

ALCOHOL & DRUG POLICY COUNCIL (ADPC)
Meeting of Tuesday, April 15, 2025
Video Conference Call Through TEAMS
10:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Designees: **Dr. Craig Allen**, Treatment Co-chair; **Rebecca Allen**, Recovery Co-chair; **Luiza Barnat**, Treatment Representative (DMHAS); **Paulo Correa**, Carelon Behavioral Health; **Maria Coutant Skinner**, McCall Center for Behavioral Health; **Brian Deude**, Tri-chair, Criminal Justice; **Curtis Eller**, DESPP Designee; **Katie Farrell**, Criminal Justice Co-chair; **Tammy Freeberg**, The Village for Families & Children; **Claudio Gualtieri**, OPM Designee; **Jodi Hill-Lilly**, Commissioner, DCF; **Ingrid Gillespie**, Liberations Program; **Mark Jenkins**, GHRC; **Abigail Lieberman**, Prevention Committee Co-chair; **Leslie Mara**, CT State Colleges & Universities (Designee); **Justin Mehl**, Recovery Representative (DMHAS); **Cristin McCarthy Vahey**, State Representative; **Nancy Navarretta**, Commissioner, DMHAS; **Tammy Nuccio**, State Representative; **Sinthia Sone-Moyano**, DOE Designee; **Angel Quiros**, Department of Correction; **Gary Roberge**, Judicial Designee; **Gerard O'Sullivan**, DOI; **Scott Szalkiewicz**, DCP Designee

Visitors/Presenters: Bridget Aliaga; Allyson Nadeau; Caitlin Anderson; Ramona Anderson; Rebecca Andrews; Bobby Lawlor, Laurie Cassidy; David Fiellin; Natalie DuMont; Gina Florenzano; Anna Gasinski; Julieanne Giard; Francis Gregory; Kathryn Hanly, Robert Heimer; Jeanne Milstein; John Lally; David Kaplan; John Lally; Kasandra Rowe; Christy Knowles; Karonesa Logan; Susan Logan; Jennifer Lombardi; Michelene Longo; Michael Makowski; Sarah Messier-Smith; Melissa Morton; Nita Asani; Shelly Nolan; Lucinda Orellano; Dawn Rios; Nidia Rosario; Diana Shaw; Ece Tek; Jeremy Wampler, Elsa Ward; Denique Weidema-Lewis;

Recorder: Karen Urciuoli

The February 18, 2025, meeting of the Alcohol & Drug Policy Council (ADPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Navarretta, DMHAS. The meeting was co-chaired by Commissioner Hill-Lilly, DCF

Topic	Discussion	Action
Co-Chair Welcome and Introduction	Commissioner Navarretta welcomed everyone to the October meeting.	Noted
Review and Approval of Minutes	The December 17, 2024 minutes were approved as written.	Noted
Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee	<p>Luiza Barnat provided the following update:</p> <p>Budget Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately \$93,000,000 of the budget has been allocated, the balance remaining is approximately \$64,000,000. The estimated annual budget is \$33,000,000 and the estimated approved recommendations amount is approximately \$29,000,000 <p>OSAC Approved Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was one recommendation was approved in March for future funding for CCAR recovery coaches in emergency departments for nine hospitals. It is a continuation of dollars that will be expiring. The State Opioid Response grant funds 22 hospitals, OSAC funds cover the remaining nine hospitals. The OSAC referrals subcommittee met 3 times within the last month and will meet again tomorrow in order to get through all the public comments and public recommendations that have been received. A status update will be posted following the meeting. 	Informational – The full PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the DMHAS ADPC webpage.
Liquor Control Licensing and Enforcement: Compliance, New Product Trends and Prevention Impact	<p>Caitlin Anderson, DCP, Director Liquor Control provided the following report:</p> <p>Liquor Control Division - Our Mission</p> <p>We strive to safeguard public health and safety by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Licensing all entities involved in distributing, selling, and dispensing alcoholic liquor in our three-tier system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturers (from CT and other states/countries) Wholesalers On-premise businesses (bars, restaurants) and off-premise business (package stores, grocery stores) 	Information – The full PowerPoint presentation can be viewed on the DMHAS ADPC webpage.

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Preventing sales to minors and intoxicated persons. 3. Maintaining alcohol product integrity. 4. Ensuring that licensed premises are safe and sanitary. <p>Licensing – The Role of Municipalities</p> <p>Municipal Sign-Offs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process begins at town level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipal signatures required • Defer to local zoning ordinances • Items controlled locally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patios • Hours* • Entertainment • Type of license allowed • Distance restrictions • Parking <p>Placard - Placard provides information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit type • Applicant • Entertainment • Remonstrance date <p>Remonstrance Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A signed petition objecting to the suitability of the location or the person • Requires 10 signatures from residents of town over age 18 • Requires a hearing before Liquor Control Commission • Placard provides date <p>NOTE- Remonstrances can be filed every year at least 21 days before renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No placards for renewal • Tend to be more successful than remonstrances at application <p>THC Endorsement - THC Endorsement for infused beverages available as of July 1, 2024</p> <p>Package stores only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At initial application or any time thereafter • 3 mg or less per 12 ounce can • Warning labels/QR code • After October 1, 2024: Endorsement ONLY, Waiver irrelevant <p>Real-time data publicly available</p> <p>Visit our homepage: www.ct.gov/dcp/liquorcontrol</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of package stores available per town 2. Verify a permit (include what is provisional) 3. Run rosters of full reports <p>Minor Compliance Checks - How conducted and penalties</p> <p>Liquor Control Jurisdiction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only have jurisdiction over locations with an active liquor permit or where an application pending • The sale of alcohol without a permit is criminal • We do not regulate BYOB 	

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	<p>How Conducted</p> <p>Off-Premise (package stores/grocery stores)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor walks in unaccompanied • Liquor Agent follows in shortly after • Minor selects a product generally attractive to minors (single beer, package of White Claw, Budweiser) • Minor brings product to register and attempts to purchase • Agent in position to observe sale • Completes sale if able; turns alcohol over to Agent <p>On-Premise (bar, restaurant)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two minors take a seat at bar or table • Liquor Agent follows shortly after and finds spot to watch/hear • Minor attempts to order single beer • If served, pays and leaves beer <p>How Conducted - Rules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor cannot lie about age • Minor must show real ID if asked • Minor cannot try to appear older or deceive server on age - Heavy makeup, very full beards, apparel with alcohol brands, avoid detailed conversation • Limited to alcohol products - No tobacco, no THC beverages <p>Liquor Control Raids - Minors are often found when conducting raids</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agent goes in undercover to determine if any patrons appear young and if they are purchasing beverages, OR 2. General raid where we go in with police, block exits, turn on lights and start carding <p>Age Statement Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This form is an absolute defense to sale to minor for on and off premises locations • Copies should be present in every liquor permitted location in Connecticut. Can be signed electronically • Supposed to be signed at time of sale <p>Enforcement - Handled by DCP Legal Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance meeting with opportunity to settle • Administrative case before Liquor Control Commission • Possible penalties – Education, suspension, fines, revocation <p>Industry Trends - Up and coming industry topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Malt Based RTDs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A huge, growing category in alcohol beverage market • Spirit manufacturers switching to malt-based beverages, but relying on their brand power <p>Because products are malt-based, they can be sold in more retail outlets like grocery stores. This leads to mixed product placement that can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confuse consumers • Increase minor consumption • Heading toward alcopops 2. Co-Branded Products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-branded products share the name and branding of a popular non-alcoholic item. Logos and design are nearly identical. • Co-branding crosses product class, not only malt-based but also spirits (minimal wine). • Easier for minors to pass the alcoholic product as the non-alcoholic product. Viral self-checkout trick shared 	

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>on Tik Tok.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. AI/VR/Augmented Advertising – State and TTB regulate advertising How Tech is Used <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmented cans • Virtual worlds • Skins/filters • QR codes with product info • AI generated recs • Alcohol-related benefits in games • Online advertising algorithms • Social media influencers • Alcohol marketing on digital platforms 4. Drinks to Go <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restaurants can offer drinks to go with food made on their premises – Pickup, self-deliver, third party delivery • Main Issues – Packaging, age verification 5. Self-service Taps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-service taps are recently allowed in CT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patron must have an RFID device • RFID programmed to allow limited quantities poured per activation • System must be under surveillance • Must be clearly labeled • Must be dispense from the manufacturer's original container • Must be cleaned biweekly and calibrated monthly 	
Adult Cannabis Use	<p>Diana Shaw, DCP, State Program Manager provided the following report:</p> <p>WHAT ARE HEMP, CANNABIS, THC AND CBD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemp - Generally defined as Cannabis sativa L. and any part of the plant with a delta-9 THC concentration of not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis. • Cannabis - The dried leaves and flowering tops of the Cannabis sativa or Cannabis indica plant. Contains active chemicals called cannabinoids that cause drug-like effects all through the body. Also known as marijuana. • THC - A cannabinoid molecule in cannabis that's long been recognized as the main psychoactive ingredient that causes people to feel high. Total THC = (THCA x 0.877) + THC • CBD - Chemically similar to THC but does not have the same psychoactive effects. <p>THREE CATEGORIES OF THC PRODUCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-THC Hemp Products (Cannabis) • Moderate-THC Hemp Products (excludes infused beverages) • Infused Beverages (for the purposes of this presentation, “infused beverages” refers to beverages containing THC) <p>PUBLIC ACT 23-79</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classified High-THC Hemp Products as cannabis (marijuana) - High-THC hemp is cannabis and is treated as such. It is subject to all of the restrictions and requirements that cannabis is. The Electronic Nicotine Device credential that these smoke shops hold does not allow them to sell cannabis, it allows for them to sell only nicotine vapes. <p>HIGH-THC HEMP PRODUCTS (CANNABIS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any product containing more than one milligram of THC per serving or five milligrams of THC per container is considered cannabis in Connecticut, with the exception of the point 3% for the cannabis flower. • Federally, hemp is considered anything with 0.3% of THC or less. 	<p>Informational – The full PowerPoint presentation can be found on the DMHAS ADPC webpage.</p>

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	<p>*High-THC products are considered cannabis and should never be sold outside of a licensed dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer. If you see cannabis products being sold outside of a licensed cannabis establishment, contact local law enforcement.</p> <p>LICENSED CANNABIS ESTABLISHMENTS</p> <p>Cannabis and high-THC hemp products can only be sold at the following licensed cannabis establishment types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispensary facilities – Medical marijuana patients only • Hybrid retailers – Medical marijuana patients and adult-use consumers • Retailers – Adult-use consumers only <p>Licensed cannabis establishments require security and age verification to enter. If you can walk right in without showing your identification, it's likely not licensed.</p> <p>You can look up establishments by going to ct.gov/cannabis and clicking on licensed retailers. This will bring up a map and list of licensed dispensary facilities, hybrid retailers and retailers. As of 1/22/2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Dispensary Facility Remaining • 35 Retailers Active (7 Provisional) • 35 Hybrid Retailers Active (7 Provisional) <p>MODERATE-THC HEMP PRODUCTS</p> <p>Section 31 of Public Act 24-76 – Products containing at least 5 milligrams of THC, but not more than 5 milligrams per container. This legislation also introduced moderate THC hemp product vendor registration that's required for a vendor to sell moderate THC hemp products or products containing at least 5 milligrams of THC, but less than 5 milligrams of THC.</p> <p>MODERATE-THC HEMP PRODUCT VENDORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective January 1, 2025, only licensed cannabis establishments or individuals registered as moderate-THC hemp product vendors may sell moderate-THC hemp products. As of today, there are 4 registered in the State. <p>MODERATE-THC HEMP PRODUCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot contain synthetic cannabinoids • Cannot be packaged, presented or advertised in a manner that is likely to mislead a consumer by incorporating any statement, brand, design, representation, picture, illustration or other depiction that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Bears a reasonable resemblance to trademarked or characteristic packaging of a cannabis product or a commercially available product other than a cannabis product; or, (2) Implies that the manufacturer hemp product is a cannabis product, a total THC of more than 0.3% on a dry-weight basis or is a high-THC hemp product. <p>Packaging and labeling for products meant for human ingestion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have a scannable barcode, website or QR code with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product name • Manufacturer/Packer/Distributor name, address and phone number • Batch number • Concentration of cannabinoids and total THC • Expiration/Best by date • Statements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and those who are pregnant or breastfeeding should consult with a healthcare professional before using • Keep out of reach of children • Product has not been evaluated by the FDA • Warning statement for inhalable products <p>IDENTIFYING NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCTS</p>	

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	<p>INFUSED BEVERAGES</p> <p>Effective July 1, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be at least 21 years old to purchase • Can only be sold to customers at licensed cannabis retail establishments or package stores with a waiver allowing them to sell infused beverages • No indirect sales (mail, telephone or electronic means (i.e. no shipping to customers, but delivery is permitted)) <p>Effective October 1, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot contain more than 3mg THC per container • Container cannot be less than 12 fluid ounces • Cannot be sold in packs of more than four containers • Can only be sold to customers at licensed cannabis retail establishments or packages stores with an endorsement to sell infused beverages <p>Packaging and Labeling Requirements Effective October 1, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have symbol indicating it's for 21+ only • Cannot contain synthetic cannabinoids • Cannot be packaged or a labeled in a way that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resembles cannabis offered for sale in this state; • Mimics or resembles a commercially available food or beverage item that does not normally contain cannabis or THC; • Implies that the product is cannabis; or, • Appeals to individuals under 21 years of age. <p>Cannabis and high-THC hemp products (not infused beverages) must meet strict packaging and labeling guidelines: Labels must clearly indicate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand name • Presence of THC or CBD • Serving size, dosing and other information • Plain contrasting color with Times New Roman font <p>Packaging must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-, tamper-, and light-resistant • Uniformly one color • Packaging for edible products must be white <p>*Approved cannabis products should never be sold outside of a licensed dispensary facility, hybrid retailer or retailer. If you see approved cannabis products being sold outside of a licensed cannabis establishment, drug control can provide guidance.</p> <p>SIGNS OF ILLICIT PRODUCTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brightly colored packaging • Not labeled with required information • Not child- or tamper-resistant <p>CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS</p> <p>Look at Total THC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For flower, look for % of THC • For products other than flower, look at total mg of THC • Does it have more than 0.3% or 5mg THC <p>HEMP PRODUCT RESTRICTIONS</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot mislead a consumer by incorporating any statement, brand, design, representation, picture, illustration or other depiction that bears a reasonable resemblance to trademarked or characteristic packaging of another cannabis or non-cannabis product. <p>ENFORCEMENT - ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY DCP does not have authority:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over unlicensed sellers of cannabis; or, To seize illegal cannabis from an unlicensed location. If there are issues with misconduct at a licensed cannabis establishment, DCP's agents will work in conjunction with local police to take appropriate enforcement action. If there are issues with an unlicensed location, the violations are criminal and enforcement rests solely with local or state police. <p>IDENTIFYING DCP LICENSEES http://elicense.ct.gov Look up licenses for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannabis establishments Package stores E-cigarette/ENDS (vape) dealers <p>IF YOU FIND ILLEGAL CANNABIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If local or state police find cannabis at a business establishment, we recommend looking up to see whether or not the business holds a credential with DCP. http://ct.gov/cannabis http://elicense.ct.gov If the business holds a cannabis dispensary, hybrid retailer, retailer or delivery service license from DCP, they may legally sell cannabis products. If there is an issue at a licensed cannabis facility, contact DCP at dcp.cannabis@ct.gov immediately If the business holds a DCP credential, but not a cannabis license, contact DCP. DCP issues many licenses including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lottery Liquor Electronic cigarettes (vapes) For businesses with a non-cannabis credential, DCP may be able to take action against that license if there is an imminent risk to public health and safety or after there is a criminal finding of guilt. <p>DCP CONTACT INFORMATION Drug Control</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: dcp.drugcontrol@ct.gov Phone: (860) 713-6065 <p>Cannabis/Hemp</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: dcp.cannabis@ct.gov Phone: (860) 713-6065 <p>Liquor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Email: dcp.liquorcontrol@ct.gov Phone: (860) 713-6210 	
Sub-committee Reports		

Topic	Discussion	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention, Screening and Early Intervention 	<p>Abigail Lieberman provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met in March and had an exciting presentation from a Connecticut youth who's been very involved in prevention efforts in the Greater Hartford area. She was recently recognized at CADCA in January, it was exciting to hear from her and to recognize her efforts. Heard about quarterly grant updates, Adult Alcohol Awareness and from DMHAS Problem Gambling Services about resources they have available in the state. March is problem Gambling Awareness Month and they touch base on that also. Discussed the Recovery Friendly Initiative work group as they're aiming to increase recovery friendly environments, workplaces, campuses and communities across the state. They're working on developing a tool kit, updating their website and standardizing definitions and expectations for those environments, while maintaining scalability and flexibility of the initiative. Will have an in-person meeting on April 21st. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment 	<p>Dr. Allen and Maria Coutant-Skinner provided the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Met in February and March. Their next meeting will be in person later in the month. Currently working on two different policy recommendations that they will hopefully present for the Council's consideration. The first policy will address CME and CEU requirements for medical providers in Connecticut in terms of the annual CME's, and recognizing the importance of co-occurring disorders, that there be a requirement where physicians and medical providers, when renewing their Connecticut license, have had training and are able to identify people with co-occurring disorders and understand how to address those disorders, whether they are doing the treatment themselves or they are referring for treatment with other providers. The other policy to be worked on has to do with youth substance use disorder screenings and the intersectionality of the bodies that provide oversight around children's behavioral health and making sure that these screenings are part of the broader work being done to address substance use disorders across the state. This subcommittee has a work group looking at in-home services for adults with addiction who are covered by Medicaid. Have been doing a deep dive into the data around that. That same work group is looking at family recovery coaching and recognizing it's not a billable service at this point but looking at opportunities for pilots and data collection around that. Have been looking at the treatment recommendations to OSAC, will be looking at the statewide addiction consultation model. This committee continues to give careful consideration to every OSAC recommendation and that before anything comes out of this committee that's officially proposed, they are sure to do their due diligence work to be sure they are not giving any kind of unfair advantage to any particular proposer. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovery and Health Management 	<p>Rebecca Allen provided the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This committee met on March 13th, had a presentation from Elsa Ward regarding the new integrated mental health and substance use peer certification. The new certification will be a certified peer support and recovery professional. Elsa discussed the new certification as well as an upcoming learning collaborative for peer workers, which will run from April to September of 2025. There will be two cohorts and meetings will be held twice a month, with one-on-one peer mentoring available. Also received an update on the work being done by the Recovery Friendly Standards Work Group and their work to coordinate the recovery friendly workplace, recovery friendly community and recovery friendly campus initiatives, and also to build a comprehensive website for those initiatives. Met on April 10th, Pam Mulready presented the Recovery Friendly Campus toolkit and discussed how interested 	

Topic	Discussion	Action
	<p>campuses can use it to build recovery friendly spaces for both students and staff. The toolkit will likely be rolled out at an upcoming recovery friendly campus summit, which will be the kickoff event for ongoing technical assistance and support for campuses, which is supported through an already approved OSAC recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recovery friendly education and housing workgroups continue to meet monthly and continue as a whole to review proposals to forward to OSAC for the referral Subcommittee. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criminal Justice 	<p>Katie Farrell and Brian DeLude provided the following report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuing their efforts to look at lack of resources. During their February meeting they talked a lot about juvenile services for criminally justice involved teens/adolescents. During their March meeting they did a lot of brainstorming and talked about serious gaps in the northeastern Connecticut area. Discussed the DMHAS Region 3 resource guide and CCAR jail diversion recovery coaches (program has ended), also discussed the need for more resources in that area, especially walk in services as lack of transportation can impact the indigent population especially if they can't schedule an appointment instead of walking in. CSSD has been working diligently to try and help people and to provide appointments instead of saying they will see them in a couple of weeks. Talked about the 2024 positivity rate for our adult probationers. Looking at tests, not individuals, about 68,000 tests were conducted throughout 2024 with a positive confirmation rate of about 65.5%. The substances were fairly static quarter by quarter and so far, they have been by year as well. However, if you remove THC from the equation as a THC positive, the confirmation of positivity drops down to 13.1%, which is something this committee has talked about and discussed if CSSD should potentially look at that. 	
Other Business		

NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, June 17, 2025 – Virtual

ADJOURNMENT – April 15, 2025 meeting of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council adjourned at 12:00pm.