

MARIJUANA POLICY FOR MAINE'S PRESENT AND FUTURE

Scott M. Gagnon, MPP, PS-C

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES IN OTHER STATES?

- ◉ Impaired Driving
- ◉ Increased Youth and Adult Use
- ◉ Emergency Room Marijuana Admissions
- ◉ Marijuana-Related Exposures
- ◉ Access to Treatment
- ◉ Diversion to Other States
- ◉ THC Extraction Labs
- ◉ Pet Poisonings
- ◉ Little to No Funding Going to Prevention



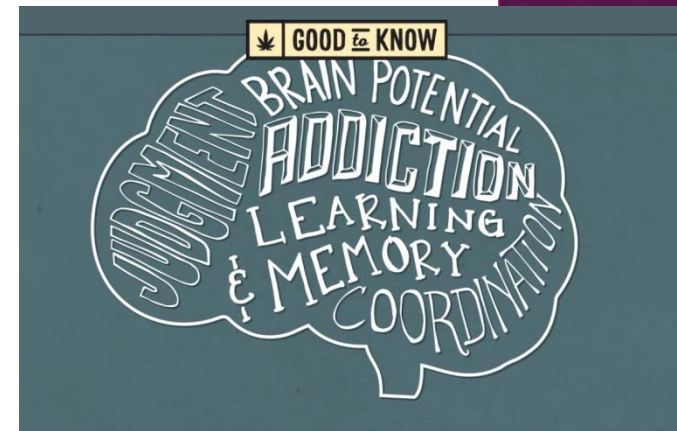
IMPAIRED DRIVING

- The issue: Colorado marijuana-related traffic fatalities increase 92% from 2010-2014
- What are other states doing? - Colorado has limit of 5 nanograms of *active* THC. Colorado also uses DREs to detect impairment.
- Policy considerations for Maine: Assess capacity of DREs in relation to current Maine marijuana policy. Consider similar active THC blood content limit.
- [Colorado Marijuana and Driving campaign](#)



MARIJUANA AND YOUTH: SCHOOLS

- Colorado schools: Marijuana is “The No. 1 Problem in Schools Right Now.”
 - Marijuana coming into schools
 - Students coming to school under the influence
 - Increase in marijuana-related suspensions/expulsions
- What are other states doing?
Colorado schools reviewing and revising school policies.
- Resource: RMC Health guidance on policies and evidence based curricula addressing marijuana <http://my.rmc.org/TFSmarijuana>



MARIJUANA AND YOUTH: SCHOOLS

- Policy considerations for Maine:
 - School Districts reviewing and revising policies:
 - Are they current to deal with today's environment (i.e. "medical" marijuana, e-cigs/vaping devices, etc.)?
 - SBIRT protocols or diversion to education interventions vs. suspensions (e.g. SIRP)
 - Codify use of evidence-based curricula and programming for universal, primary prevention
 - Rules, guidelines, and expectations for conduct of guests. (e.g. adults at a school sports event)



MARIJUANA AND YOUNG ADULTS: COLLEGES

- Issue: Because most colleges receive federal funding, marijuana is still illegal on campus in legal states, whether or not one is over 21.
 - Many students don't understand this state/federal law conflict
- Second issue: Tax revenues for education aren't going to colleges. No funding for colleges to do prevention amongst their population.



MARIJUANA AND PREGNANCY

- Issue: Marijuana use during pregnancy including some who receive “medical” marijuana certifications
- What are other states doing?
 - Colorado: warnings on packaging but bill to require warnings in marijuana shops was defeated by industry.
 - Washington: Marijuana purchasers receive warnings which include the statement: “Should not be used by women who are pregnant or breastfeeding”

Resource: Colorado Dept of Public Health: Marijuana Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Guidance for Healthcare Providers.

https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/MJ_RMEP_Pregnancy-Breastfeeding-Clinical-Guidelines.pdf

MARIJUANA AND PREGNANCY

- Policy considerations for Maine
 - Require screenings and consultations for women of child-bearing age before certifications are issued
 - Require warnings on packaging and in dispensaries/caregiver sites
 - Medical organizations/Hospitals - prohibit issuing certifications to women who are pregnant or breastfeeding
 - Training requirements for providers issuing certifications - training on marijuana and pregnancy



Marijuana

What can it do
to my baby?

Resource: [SAMHS
Pregnancy & Breastfeeding
Rack Cards & other
resources](#)

COMPACT FOR MAINE MARIJUANA POLICY - SAM MAINE'S VISION



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Seal or expunge certain non-violent, non-trafficking marijuana possession charges
- Panel for possession charges of 2.5 ozs and above
 - Distinguish between someone with dependence and traffickers
- Encourage research to establish DUI limit for THC in Maine
- Education as an alternative to 1st time offenses in 0 - 2.5 oz possession cases



MAINE'S SUBSTANCE PORTFOLIO

- Greater investment in Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery services
- SBIRT
 - Strengthen implementation of SBIRT services in hospitals and other settings
 - Require SBIRT before marijuana certificates are issued



WORKSITES & RECOVERY

- Support/training services and resources for individuals in recovery with non-violent drug offenses
- Tax incentives or other incentive programs for employers who hire applicants in recovery
- Paths to employment for individuals who fail drug tests (education, screening, etc.)
 - E.g. Prime for Life/SIRP for employers

CHALLENGES HELPING TOWNS WITH MARIJUANA POLICIES



OH NO!
Someone asked Sally
to give her opinion
on MARIJUANA *and*
DEFLATE-GATE!

“MEDICAL” MARIJUANA “CELEBRATION”

- Event on private property
- Town with no permitting process
- Coalition contacted by local Rep with concerns about event
- Coalition contacted town, town did not know about event
- Town clerk asked for help
- CTBH staff drafted and sent “Questions to Ask”



QUESTIONS ASKED

- ◉ What is the purpose of the event?
- ◉ Who are the organizers, contacts and media contacts for the event?
- ◉ Will marijuana be sold or given away?
- ◉ Does this event require special permits or liability insurance?
- ◉ Does this event violate any local ordinance such as a drug free zone ordinance?
- ◉ Are there noise, trash, bathroom facilities or parking ordinances that need to be considered? Have neighbors been part of event plan?

Will
federal
enforcement
guidelines
be followed?

MORE QUESTIONS

- Will anyone be checking caregiver identification?
- Will youth under 21 be allowed to attend with or without guardian? Will someone be carding people?
- If medical marijuana is not allowed, will there be a way to make sure no one brings it in without the organizer's knowledge?
- Is organizer paying for security?



Draft of Questions to Ask document.
Please use, improve, share.

COSTLY ENFORCEMENT PLAN

7 pages, 50+ people/resources listed

Components of plan included:

- Dates and Times, Location
- Event Holder Contact info
- Liability agreement
- Resources - Agencies Involved and Contact Information (Police, fire, hospitals, crisis centers, MMP, MDEA)
- Media Contact
- Command and Control
- Response to an Internal Incident
- Traffic, Parking
- Trespassing by pedestrians
- Noise - Disorderly Conduct
- Medical/Fire response
- Drug and Alcohol use
- Event Staffing
- MDEA Assignments



THE CHALLENGES

- Law enforcement expected to support illegal event
- No official, reviewed guidance on policies
- Maine's medical marijuana law does not cover the specifics of municipalities zoning, emissions, set backs, events...



Edibles at local event, 2015

Examples: Maine law does NOT prohibit selling marijuana in public.

Maine law prohibits public *smoking* but does not say anything about eating, drinking or vaping it in public.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

What does my funding allow?

- Remind communities we do not promote policies, strategies or programs that are not evidence based (i.e. we don't promote mock car crashes).
- Educate on harms, norms and issues of access to youth, share questions
- Maine medical use of marijuana and federal guidelines plus legalizationviolations.org



WHAT CAN WE DO?

Call Lee Anne!



- ◉ Share successes from Portland, ME and others? From Portland, OR
- ◉ Share what other towns have done regarding dispensaries or grow facilities. Old Town moratorium and Sanford moratorium.
- ◉ York trying to zone and regulate grow facilities like other businesses.
- ◉ Educate and work with other businesses. E.g. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission stopped the High Times Cannabis Cup event.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Assess retailers for marijuana product sales and promotions.



Store Assessment Tool



- Work with stores and coalition members to draft guidelines based on proven tobacco policies.





Setting the Stage: Addressing Marijuana through Policy



THE
Breathe Easy
COALITION

*Leading the way for tobacco-free
environments across Maine*

About the Breathe Easy Coalition:

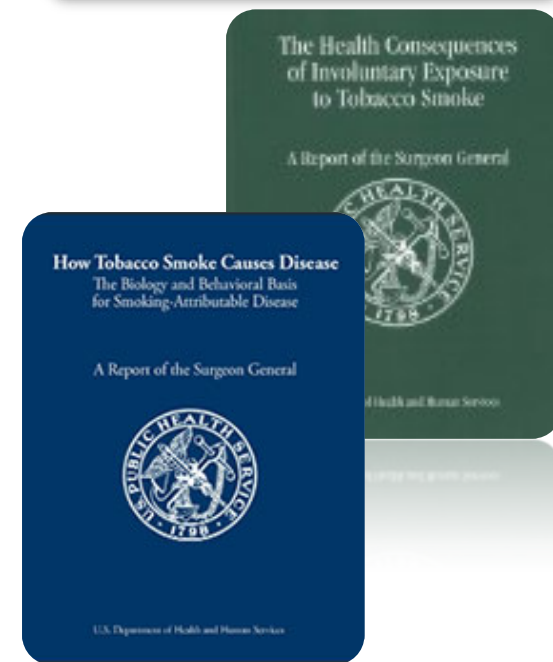


The Breathe Easy Coalition of Maine is a statewide umbrella organization of the **Smoke-Free Housing Coalition of Maine**, **Maine Tobacco-Free Behavioral Health Network**, **Maine Tobacco-Free Hospital Network** and **Maine Tobacco-Free College Network**. BEC works to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke through the promotion of strong voluntary policies that lead to reduced tobacco use and increased tobacco-free living throughout Maine.

BEC initiatives are made possible through funding and support from the
Maine CDC Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Maine.

Reasons for Addressing Tobacco Use

- ▶ Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable disease and death.
- ▶ There is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke – even brief exposure causes damage that can lead to serious disease and death.
- ▶ Creating tobacco-free areas changes the social norm around tobacco use and promotes tobacco-free lifestyles.
- ▶ Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the US.



Tobacco Policies are Evidence Based



The Guide to Community Preventive Services
THE COMMUNITY GUIDE
What Works to Promote Health

Creating smoke & tobacco-free policies will:

- Reduce exposure to secondhand smoke
- Reduce the prevalence of tobacco use
- Increase the number of tobacco users who quit
- Reduce the initiation of tobacco use among young people
- Reduce tobacco-related morbidity and mortality, including acute cardiovascular events.

Breathe Easy, You're In Maine



Maine has a comprehensive set of laws to protect people from secondhand smoke in:

- ▶ Workplaces – indoors, within 20-feet of entryways, and in vehicles used in the course of work.
- ▶ Indoor public places.
- ▶ Restaurants/Bars, including outdoor dining areas.
- ▶ State parks, beaches and historical sites.
- ▶ Vehicles when children under the age of 16 are present.

Addressing More than Smoking

- Nicotine is addictive in any form and the Surgeon General has stated that there are no safe tobacco products.
- Electronic nicotine delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes, may emit nicotine, propylene glycol, carcinogens and other harmful substances.
- The CDC reports that increased use “could be due to an increase in marketing, availability, and the visibility of these (other) tobacco products and the perception that they may be safer alternatives to cigarettes.”



- *Effective October 15, 2015, electronic smoking devices will be included in Maine's smoke-free laws!*
- Maine has comprehensive smoke-free laws but further efforts are needed to protect Maine people from secondhand smoke, change the social norm of use and address additional environments and products..

Develop Policy Language

1. Background/Purpose section about why you are creating a tobacco-free environment. Explaining the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, dangers of tobacco use and how going tobacco-free meets the organization's mission.
2. Definition of what tobacco products are covered in the policy. **Best Practice:** *Tobacco use is defined as the smoking or use of all cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smokeless tobacco, snus, electronic cigarettes, and other non-FDA approved nicotine delivery devices.*
3. Explanation of where tobacco use is prohibited. **Best Practice:** *Tobacco use is prohibited in all indoor and outdoor areas of a property at all times. Including parking lots and vehicles being used in the course of work.*
4. Outline compliance expectations, enforcement parameters and treatment supports for staff, vendors, visitors and clients.

Opportunities to Address Marijuana

Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act states:

“A landlord or business owner may prohibit the smoking of marijuana for medical purposes on the premises of the landlord or business if the landlord or business owner prohibits all smoking on the premises and posts notice to that effect on the premises.” [2011, c. 407, Pt. B, §20

(AMD)]

City of Portland Marijuana Ordinance includes language that *a landlord can prohibit marijuana smoking.*



An Opportunity to Address Marijuana

1. Background/Purpose section about why you are creating a tobacco-free environment. Explaining the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, dangers of tobacco **and marijuana** use and how going **smoke and** tobacco-free meets the organization's mission.
2. Definition of what tobacco products are covered in the policy. **Best Practice:** **Smoking and tobacco use is defined as the smoking or use of all cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smokeless tobacco, snus, electronic smoking devices, including electronic cigarettes, and other substances, such as marijuana.**
3. Explanation of where tobacco use is prohibited. **Best Practice:** **Smoking and Tobacco use is prohibited in all indoor and outdoor areas of a property at all times. Including parking lots and vehicles being used in the course of work.**
4. Outline compliance expectations, enforcement parameters and treatment supports for staff, vendors, visitors and clients.

Remember: Key Talking Points for Policy Change

- ▶ As many organizations create strong smoke and tobacco-free policies, encourage the inclusion of marijuana in these policies to protect the community, support a marijuana-free social norm and to provide an opportunity to educate populations on the health effects.
- ▶ Communicating tobacco-free policies is key! Communicate your policy and provide support for users to support successful implementation.



Thank You!

Sarah Mayberry, 207-874-8774

sam@portlandmaine.gov

Learn more: www.BreatheEasyMaine.org



Facebook: */BreatheEasyMaine*

Twitter: *@BreatheEasyME*

Youtube: *SF Housing*

Instagram: *BreatheEasyMaine*



FMI or just to chat about marijuana policy:

Scott Gagnon, AdCare and SAM Maine Director

626-3615 Scott Gagnon

scott.m.gagnon@gmail.com

Sally Manninen, Choose To Be Healthy

Coalition SA Prevention Coordinator

smanninen@yorkhospital.com

or 351-2655

Sarah Mayberry, Breathe Easy Coalition

Director

sam@portlandmaine.gov

or 874-8774