

Commission on Methamphetamine Use

Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2021
2:30 - 4:00 pm

Date of meeting: Wednesday, December 8, 2021

Start time: 2:30 pm

End time: 4:00 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote I*
1	Marylou Sudders (<i>chair</i>) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services	X
2	Brian K. Andrews – Massachusetts Ambulance Association Board	X
3	Julie Burns – RIZE Massachusetts	X
4	Deirdre Calvert – Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)	X
5	Amanda Consigli – New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NEHIDTA)	X
6	Prentice Crowell – Safe and Sound Recovery	X
7	Julian Cyr – Massachusetts Senate	X
8	Jon Davine – Northampton Fire Chief	X
9	Thomas W. Fowler – Salisbury Police Department	-
10	Kristen Godin, LMHC – Community Healthlink	X
11	Traci Green, PhD – Brandeis University	X
12	Jim Hooley – Boston EMS	X
13	Abigail Kim – Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH)	X
14	Gene Lambert, MD, MBA, FACP – Mass General Hospital	X
15	Adrian Madaro – Massachusetts House of Representatives	X
16	Albie Park – Harm Reduction Hedgehogs of 413 (HRH413)	X
17	Maria Quinn, NP – Holyoke Hospital	X
18	Claudia P. Rodriguez, MD – Brigham and Women's, Faulkner	X
19	Leigh Simons Youmans, MPH – Massachusetts Health & Hospital Association (MHA)	X

* (X) Voted in favor; (O) Opposed; (A) Abstained from vote; (-) Absent from meeting or during vote

Proceedings

Secretary Sudders called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. She welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Robert Jones, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, administered the oath of office.

Secretary Sudders reviewed the meeting's agenda and delivered opening remarks to the Commission. She noted that stimulant use overall, including methamphetamine use, has been increasing in Massachusetts in recent years and stated that the Commission's work will focus on the needs of all people who use stimulants, while examining appropriate engagement, harm reduction, treatment services, and tailored communications for specific, at-risk communities.

Commission members briefly introduced themselves and their respective affiliations.

Lauren Cleary, Associate General Counsel for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law. She explained the limitations related to Commission members' communications outside of a formal Commission meeting on matters which might pertain to the Commission's work. She emphasized the importance of transparency and explained that documents and minutes from the Commission's meetings are part of the public record.

David Giannotti, Public Education and Communications Division Chief within the State Ethics Commission, provided the Commission with a brief overview of the state's conflict of interest and ethics regulations. He explained that members of the Commission are considered special state employees and are required to complete certain conflict of interest trainings. He detailed the restrictions placed on members by the nature of their service on the Commission and stressed that members should view the State Ethics Commission as a resource and should consult the State Ethics Commission with any questions or concerns related to potential conflicts of interest and any required disclosures.

Secretary Sudders reviewed the Commission's charge, noting that the Commission is charged with studying and developing recommendations regarding methamphetamine and other stimulant use in the Commonwealth. She explained that this includes compiling demographic and geographic profiles of those most at risk for stimulant use disorder, examining the barriers to providing harm reduction services and treatment for treating individuals with stimulant use disorders, and examining the existing body of research around best practices for harm reduction efforts in working with individuals using stimulants. She noted that the Commission's findings will be summarized in a report, which will be submitted to the Legislature no later than March 31, 2022.

Deirdre Calvert, Director of the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) at the Department of Public Health (DPH), provided an overview of stimulant use trends in the Commonwealth. In particular, Director Calvert highlighted 2018-2021 data from the BSAS Substance Use Helpline, which showed that 4% of calls/searches were for stimulants and of those, 14% were for methamphetamines and 76% were for crack/cocaine. She highlighted Emergency Department (ED) admission data and mortality data from 2017-2020 which indicated significantly higher rates of ED admissions and deaths related to stimulant use in the eastern part of the state, primarily in Suffolk county. For additional details, refer to Director Calvert's presentation posted to the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Traci Green, Professor and Director of the Opioid Policy Research Collaborative at Brandeis University, presented a summary of recent research on stimulant use, including interviews and survey work conducted with specific populations who use stimulants. In her summary, Professor Green highlighted recent survey data on the availability and cost of various illicit substances, noting the relatively high cost of methamphetamines in comparison with other stimulants, such as cocaine and crack. She highlighted the recorded spike in toxicity of the local drug supply and provided a brief overview of potential public health interventions that could be implemented, such as community drug checking and distribution of harm

reduction supplies. For additional details, refer to Professor Green's presentation posted to the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Secretary Sudders explained that if members have any questions, suggestions for presentations, or additional requests for data, they should be submitted to her staff. She noted that a Mass.gov webpage and mailbox have been created for the public to submit general comments and questions for the Commission.

Vote to adjourn:

Secretary Sudders requested a motion to adjourn. Chair Cyr introduced the motion, which was seconded by Professor Green and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.