



Mayor's Task Force on Substance Misuse Meeting

Tuesday, 09/21/2026

9:30 – 11 a.m.

Facilitator: Sakshi Gurung, Epidemiologist

Location: City Hall Auditorium, 3rd Floor

Minutes

Partner Updates

United Way

- Gave information on the Wake for People initiative. Serving as the fiscal agent for Nashua Prevention Coalition.

NH National Guard

- Reported that another person has been hired to assist with strategic planning.

Nashua Prevention Coalition:

- Reported on the planning efforts to connect with young people in local high schools.

Nashua Regional Planning Commission:

- Reported on the funding for transportation/ride services for individuals receiving treatment and recovery services for opioid use.

Nashua Community College:

- Providing outreach to students who are struggling with recovery and addiction.

Greater Nashua Mental Health Center:

- Working on partnerships to support individuals transitioning out of jail and participating in Recovery Court.

AMR Data

- Slide presentation on AMR Data with information on opioid overdoses and opioid-related deaths.
- Nashua data showed the lowest number of suspected overdoses through September.
- Narcan use prior to the arrival of first responders was reported to be comparatively higher.
- A five-year average comparison was provided. The most recent data showed a low number of overdose deaths.

SSANA Update

- Provided a comparison of transactions from 2025 to 2026.
- SSANA discussed the October needle cleanup effort and how to safely dispose of discarded needles. Discussion on the need for volunteers to assist with the cleanup and appropriate equipment, including grabbers, gloves, and sharps containers or other approved hard plastic containers. Harm reduction staff are responsible for the cleanup protocol and will oversee the process. The cleanup is scheduled for October 17, from 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Approximately 100

	volunteers are expected to participate. The Mayor's Office will provide volunteers with locations where cleanup is needed. DPW and Parks and Recreation may be able to provide appropriate sharps containers. • Needle exchange will operate from the parking lot of REVIVE. A suitable location is still being sought that is away from schools and daycares. • There was discussion regarding complaints about discarded needles and litter in areas where harm reduction supplies are distributed. • Concerns were raised that some individuals receiving supplies may use them in the immediate area and leave discarded needles or other materials behind. • The group discussed the importance of educating individuals who receive supplies about properly disposing of needles and respecting the surrounding area.
Additional Discussions	• The need for safe injection sites in New Hampshire was discussed. • Trespassing was discussed, including the challenges faced by the Police Department due to recent legislation. • The group discussed connecting individuals in recovery with appropriate mental health services. • Drug Take Back Day: The possibility of accepting needles as part of the large-scale collection conducted twice a year was discussed. Discussions are ongoing.

Next Meeting October 20, 2026