

Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission

Meeting #3

Record of Discussion
Thursday, July 27 and Friday July 28, 2017

Cambridge Boardroom- 10th floor, Federal Building, 9820 - 107 Street, Edmonton

1. Welcome and Personal Reflections

Over the two day meeting, the Commission started its work by reflecting on members' personal and work experiences with victims of the opioid crisis.

2. Review of Agenda and Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Commission reviewed the agenda for the two day meeting which included the following items:

- Reviewing and updating the draft Commission meeting plan;
- Proposal updates on Supervised Consumption Services (SCS) applications
- Formulation of SCS application and evaluation recommendations.

Members updated their conflict of interest declarations.

3. Co-Chair Updates

Dr. Hyshka updated the Commission on the approval of the SCS application for Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, Ottawa.

Dr. Grimsrud updated the Commission on the details and implications of the Health Canada announcement on Rapid Access to Drugs.

4. Draft MOERC Meeting Plan

Dr. Grimsrud reviewed the proposed meetings' scope and sequence, which prioritizes topics that have urgent funding implications, from August to December, 2017.

Members agreed to the following meeting dates:

- September 11, 12
- October 2, 3
- November 6, 7
- December 4, 5

5. Update on Supervised Consumption Services (SCS)

The Commission heard proposal updates on SCS from:

- AHS Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre, Calgary
- AHS Royal Alexandra Hospital (RAH), Edmonton
- Proposed evaluation plan for Access to Medically Supervised Injection Services Edmonton (AMSISE) and the RAH

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6. SCS Proposal Presentation from AIDS Outreach Community Harm Reduction Education & Support Society (ARCHES), Lethbridge

The Commission heard a presentation from *ARCHES Lethbridge* regarding its SCS proposal. The Commission recommended a letter of support from the Ministry for ARCHES' application for exemption to the federal government to provide SCS.

7. SCS Operational Budgets in Other Jurisdictions

Alberta Health representatives presented SCS budgets from other jurisdictions.

8. SCS Recommendations

The Commission formulated recommendations regarding SCS funding and evaluation for consideration by the Minister.

Commission members with conflicts of interest did not participate in deliberations on SCS funding and evaluation recommendations.

9. Harm Reduction: Government Perspective and Alberta's Take Home Naloxone Program

Alberta Health representative presented an overview of harm reduction approach in Alberta.

Members reviewed the current state of the Alberta Take Home Naloxone Program and discussed objectives of the harm reduction approach, harm reduction definition, the distribution of naloxone kits, the role of key stakeholders like the Alberta College of Pharmacists, program evaluation, availability and public funding.

10. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

The Commission heard a presentation from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta regarding opioid use disorder treatments. The College is updating its training and mentorship offerings to incentivise more physicians to prescribe treatments for opioid use disorder.

The commission discussed off label drug use, safe supply options, regulatory and other barriers to prescribing opioid agonist treatment experienced by primary care physicians, and the development of clinical guidelines.

The Commission also heard a presentation from the Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Use (CRISM) regarding the work of CRISM and national opioid agonist therapy guidelines.

11. Other Business and Future Meetings

Marliss Taylor informed members that August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day and invited members to attend events organised in their communities to mark the day.

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Edmonton will have an event on the steps of the Legislature from 12 to 1 pm to honour people who died.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled on August 17 and 18, 2017.