

## Scope of Work

### Convenors and Co-Chairpersons:

Jay Butler, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
Gunnar Ebbesson, LPC, Chairman, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse  
Jeff Jessee, CEO, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

### Purpose:

On or before November 30, 2016 the Alaska Opioid Task Force will provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to address the rising incidence of heroin use and prescription opioid abuse and deaths due to opioid overdose. Recommendations will be evidence and research-based and reflect best practices, where applicable. Areas to be addressed include but are not limited to:

- a) Alaska law enforcement efforts to curb the importation of heroin into the state;
- b) Prescribing practices related to pain management and opioid medications;
- c) Insurance and Medicaid roles in preventing and managing opioid addiction;
- d) Access to detox services;
- e) Prescription opioid drug misuse, diversion, and abuse;
- f) Improving the opioid treatment system in Alaska;
- g) Potential collateral public health concerns of opioid abuse and self-injecting drug use (Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, HIV, Hepatitis, etc.);
- h) Harm reduction practices (e.g., access to naloxone, syringe and needle exchange programs);
- i) Public education and de-stigmatization;
- j) Root causes of self-medication;
- k) Any potential collateral consequences of policies considered by the task force; and
- l) Other areas identified by stakeholders throughout the process.

*It is possible that, once the primary purpose of the Alaska Opioid Policy Task Force is achieved, the task force will remain active to monitor and support implementation of the recommendations made to the executive and legislative branches.*

### Membership (*proposed*):

*Proposed members have expertise in the areas related to the task force's work, represent the public systems significantly affected by issues related to opioid abuse, and reflect the diversity of Alaska's communities. The identified members also have the demonstrated ability to engage stakeholders and communities in the work of the task force.*

- Jay Butler, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
- Gunnar Ebbesson, LPC, Chairman, Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
- Jeff Jessee, CEO, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
- Captain Jeff Laughlin, Alaska State Troopers
- Randall Burns, State Opioid Treatment Authority, Alaska Division of Behavioral Health

- Christina Love, Person in Recovery
- Nick Kraska, Person in Recovery
- Kerby Kraus, Person in Recovery
- Tina Woods, PhD, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Perry Ahsogeak, Fairbanks Native Association
- Erich Scheunemann, Assistant Chief, Emergency Medical Services, Municipality of Anchorage
- Robert Henderson, JD, Chairman of Controlled Substances Advisory Committee
- Mark Simon, MD, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital
- Erin Narus, PharmD, State Medicaid Pharmacist, Department of Health and Social Services
- Elizabeth Ripley, Executive Director, Mat-Su Health Foundation
- Anna Nelson, Executive Director, Interior AIDS Association
- Kim Zello
- *additional members to be determined*

**Ex officio members:** 1 representative from Governor’s Office, 1 representative from the Alaska House of Representatives, 1 representative from the Alaska Senate

**Facilitators:** Kate Burkhart, ABADA and Katie Baldwin-Johnson, AMHTA

**Task Force Resources:** There is no funding dedicated to the task force. ABADA and AMHTA each have resources that can be appropriately directed to support the task force’s work. In addition to providing staff to serve as facilitators, ABADA and AMHTA will provide logistical and organizational support for meetings, to include support for teleconference/ videoconference meetings and webinars. Task force members and their respective organizations will be invited, but not expected, to contribute resources as they are able. The co-conveners may consider making (and supporting the cost of making) the introductory and/or final meetings of the task force in-person meetings.

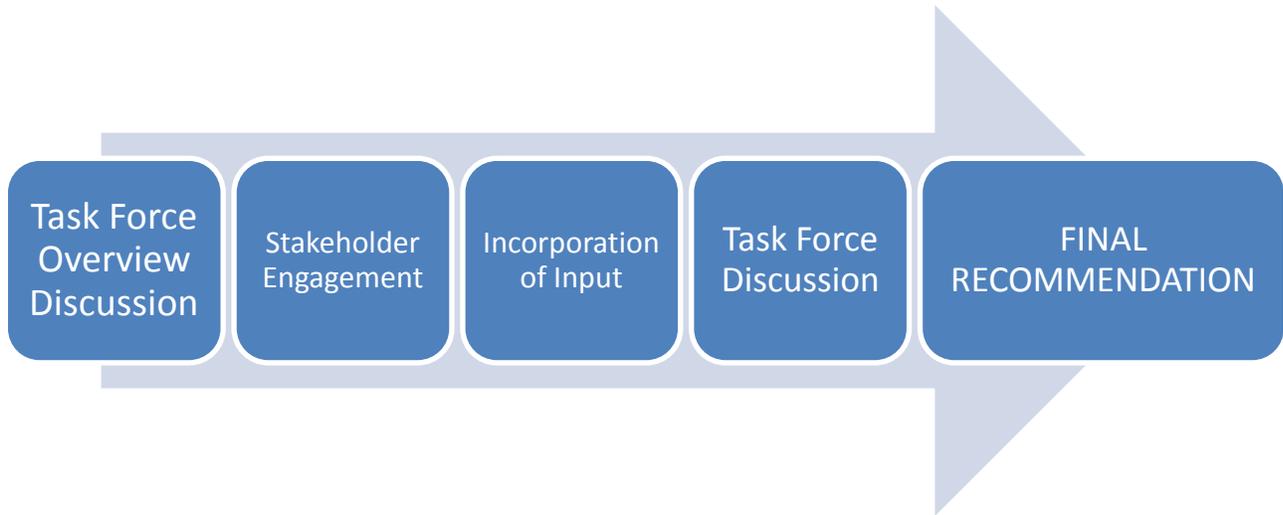
To support stakeholder engagement, ABADA will create and host an Alaska Opioid Task Force website ancillary to its existing website. All meeting materials and information, including meeting minutes, will be made available to task force members and the public there.

**Work Flow Plan (*proposed*):**

The task force will consider the identified areas for recommendations in a way that promotes stakeholder and public engagement and relies on the most credible research, evidence, and practice available. The task force will hold a series of formal public meetings, augmented with stakeholder engagement processes coordinated with community coalitions and other interested organizations.

After the initial introductory meeting of the task force to establish the work flow plan and address the usual “housekeeping” issues (meeting schedules, etc.), the task force will tackle the identified issues and those that arise systematically. Initial discussion of the topic area will include an overview of current data and research, existing programs and initiatives (including funding), relevant statutes and regulations, and additional information provided by task force members.

Task force members and supporting organizations will then engage interested stakeholders on those issues through customary means (community coalitions, focus groups, etc.) and innovative means (social media, etc.). *[This is targeted stakeholder reengagement on the issue before the task force and not solicitation of general public input.]* The information from the stakeholder process will be incorporated (along with any data, research, etc. relevant to that public input) into the materials provided to task force members in preparation for discussion. The task force will discuss preliminary recommendations arising from this process at a public meeting, at which public comment on those recommendations will be taken. Final recommendations will follow.



Ongoing general public comment will be solicited and collected through a website created for the task force, social media, and/or mail and email to task force facilitators. That public comment will be considered by the task force members.

**Recommendations:**

Recommendations for policy, budget, and other public actions to prevent and mitigate the harms associated with heroin use and opioid abuse will be made by consensus of the task force. A final report of adopted recommendations will be prepared and provided to Governor Bill Walker and the Alaska State Legislature on or before November 30, 2016. Recommendations considered but not adopted by the task force will be provided in an appendix to such report, with an explanation as to why such recommendations were not adopted.