

Task Force Structure

CHAIRS

John Merrigan, Franklin County
Register of Probate and Family Court
Chris Donelan, Franklin County Sheriff
David Sullivan, Northwestern District
Attorney

MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Ruth Potee, Valley Medical Group
Medical Director, Franklin County House
of Corrections

COMMITTEES

Education and Awareness
Healthcare Solutions
Housing and Workforce Development
Law Enforcement and Justice
Treatment and Recovery

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kat Allen, Coordinator
Communities That Care Coalition

Bette Babinski, Chief of Probation
Probate & Family Court

Rebecca Bialecki, Vice-President of Community
Health, Heywood Health System

Heather Bialecki-Canning, Executive Director
North Quabbin Community Coalition

Mary Doherty, Program Director
The RECOVER Project

Rose Evans, Vice President
Behavioral Health Network

Robert Haigh, Chief
Greenfield Police Department

Marisa Hebble, Coordinator
Massachusetts Community Justice Project, EOTC

Martha Murphy Kane, Director of Operations
Northwestern District Attorney's Office

Bob Pura, President
Greenfield Community College

Cindy Russo, President/CFA
Baystate Franklin Medical Center

Sandy Sayers, Executive Director
United Way of Franklin County

Julie Thompson, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
Baystate Franklin Medical Center

Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Services
Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Liz Whynott, Needle Exchange Program Director
Tapestry Health

Task Force Priorities

Prevention

- ◇ Decrease access to prescription medication
- ◇ Increase perception of harm of non-medical prescription drug use
- ◇ Increase access to stable housing and stable employment

Intervention

- ◇ Increase access points in the community for substance use and mental health screenings and intervention
- ◇ Increase access to Narcan for people with current or history of use as well family and friends

Treatment

- ◇ Increase timely access to treatment
- ◇ Reduce the stigma associated with addiction

Recovery

- ◇ Increase access to support services
- ◇ Increase access to stable housing and stable employment

Task Force and Partner Impact

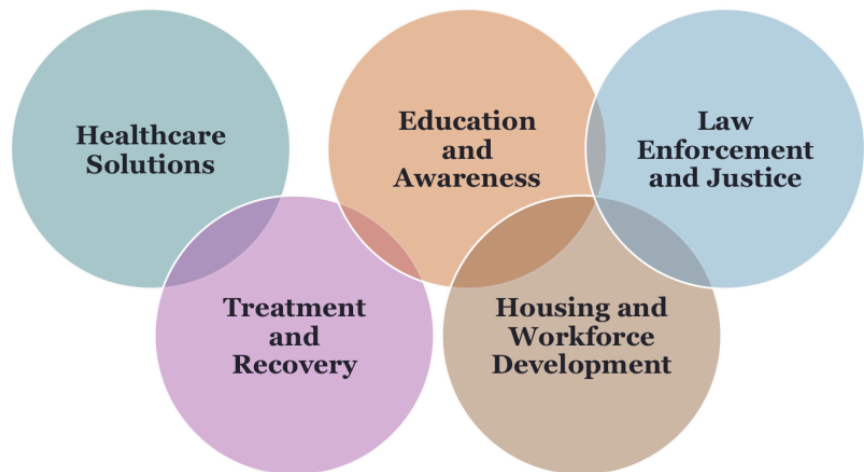
- Held four Community Listening Forums in South Deerfield, Shelburne Falls, Athol and Greenfield involving nearly 150 people where members of the OTF's Executive Council and other community leaders listened and learned about the continued impact of opioids and other substances upon individuals and families in our rural area.
- All five of OTF's committees have met and are working on a range of strategic activities and projects to strengthen the region's prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery efforts by focusing on housing and workforce development, healthcare, education, law enforcement and justice as well as treatment and recovery services.
- Over 250 people participated in the Intercept Zero Project (a partnership with Franklin County Resource Network Public Policy Task Force) where focus groups, interviews and mapping occurred to better understand what could have been done to prevent their trajectory into the criminal justice or mental health systems.
- Approximately \$73,000 awarded in community grants and sponsorships supporting a wide range of programs dedicated to preventing or addressing opioid use.
- Moved into the new Franklin County Justice Center.
- Held a well received and attended Active Bystander Trainer offered by Quabbin Mediation in collaboration with The RECOVER Project.
- Offered members of the community information about OTF volunteer opportunities in an evening meeting held at Faith Baptist Church in Greenfield.
- Launched educational and training initiative for individuals in recovery in partnership with Greenfield Community College.
- Collaborated with the FRTA to secure a \$150,000 New Freedoms Grant to offer transportation services to individuals in recovery.
- Key partner in the development and submission of \$2.1M SAMHSA grant for Franklin County's new Family Drug Court to provide expanded services to individuals, children and family members impacted by a substance use disorder.

Task Force Goals

1. Reduce the rates of opioid misuse and addiction
2. Reduce the incidence of opioid overdose
3. Increase the rates of long-term recovery from opioid addiction

col·lec·tive im·pact: *n.* the commitment of a group of actors from different sectors to a common agenda for solving a complex social problem

Task Force Committees



Each sub-committee is staffed by community members and leaders who meet every few months to discuss challenges they're facing.

Contact Us

Staff

Debra McLaughlin, Coordinator
debmc@opioidtaskforce.org

Tess Jurgensen, Operations Coordinator
tess@opioidtaskforce.org

**Deb Neubauer, Treatment & Recovery
Coordinator**
deb@opioidtaskforce.org

**Peggy Vezina, Community Resource
Coordinator**
peggy@opioidtaskforce.org

Co-Chairs

John Merrigan, Co-Chair
Franklin County Register of Probate
john.merrigan@jud.state.ma.us

Chris Donelan, Co-Chair
Franklin County Sheriff
chris.donelan@fcs.state.ma.us

David Sullivan, Co-Chair
Northwestern District Attorney
david.e.sullivan2@state.ma.us

Together, we can tackle the serious problem of heroin and prescription drug addiction in Franklin County and the North Quabbin Region of Massachusetts.