

Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission

Record of Discussion: March 5-6, 2018

1. Welcome and Personal Reflections

The Commission started their meeting by reflecting on members' experiences with the opioid crisis.

2. Review of the Past Record of Decision and Agenda and Purpose of the Day

The Commission reviewed the agenda and purpose for the two-day meeting. Members had an opportunity to update their conflict of interest declarations.

3. Co-Chair Updates

Dr. Klein provided an overview of the state of local emergency which was declared by Kainai First Nation on March 2, 2018 in response to a spike of overdoses which hit the community. An update on the progress of the ministerial orders regarding naloxone administration was provided, as was information regarding the recently approved prosecution directive. Information was also provided regarding operational timelines of the supervised consumption services in Alberta and members were additionally presented with details regarding announcements both at the Provincial and Federal level.

Dr. Hyshka provided an overview of her opioid crisis related, fact finding trip to America, hosted by the United States Consulate. Upcoming Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction events were highlighted, and details regarding supervised consumption site evaluation were also provided.

4. Member Roundtable

Members were provided the opportunity to report on progress in each of their respective areas related to ongoing opioid crisis response efforts.

5. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta Update

Dr. Mazurek provided a more detailed update on work underway within the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta.

6. Family Centered Approach to Substance Use

P. Schulz provided a presentation on the family centered approach to substance use.

The Commission formulated the following **recommendation**, for consideration by the Minister:

- The Minister support that those with lived experience, and those they identify as family and/or a part of their support network, be actively engaged in the development and implementation of programs and services related to substance use, including those associated with prevention, treatment, and harm reduction

7. Update on Recommendations

Alberta Health provided an update on the implementation status of the Commission recommendations to date.

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8. Opioids and Substances of Misuse Q4 Report Update

Alberta Health provided an update on the most recently released quarterly report on opioids and substances of misuse.

9. Children's Services Presentation

The Department of Children's Services provided an overview of ongoing work and initiatives underway within their department related to the opioid crisis.

Next steps: The Commission requested Alberta Health follow up with identified parties regarding questions related to the Protection of Children Abusing Drugs legislation.

10. Child & Youth Advocated Presentation

The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, including the Child and Youth Advocate, provided an overview of opioid related investigative work that they are conducting.

Next steps: The Commission asked to have the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate return with an update as they progress towards completing their opioid-related investigations.

11. Street Messenger: Bad Batch Alerts

The Calgary Homeless Foundation provided information on projects which aim to identify, and effectively communicate to substance users, the presence of bad batches of illicit opioids. Further ideas were presented regarding the applicability of a similar project in Alberta.

Next steps: The Commission asked Alberta Health and the Calgary Homeless Foundation to further explore the feasibility of this type of service in the province and return to the Commission with a more provincially specific proposal.

12. Targeted Interventions

Alberta Health provided a presentation which explored novel options for peer support for those who use substances and do not currently access services. The Commission provided feedback to Alberta Health regarding their thoughts on what was presented.

Next steps: The Commission asked Alberta Health to continue exploring options and return to a future meeting with input from those who may use these supports.

13. Overdose Prevention Site Policy & Process

Alberta Health provided an overview of their proposed direction for moving forward with securing the option for overdose prevention services in the province. The Commission provided feedback to Alberta Health regarding their thoughts on what was presented.

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Next steps: Alberta Health committed to update the Commission on the policy and process for their review, prior to finalizing their documents.

14. Surveillance Updates

The Co-Chair of the Surveillance and Analytics Working Group returned to the Commission with updates on the Commission's previous data requests. Priorities were identified regarding which elements should be focused on most.

Next steps: The Commission tasked Alberta Health with connecting with the respective organizations who were identified as key stakeholders in securing data requested by the Commission.

15. Conclusions and Next Steps

The next Commission meeting will be held April 3-4, 2018.