

Scott Gagnon
AdCare Educational Institute of Maine, Inc.
LD 94

Good Morning,

My name is Scott Gagnon and wanted to provide some information to the VLA Committee, relevant for the discussions for LD 94, regarding the availability of training for medical professionals in areas of cannabis science and prevention. I understand there was a suggestion that there was no training available in areas of cannabis science, for medical professionals who are providing cannabis recommendations. There is indeed training that has been developed, that can be customized, for Maine medical professionals who are providing medical cannabis recommendations for youth and young adults, and across the lifespan.

As quick background, I am the Associate Executive Director for AdCare Educational Institute of Maine, Inc., we are a Maine-based non-profit with expertise in providing training and technical assistance to the fields of behavioral health, addiction services, and public health. One of the programs we operate is the New England Prevention Technology Transfer Center, which we operate through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Through this cooperative agreement we provide training and technical assistance services for all of the New England states, in areas of prevention science. Given the amount of policy change that has happened around Cannabis amongst the New England states, we have a specialty area of training in cannabis science. Our PTTC is one of 10 regional PTTCs across the country, and our Prevention Technology Transfer Center Network has a national Cannabis Prevention workgroup, where we develop training and resources to be deployed across the country. I served as the Chair of this national workgroup, where I lead the creation of a 3-module cannabis pharmacology course. Amongst other topics covered in this course, includes research related to the effects and risks of cannabis for youth and young adults, regarding child development, brain development, and other health effects. This information can be very helpful for medical professionals as they weigh whether or not a medical cannabis recommendation is appropriate for young people, given their medical situations. For reference, I have attached a pdf of the 3 slide banks that make up the course. This is a course that is already posted and can be accessed by anyone in any profession, across the country, at no charge. Additionally, as a federally funded training center, through a technical assistance request from the State, we could customize this training for Maine medical professionals making medical cannabis recommendations, at no cost to the State. Our PTTC has received a lot of great feedback from professionals in the medical and behavioral health fields in New England that this training has provided important information that has helped them in providing science-based services to their patients. We have also sponsored some live, in-person trainings based off of this material, for medical providers in the state.

I am more than happy to answer any follow-up questions members of the Committee may have, and make myself available at a work-session to address any questions. Training is indeed available, and customizable, and I think could be a great benefit to Maine providers.

Thank you for your time,
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