

# NH Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Advisory Council Meeting

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Monday, July 22, 2019; 3:00 PM  
Meeting Minutes

## **Council members present:**

Chair David Strang, MD, NH Medical Society (NHMS)  
Stephen Crawford, DVM, Board of Veterinary Medicine (BOVM)  
David DePiero, NH Hospital Association (NHHA)  
Kate Frey, New Futures  
Sean Gill, NH Attorney General's Office, Dept. of Justice (DOJ)  
Dennis Hannon, DDS, NH Board of Dental Examiners  
Joseph Harding, NH Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Nicole Harrington, Public Member, NH Board of Pharmacy (BOP)  
Gene Harkless, NH Board of Nursing (BON) (via phone)  
Eric Hirschfeld, D.D.S, NH Dental Society  
Bradley Osgood, NH Police Chiefs' Association  
Michael Viggiano, NH State Pharmacy Associations

## **Council Members Absent:**

Daniel Potenza, MD, NH Board of Medicine (BOM)  
Jonathan Stewart, Community Health Institute (CHI)

## **Others in Attendance:**

David Grosso, Executive Director, OPLC  
Joe Shoemaker, OPLC  
Michelle Ricco Jonas, Manager, NH PDMP  
Mark Cioffi, Analyst, NH PDMP  
Joanie Foss, Administrative Assistant, NH PDMP  
Kathy Bizarro-Thunberg, NH Hospital Association  
Mike Bullock, NH Board of Pharmacy (BOP)  
Jim Potter, Executive Vice-President, NHMS  
Beth Sargent (Lobbyist, Police Association)

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Dr. David Strang, promptly at 3:00 pm.

## **Introductions:**

Members of the Advisory Council (A.C.) and the public were introduced. Mr. David Grosso, the new Executive Director of OPLC introduced himself to the group and spoke briefly about the expected transition of the PDMP from the BOP to direct OPLC oversight.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

April 15, 2019: D. Strang informed the members that in the April 15<sup>th</sup> minutes (already approved at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting), E. Hirschfeld was mistakenly left off the list of attendees. D. DePiero motioned to amend the April 15<sup>th</sup> minutes to include E. Hirschfeld on the list of attendees. Second by D. Hannon. All in favor.

May 20, 2019: It was noted that in the draft of the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, N. Harrington is incorrectly listed as a “Public Member” of the Board of Pharmacy. E. Hirschfeld motioned to correct her designation to “Commissioner, NH Board of Pharmacy.” Second by M. Viggiano. All in favor. J. Harding motioned to change the words on page 3, paragraph 3, line 2 from “hospital EHRs” to “State partners” to more accurately reflect his belief of the purpose of Sen. Giuda’s Data Sharing Summit planned for Sept. Second by S. Crawford. All in favor. Motion by E. Hirschfeld to accept the draft minutes as amended. Second by J. Harding. All in favor.

### **New Business:**

#### ➤ NH PDMP Provider and Dispenser Surveys

M. Ricco Jonas reviewed the proposed provider and dispenser surveys. These were last done in 2017. The surveys are very similar for both providers and dispensers and are designed to learn about how the PDMP might be affecting opioid prescribing and dispensing behaviors. It is hoped that the survey will show how the PDMP has already benefited NH in its fight against the opioid crisis and show where further improvement is needed. M. Viggiano asked if a question re: emerging concerns could be added. The A.C. members made some suggestions for improvement. M. Ricco Jonas asked the A.C. to review these further and let her know if they have any other suggested changes. This will go out to all registered prescribers and dispensers. The last time this was conducted, 1500 responses were returned.

#### ➤ Preliminary Audit Report Form

M. Ricco Jonas reviewed the PDMP Data Compliance Audit Form, which analyzed 8 prescriptions from each pharmacy in the State, that were broken down into 4 opioid prescriptions, 2 stimulant prescriptions and 2 random controlled substance prescriptions. She then distributed a handout that broke down the types of errors that this audit uncovered, across 11 separate districts within the State (Note: these districts, although similar to county lines, are in fact different).

34.09% of all prescriptions across these 11 districts were labeled as “incorrect.” Errors were further broken down into “minor, serious and fatal.” The percentage of overall “fatal” errors dropped significantly after pet prescriptions were removed from the data field.

M. Ricco Jonas reviewed the process to correct errors. Once uncovered, dispensers have 72 hours to fix these. This audit has allowed the PDMP to gather information on errors and help with education. This information will go out to chain pharmacies.

M. Viggiano asked whether there should be a threshold for each type of error (minor, serious, fatal), beyond which prescription data should not be considered viable. Should the Advisory

Council be involved in this process? It was felt that we should look to other states that have implemented similar analyses in order to learn from their experience.

➤ Vendor Demonstrations

M. Ricco Jonas has scheduled 3 virtual and 1 in person demonstrations for prospective vendors. A.C. members were asked to let her know if they were interested and/or planning to attend these sessions. N. Harrington suggested that we ask vendors about certain “pain points” with Appriss and how we can dig into a potential new vendor’s presentation to be certain they will be able to resolve these problems. Will a new vendor be able to incorporate New Hampshire’s historical data if we do not review with Appriss? As NH owns it’s data, the answer to this question was felt to be “yes.”

It was also suggested that we develop a list of questions to ask all of the vendors in order to best evaluate their product and contrast it with that of other vendors.

➤ 2020 Legislative Discussion

M. Ricco Jonas intends to look into re-submitting a bill on EHR integration. Another possible legislative change would be to scrutinize pharmacist’s registrations. Over 800 pharmacists are not registered with the Program. Many, although licensed within the State, are not actively working “the bench” and should therefore not have access to the PDMP data.

**Old Business:**

➤ Strategic Plan

M. Ricco Jonas reported that the PDMP Strategic Plan was approved by Board of Pharmacy at their June meeting.

➤ Data Sharing

D. Strang reported that the Data Sharing Sub-committee had convened their first meeting on June 28<sup>th</sup>, but representatives from DHHS were unable to attend. At that meeting, it was the consensus of the Sub-committee members, that it was not productive to meet further until DHHS could tell us: 1) What kind of data they possessed that could be productively combined with PDMP data for aggregate, de-identified studies, and 2) What specific studies they were most interested in commissioning. D. Strang reported that he had been in contact with Tricia Tilley at DHHS about this decision and she had just informed him this past Friday of a July 29<sup>th</sup> meeting with their “legal, data, and program experts” to address these issues. If they can provide answers to these questions from the Sub-committee, then it would be in the best interests of both DHHS and the PDMP to hold another Sub-committee meeting before Sen. Giuda’s Data Sharing Summit, currently scheduled for Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>.

S. Crawford nominated the Chair, D. Strang, to represent the A.C. at Sen. Giuda’s Data Sharing Summit. Second by M. Viggiano. All in favor.

➤ Legislation Update: SB 120

Term limits: D. Strang notified the membership that if signed by the Governor, SB 120 would institute term limits to the Advisory Council. This was a very last minute amendment to the bill. As written, those on the A.C. for 6 or more years on the effective date would be required

to step down. Those on between 5 and 6 years would only be allowed one additional year of service. All others could be nominated for a “new” 5-year term. Going forward, all members would be limited to 5-year terms, except those representing the Attorney General’s Office and DHHS (both of which are exempted from term limits). D. Strang stated that those legislators who had discussed this with him indicated it was never their intention to gut the senior leadership of the A.C., particularly at such an important time as the Program transitions from the BOP to OPLC. But, unless this is fixed by the legislature, this may be the last meeting for D. Strang, M. Viggiano and J. Stewart. Numerous individuals, both on the Council and in the public gallery thanked them for their years of service.

**Other Items of Interest:**

None brought forward

**Non-Public Session:**

Not needed

**Next Meeting:**

Date/Time: October 21, 2019; 3:00 p.m.

Location: Office of Professional Licensure and Certification

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn at 5:04 p.m. by M. Viggiano. Second by D. DePiero. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David E. Strang MD". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

David E. Strang, MD  
Chairman