

Harm Reduction Commission



**Executive Office of Health & Human Services
Marylou Sudders, Secretary**

**January 9, 2019
3:00-5:00 pm**

**One Ashburton Place
21st Floor, CR 1 & 2**



Agenda



- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Approval of minutes from December 17, 2018 meeting**
- 3. Review of updated meeting agenda**
- 4. Review of responses from licensing boards**
- 5. Overview of key public health research on SCS**
 - Jessie M. Gaeta, MD
- 6. Overview of legal and policy considerations related to SCS and harm reduction**
 - Leo Beletsky, JD, MPH
- 7. Presentation on opportunities in harm reduction**
 - Matilde Castiel, MD
- 8. Discussion of Commission's findings and recommendations to the Legislature**
- 9. Timeline**



Responses from Licensing Boards



Board of Registration in Medicine

1. “Good moral character” requirement
2. State drug laws and other criminal laws
3. Discipline for violation of state criminal laws
4. Liability and discipline for violation of federal laws
5. Requirement to carry malpractice insurance
6. Discipline for potential violation of the standard of care
7. Discipline for violation of state law or regulation regarding the practice of medicine
8. Board policy: “Prescribing Practices Policy and Guidelines”



Responses from Licensing Boards



Board of Registration in Nursing

1. Needles and illicit drugs
2. Illegal activity – reporting and assisting
3. Responding to Emergencies, like accidental overdose
4. Civil and professional liability

Board of Registration of Social Workers

1. Unethical conduct for violation of federal or state law
2. Considerations related to informed consent



- 1. Overview of Key Public Health Research on Supervised Consumption Sites**
 - Jessie M. Gaeta, MD
- 2. Legal and Policy Considerations Related to Supervised Consumption Sites and Harm Reduction**
 - Leo Beletsky, JD, MPH
- 3. Opportunities in Harm Reduction**
 - Matilde Castiel, MD



Timeline



Dates	Milestones
January 18, 2019	Draft submitted to Commission members
January 23, 2019	Comments and feedback due
January 23-27, 2019	Feedback incorporated
January 28, 2019 from 3:00-5:00 pm	Final commission meeting/discussion and review
February 1st, 2019 – Submission to the Legislature	



Commission's Charge Overview



- Examine the **feasibility** of operating harm reduction sites
- Consider the **potential public health and public safety benefits and risks**
- Review the **potential federal, state and local legal issues**
- Recommend **appropriate guidance that would be necessary and required for professional licensure boards**
- Review **existing harm reduction efforts in the commonwealth**
- Identify **opportunities to maximize public health benefits**
- Explore **ways to support persons utilizing the sites** who express an interest in seeking substance use disorder treatment
- Identify **other harm reduction opportunities** (e.g. fentanyl test strips)
- Review **alternatives and recommendations to broaden the availability of naloxone without prescription.**
- Consider other matters deemed appropriate by the commission.