

Commission on Methamphetamine Use

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022

1:00 - 2:30 pm

Date of meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Start time: 1:00 pm

End time: 2:30 pm

Location: Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Members participating remotely		Vote 1*	Vote 2	Vote 3
1	Marylou Sudders (<i>chair</i>) – Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS)	X	X	X
2	Brian K. Andrews – Massachusetts Ambulance Association Board	X	X	X
3	Julie Burns – RIZE Massachusetts	X	X	X
4	Deirdre Calvert – Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS)	X	X	X
5	Amanda Consigli – New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (NEHIDTA)	X	X	X
6	Prentice Crowell – Safe and Sound Recovery	X	X	X
7	Julian Cyr – Massachusetts Senate	X	X	X
8	Jon Davine – Northampton Fire Chief	X	X	-
9	Thomas W. Fowler – Salisbury Police Department	-	-	-
10	Kristen Godin, LMHC – Community Healthlink	X	X	X
11	Traci Green, PhD – Brandeis University	X	X	X
12	Jim Hooley – Boston EMS	-	-	X
13	Abigail Kim – Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH)	X	X	X
14	Gene Lambert, MD, MBA, FACP – Mass General Hospital	X	X	X
15	Adrian Madaro – Massachusetts House of Representatives	-	-	-
16	Albie Park – Harm Reduction Hedgehogs of 413 (HRH413)	X	X	X
17	Maria Quinn, NP – Holyoke Hospital	X	X	X
18	Claudia Rodriguez, MD – Brigham and Women's, Faulkner	X	X	X
19	Leigh Simons Youmans, MPH – Mass. Health & Hospital Association (MHA)	X	X	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 1:00 pm. She welcomed members and noted that all votes taken during the meeting would be conducted via roll call.

Secretary Sudders explained that the Commission would vote on the approval of the minutes from the two previous meetings, as the vote to approve the January 11 meeting minutes was postponed during the February 8 meeting due to time constraints.

Vote 1 to approve minutes from the 1/11/2022 meeting: Secretary Sudders requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Commission's January 11, 2022 meeting. Chair Cyr introduced the motion, which was seconded by Professor Green and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Vote 2 to approve minutes from the 2/8/2022 meeting: Secretary Sudders requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Commission's previous meeting on February 8, 2022. Mr. Andrews introduced the motion, which was seconded by Director Youmans and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

Secretary Sudders explained that due to the complexity and breadth of the Commission's charge and the remaining topics to be covered, the Commission would benefit from an additional meeting to discuss the Commission's findings and report, which would be submitted one month later at the end of April instead of March 31. She stated that she submitted a letter to the Legislature informing them of the Commission's intention to schedule an additional meeting on April 12 and submit the Commission's report on April 30.

Secretary Sudders requested that members continue to share additional resources or materials that the Commission should take into consideration for its report.

Chief Davine presented a tri-fold flier he developed based on similar fliers distributed by his colleagues in New York and Pennsylvania, which outlines the dangers and signs of clandestine, mobile methamphetamine labs known informally as "one-pot labs." He noted that English and Spanish versions of the flier will be distributed by the Massachusetts State Police Clandestine Laboratory Enforcement Team (CLET), the Fire Marshall's office, and Police Chiefs Association to first responders, building inspectors, residents of large buildings, and hotel/motel staff. For additional details, refer to the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

Director Calvert presented an overview of existing harm reduction practices and interventions for stimulant use disorder that the Commonwealth and other states are pursuing, including targeted outreach and education, culturally-specific work with tribal communities, expanded access to drug checking, increased access to naloxone, the establishment of safe spaces, and decriminalization efforts. For additional details, refer to Director Calvert's presentation posted to the Commission's [Meeting Materials webpage](#).

In response to Director Calvert's presentation, a number of members provided comments and questions:

- Chair Cyr noted his support for ensuring that BSAS has sufficient funding and that the existing legal framework supports the continued expansion of distribution of harm reduction supplies, particularly harm reduction vending machines.
- Dr. Rodriguez highlighted that a clarification of what constitutes safer smoking supplies would be helpful to ensuring that regulatory and statutory language adequately covers these supplies.
- Mr. Park noted that best practices and guidance on the utilization of fentanyl test kits are needed to educate people who use stimulants.
- Director Kim noted that recommendations are needed for specific communities that do not seek out services at traditional syringe service programs (SSP).
- Professor Green inquired whether Spanish language materials and services have been made available. Secretary Sudders noted her desire that all educational materials be released in both English and Spanish simultaneously.
- Ms. Burns inquired whether there was standard terminology for supervised consumption sites (SCS) and overdose prevention sites (OPS)? Secretary Sudders explained that for consistency purposes,

the Commission may want to utilize the terminology from the Harm Reduction Commission's report in 2019.

- Mr. Crowell explained the importance of keeping harm reduction sites physically separate from recovery sites to aid those in recovery from interacting with people actively using substances.
- Ms. Quinn explained that her facility and others have begun distributing harm reduction packets in their emergency departments and acute care settings, which have been useful.
- Director Youmans explained that MHA guidance now includes recommendations for hospital to discharge patients who use substances with naloxone in hand, but it may be worthwhile to explore whether fentanyl test strips could be distributed in the kits as well. She added that MassHealth now covers the distribution of naloxone, but commercial plans may not currently be covering naloxone distribution. Secretary Sudders noted that she would confirm with the Division of Insurance to confirm that commercial plans are covering naloxone distribution. Director Calvert noted that SSPs can purchase naloxone kits directly and in 2020, BSAS distributed an additional one million naloxone kits were distributed to emergency departments.
- Dr. Lambert highlighted that MGH is currently distributing naloxone to patients in need, and piloting a program run by pharmacy students that offers naloxone and overdose education to patients.
- In response to comments from Chair Cyr, Director Calvert explained that BSAS would be launching a clearinghouse which will broaden eligible groups who can purchase fentanyl test strips to non-medical entities such as bars and churches.
- Dr. Rodriguez proposed that harm reduction kits should be offered at community programs.
- Mr. Park expressed support for education campaigns for women sex workers and proposed that alternatives to brick-and-mortar SSPs be explored, such as street teams.
- Chair Cyr inquired whether there are any liability issues related to entities offering fentanyl test strips.
- Professor Green noted that harm reduction should be an expectation, not just an exception.
- Director Calvert noted that it would be worthwhile to review best practices at acute care settings with regard to restorative healing to ensure that restorative practices such as dim lighting and less regimented schedules and programming are promoted.
- Chief Hooley noted that a culture of harm reduction raises the obligation for organizations and members of society to do their part to support people who use substances.
- Director Kim noted that it would be worthwhile to review drug paraphernalia and Good Samaritan laws to protect the provision of harm reduction supplies and services. She added that an expansion of the pilot protocol at Bay Cove to acute care and step-down settings would be worthwhile.

Resource links shared during the meeting in the chat feature included the following:

- <https://www.hampshirehope.org/>
- <https://tweaker.org/home/>
- <https://aidsunited.org/chemsex-101/>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1745-9133.12566>
- <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2018.304588>
- <https://health.ri.gov/publications/factsheets/Harm-Reduction-Center-Pilot-Program.pdf>
- <https://dancesafe.org/>

Secretary Sudders requested that members share additional resources that should be taken into consideration for the Commission's report. She noted that resources shared after the drafting of the report would be included as an appendix in the report.

Secretary Sudders facilitated a discussion of the preliminary working draft of the Commission's report. During the discussion, members shared specific feedback on draft findings for the first four of the Commission's eight charges. Secretary Sudders requested that members submit their written feedback on the remaining four charges in advance of the Commission's next meeting on April 12, along with their proposals for any draft recommendations.

Vote to adjourn:

Secretary Sudders requested a motion to adjourn. Director Kim introduced the motion, which was seconded by Ms. Burns and approved by roll-call vote (see detailed record of votes above).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.