



City of Nashua
Division of Public Health and Community Services



Mayor's Task Force on Substance Misuse Meeting

Tuesday, 3/18/2025

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Facilitator: Bobbie Bagley

Location: City Hall Auditorium, 3rd Floor

Minutes

Updates

- Sober Homes – No updates.
- Gate House – No updates.
- Nashua Prevention Coalition – The prevention series at Dr. Crisp School will begin with 5th grade students. An event will be held at the Arlington Street Community Center in partnership with Nashua Outright, which is part of Seacoast Outright. Flyers will be sent out. Additionally, the coalition is connecting with Breakthrough in Manchester to promote a summer program for kids focused on college readiness, with plans to bring the initiative to Nashua.
- BH Specialist-DPHCS– National Drug Take Back Day takes place in April.
- Mayor's Office – No updates.
- Harbor Care – The Cynthia Day Center can accommodate women without children. A cornhole tournament will be held on Thursday as a fundraiser for the Nashua Soup Kitchen & Shelter (NSKS).
- Nashua PD– Nashua Community College has funding available for Mental Health First Aid training.
- United Way –A Facebook page has been launched to share employment opportunities, and everyone is encouraged to post job openings there. A Community Baby Shower will take place at the end of April.
- Merrimack Police Department – No updates.

Encampment Update

- The Housing Services Officer- provided an update on encampments and substance misuse. It was reported that there are currently six encampments. Four sites have been identified with substance use concerns. The warming station at Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter (NSKS) set to close on April 1st. An increase in people coming to Nashua and more encampments are expected as the weather changes. Joint outreach efforts will be conducted with partners, including Revive, Harbor Care, and NSKS.

Data Review

- Please refer to the slides for AMR and SSANA data, along with a comparison of Nashua and Manchester for February.



Prevalent Substances - Revive	• People are using meth, fentanyl, xylazine, and some benzodiazepines. • Research suggests meth use is declining, while crack use is increasing. • Discussion on a new substance called Twilight, which contains medication used to treat motion sickness and can cause hallucinations. • Question: Can we obtain pharmacy sales data for Dramamine to monitor potential misuse?
Overdose Recovery – AMR/NFR	• Do not use an Ambu bag resuscitator or other airway devices in the first 8 minutes of an overdose. • Previously harm occurred due to improper resuscitation methods. • Only use oxygen and chest compressions to avoid physical trauma, such as lung over inflation.
Opioid Fatality Review Committee	• We want to Form an Opioid Fatality Review Committee from this group to conduct a forensic analysis of factors leading up to opioid-related deaths. The committee will work to identify strategies for reducing opioid overdose deaths and will identify opportunities for prevention strategies.
Opioid Abatement Trust Fund Update	• Funding is secured for the next 16 years, with SORE funding continuing thereafter. • Emphasis on prevention, which is more cost-effective than hospitalization. • Increased education and informed choices are expected to contribute to a decrease in overdoses.
Other Discussions	• There has been a national decrease in overdose deaths due to the increased use of NARCAN. • There are concerns that people are not calling 911 after the use of NARCAN. It is difficult to track that data. • In Nashua, the chance of dying from an overdose is 1 in 4, while in Manchester, it is 1 in 10. This discrepancy should be investigated to understand the contributing factors. Key questions to explore include: Is there greater access to NARCAN in Manchester? Are there differences in emergency response times, treatment availability, or harm reduction efforts? Analyzing these factors could help inform strategies to reduce overdose fatalities in Nashua. • Comment: Merrimack has seen a drastic decrease in reported NARCAN administrations • It is concerning that NARCAN is not affective on xylazine. • Nashua's data includes overdoses happening within the city, even if the individuals do not reside there. AMR has the capability to track hot spots but will

	need to confirm feasibility.
Other Updates	• May 2025 Behavioral Health Conference: ○ Seeking recommendations for panelists from partners. • April 7, Nashua DPHCS will be hosting annual Public Health Week Kickoff Event at Nashua City Hall. ○ For vendor inquiries, please contact Health Promotion and Communication Specialist.

Follow-up Items		
Action Item	Person/Organization Responsible	Date Completed

Next Meeting April 15, 2025