse, and Smoky's Medical Director, Dr. Craig Martin, will be a resource for this duty.

Ms. Stein will obtain plans from other states regarding their recommendations to target solutions for these goal (a), (b) and (c). In addition, Ms. Stein will provide the Workgroup members the legislation which addresses prescription drug management. The Workgroup discussed North Carolina's controlled substance reporting system.

The Workgroup discussed the expanded prescription limitations at the federal level, and Dr. Patkar will provide the Workgroup with a web link to an article regarding this matter. Other discussion included obtaining the recent data regarding the use of heroin in North Carolina and related deaths, and Ms. Stein will provide this data to the Workgroup. The Workgroup discussed the relationship between the North Carolina justice system and other systems which impact consumers identified with prescription opioid use and heroin use.

Further issues the Workgroup addressed is the need for long term residential treatment for opioid abuse. Ms. Stein stated a treatment map is being developed and will be sent to the Workgroup members upon completion. The Workgroup recommended having a central repository of resources for the Workgroup, and Ms. Stein will pursue this matter. In addition, the Workgroup discussed the possibility of securing speakers with expertise on prescription opioid abuse and heroin resurgence.

There being no further issues, the meeting adjourned.

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Jill Knight, Recorder