

The Partnership Convening
Friday, May 3, 2024
10:00 - 11:30 AM ET



Meeting Minutes

This convening provides updates on the cannabis landscape in New Hampshire (NH) and a presentation on the impact of cannabis use on the developing brain.

Attendees (22): JoAnne Miles-Homes (NH DHHS - Injury Prevention), Amy Michaels, Deryn Smith (DHMC), Elizabeth Duffy, Jess Morton (NH TPCP), Joy Noel (NCHC), Kandyce Tucker (Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services), Kate MacDonald (South Central Public Health Network), Kimbly Wade, Marissa Carlson (NH Teen Institute), Meghan Steward, Philip Rousseau, Stephanie Wolff (Franklin Partners in Prevention), Dakota Burrill (South Central Public Health Network), Kiera Latham

CHI/JSI: Christin D'Ovidio, Julie Yerkes, Nikki Chute, Audrey Foxx, Ryan Barry, Martha Bradley, Emi Ebihara

Presenter(s):

- [Kate Frey](#) - Vice President of Advocacy at New Futures NH
- [Kristen Gilliland, Ph.D](#) - Director of Outreach and Advocacy Programs at the Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery at Vanderbilt University

Please [complete our meeting evaluation here](#). CEUs and attendance certificates are available for those who fill out the evaluation form.

Watch the recording [here](#).

1. **Welcome and Introductions** (Julie Yerkes)
2. **Presentation from Kate Frey - Cannabis Legalization Policy in NH**
 - Presentation
 - In NH, therapeutic cannabis (TC) came into law in 2013. Over 14,000 people have TC cards and over 20 conditions are covered in law. The current law allows healthcare providers to certify conditions for patients to go to Alternative Treatment Center (ATC).

- In NH, we have decriminalized marijuana (this is NOT legalization). This was signed by the Governor in 2017.
- No state has a non commercial model. New Futures does not take position of a non commercial model because of limited public health impacts.
- The industry has a long history of taking advantage of individuals who are vulnerable, including their marketing tactics.
- NH is currently focusing on how to ensure the policy for legalization is right. Looking at restrictions on marketing and focusing on mental health and social justice issues. NH wants to avoid taking advantage of vulnerable populations (including youth) for profit.
- Need to protect public and population health. Public health needs to be at the table. Public health plays a large role in educating about the risks of cannabis use.
- NH Governor wants state control over distribution and access of cannabis sales, similar to alcohol sales in the State.
- HB 1633 was introduced to Senate Judiciary. Public hearing was held on April 25th. Committee votes expected by May 9th. After, it will likely go to the Senate Finance Committee for review. Then off to the Senate for a second vote.
- This is the closest we have ever been to cannabis legalization in NH.
- <https://new-futures.org/policy-priority-areas>
- Question/Answer and Reflection Portion:
 - Is there an opportunity at this time for advocacy?
 - YES! You can receive action alerts from New Futures. [This link](#) can help you form an email to the Senate Judiciary Committee.
 - Does New Futures provide messaging?
 - Yes, New Futures is already providing messaging and will continue to do so. Check out their website.

3. Presentation from Kristen Gilliland - The Impact of Cannabis Use on the Developing Brain

- Presentation
 - Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the chemical found in cannabis/marijuana. Currently cannabis/marijuana is classified as schedule 1, but it's in review for medical purposes to be moved to schedule 3.
 - Kristen's presentation described the way that THC changes the communication pathways within the brain.

- “Overall, use of high potency cannabis, relative to lower potency cannabis, was associated with an increased risk of psychosis and cannabis use disorder.” Petrilli et al Lancet Psychiatry (2022);9:736
- Kristen’s goal is to teach youth the impact of cannabis and substance use on the brain.
- As prevention professionals, we need to get out into the community to talk about the dangers of cannabis use on the developing brain.

4. Partner Updates

- NH Teen Institute
 - If the high school students in your life haven’t registered for the TI Summer Leadership Program yet, please send them our way! Partial & full scholarships are available through support from BDAS and community organizations & funds, so we can meet families where they’re at in terms of covering tuition! And related to today’s topic, one of the outcomes we track is increased perception of harm from frequent/regular cannabis use, and we have a great history of positive & statistically significant change in that indicator!
 - <https://www.nhteeninstitute.org/slp>
- Franklin Partners in Prevention
 - 5k for Prevention is scheduled for June 15! Registration is OPEN and we are still looking for sponsors!
 - <https://www.franklinnh.org/franklin-partners-prevention/pages/step-step-5k-prevention>
- UNH Cooperative Extension
 - Community First Responder Program
 - Learn how to reverse an overdose using naloxone (NARCAN®) in a free, 10-minute interactive module
 - Free naloxone kit will be mailed to you after completing the course
 - <https://extension.unh.edu/health-well-being/programs/community-first-responder-program>

5. Partnership Updates

- Season 2 of *The Power of Prevention* Podcast is out now
 - [Cannabis Commercialization: What You Need to Know](#) with Kate Frey, Vice President of Advocacy at New Futures NH

- [How Community Collaboration Can Improve Health for All](#) with Lisa Vasquez, Behavioral Health Strategist at the City of Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services
- [NEW Social Media Toolkit for National Prevention Week 2024](#)
- [NEW Video - Focusing on Youth: One Conversation at a Time](#)
 - By Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST), a committee of Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley.
 - Shares the significant role that trusted adults play in their lives from NH students.
 - Highlights the importance of supportive relationships from trusted adults.
- *Stronger Than You Think* Campaign
 - Supports open conversations between parents, caregivers, and adults and the young people in their lives.
 - Webpage: StrongerNH.org
 - Access social media toolkit, download digital materials, and order free print materials
- Three recent blogs available about vaping in NH.
 - [The Accessibility of Vape Products to Youth in Our Community: A Closer Look at the Consequences](#)
 - [Empowered Voices: Plymouth High's Stand Against Vaping](#)
 - [What the Settlement with JUUL Could Mean: A Parent's Guide in New Hampshire](#)
- Watch our tutorial videos on [how to co-brand with The Partnership @drugfreeNH](#) and [how-to post our partner toolkits on your social media accounts](#).
- Hosting an event? We can help you promote it! Let us know by [connecting with us on our website](#).
- [Sign up for The Partnership's eblast](#)