

Harm Reduction Commission

| Updated meeting agenda | Commission charge(s) discussed during meeting |
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| <p>November 20, 2018</p> <p><u>Agenda</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review updated meeting agenda 2. Harm reduction overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Bharel 3. Presentations on SPOT and Boston Engagement Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jessie M. Gaeta, MD • Marty Martinez | <p>The Commission must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing harm reduction efforts in the Commonwealth and determine whether there is potential for collaboration with existing public health harm reduction organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DPH ○ SPOT ○ Boston Engagement Center • Identify potential public health/public safety benefits and risks of operating a harm reduction site (HRS) in the Commonwealth. • Identify opportunities to maximize public health benefits, including educating persons utilizing the sites of the risks of contracting HIV and viral hepatitis and on proper disposal of hypodermic needles and syringes. • Identify ways to support persons utilizing the sites who express an interest in seeking substance use disorder treatment, including providing information on evidence-based treatment options and direct referral to treatment providers. <p style="color: red;">Is there any specific information the Commission would like presented on this topic to aid with the discussion?</p> |
| <p>December 17, 2018</p> <p><u>Agenda</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Virtual panel discussion with Canadian facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Paul Loo</u> – Director of the Office of Controlled Substances, Health Canada • <u>Bonnie Henry, MD, MPH</u> – Provincial Health Officer for British Columbia • <u>Scott Elliott</u> – Executive Director, Dr. Peter AIDS Foundation 2. Legal review of potential federal, state and local legal issues involved with establishing harm reduction sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>David Solet</u>, Chief Legal Counsel, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security • <u>Adam Chapdelaine</u>, Arlington Town Manager | <p>The Commission must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review alternatives and recommendations to broaden the availability of naloxone without a prescription; • Identify other harm reduction opportunities, including but not limited to, broadening the availability of narcotic testing products, including fentanyl test strips. • Review potential federal, state and local legal issues involved with establishing harm reduction sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review legal background document provided prior to today's meeting ○ Please provide comments to Gabe on the document by Friday, December 14th <p style="color: red;">Is there additional information the Commission would like presented on this topic?</p> |

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| <p>January 9, 2019</p> <p><u>Agenda</u></p> <p>I. Presentations from licensing boards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>George Zachos</u>, Board of Registration in Medicine • <u>Barbara Levin</u>, Board of Registration in Nursing • <u>Erin LeBel</u>, Board of Registration of Social Workers <p>2. Discussion about the feasibility of operating harm reduction sites in the Commonwealth</p> | <p>The Commission must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend appropriate guidance that would be necessary and required for professional licensure boards and any necessary changes to the regulations of such boards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prior to first meeting, letters were sent requesting information from Board of Registration in Medicine, Board of Registration in Nursing, and Board of Registration of Social Workers. • Determine the feasibility of operating harm reduction sites in the Commonwealth where (A) a person with a substance use disorder may consume pre-obtained controlled substances, (B) medical assistance by health care professionals is made immediately available to a person with a substance use disorder as necessary to prevent fatal overdose, and (C) counseling, referrals to treatment and other appropriate services are available on a voluntary basis. <p>Is there additional information the Commission would like presented on these topics?</p> |
| <p>January 28, 2019</p> <p><u>Agenda</u></p> <p>I. Review draft document summarizing the Commission’s findings and recommendations to the Legislature</p> | <p>The Commission must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and make recommendations regarding harm reduction opportunities to address substance use disorder. • Submit its findings and recommendations to the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives, the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery, the joint committee on public health, the joint committee on the judiciary and the senate and house committees on ways and means not later than February 1, 2019. |
| <p>February 1, 2019 – Submission of Commission’s findings and recommendations to the Legislature</p> | |