MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BY HER EXCELLENCY
MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2016-05

An Order Establishing the Drug Overdose Fatality Review Committee

WHEREAS, New Hampshire is experiencing a significant number of overdose deaths, primarily related to the increased use of fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, greater investigation into the circumstances of overdose fatalities can help New Hampshire to continue to develop more effective policies and effectively deploy resources to fight this deadly epidemic; and

WHEREAS, greater collaboration and information-sharing about overdose fatalities will help identify patterns and potential new threats, and aid in the efforts of the public and private sector to work together effectively; and

WHEREAS, the comprehensive review of such overdose-related fatalities will result in recommendations for intervention, prevention, and treatment with a goal of providing better behavioral health services for individuals in need and improving the efficiency of targeting state resources;

NOW, THEREFORE; I, MARGARET WOOD HASSAN, GOVERNOR of the State of New Hampshire, by the authority vested in me pursuant to Part II, Article 41 of the New Hampshire Constitution, do hereby establish, effective October 12, 2016, a Drug Overdose Fatality Review Committee, which shall be comprised of the following members:

1. Attorney General, or designee;
2. Chief Medical Examiner, or designee;
3. The Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services, or designee;
4. Representatives from the Department of Safety's Forensic Laboratory, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, and Information and Analysis Center, Drug Monitoring Initiative, appointed by the Commissioner of the Department of Safety;
5. The Chair of the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery, or designee;

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6. A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Chiefs of Police, appointed by the Association;
7. A representative of the New Hampshire Association of Fire Chiefs, appointed by the Association;
8. A victim/witness advocate, appointed by the Attorney General;
9. A representative of the New Hampshire Hospital Association, appointed by the Association;
10. A representative of the recovery community, appointed by the Governor;
11. A representative of the treatment community, appointed by the Governor;
12. A representative of the prevention community, appointed by the Governor;
13. A representative from an organization that advocates on substance use issues, appointed by the Governor;
14. A representative of the Drug Enforcement Administration, appointed by the DEA; and
15. The Governor's Advisor on Addiction and Behavioral Health;

FURTHER, the Attorney General, or designee, shall serve as chair; and

FURTHER, the objectives of the Drug Overdose Fatality Review Committee shall be:

1. To describe trends and patterns of overdose-related fatalities in New Hampshire, and recommend the efficient use of state resources to combat overdose deaths based on the data;
2. To identify high-risk factors, current practices, and gaps in systemic responses;
3. To recommend policies, practices, and services that will encourage collaboration and reduce fatalities due to overdoses;
4. To improve the sources of data collection by developing a system to share information between agencies and offices that work with individuals struggling with addiction; and
5. To educate the public, policy makers, and funders about overdose-related fatalities and about strategies for intervention and effective prevention, treatment, and recovery.

FURTHER, in order to ensure that New Hampshire can provide a continuing response to drug and alcohol fatalities, the Drug Overdose Fatality Review Committee should receive access to existing records on overdose-related fatalities that will advance the goals of the committee and are legally accessible. The records may include social service reports, court documents, police records, medical examiner and autopsy reports, mental health records, methadone and intervention resources, hospitals and medical-related data, and any other information that may have a bearing on examining trends and patterns of overdose-related deaths; and

FURTHER, the review of overdose deaths involving criminal investigations will be delayed until the later of the conclusion of such investigation, or the adjudication of related criminal charges, if any; and

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FURTHER, all recommendations made pursuant to this Executive Order shall comply with applicable state and federal confidentiality provisions, and in no instance should the Committee, or its individual members specifically identify any individual or any individual case; and

FURTHER, the Committee shall report twice annually to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the New Hampshire House, with the first report due on April 12, 2016.

Given at the Executive Chambers in Concord, this 12th day of October, in the year of Our Lord, two thousand and sixteen and of the independence of the United States of America, two hundred and forty-one.

Margaret Wood Hassan

GOVERNOR OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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