

July 11, 2022

Dear Community Partner,

As you may know, the Oklahoma Legislature passed Senate Bill 511 (“SB 511”) which amends and adds language to Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes regarding harm reduction services. Specifically, the relevant portions of SB 511 have been codified at 63 O.S. § 2-1101. Additionally, SB 511 requires the Commissioner of Health to promulgate rules governing the provisions of the bill.

However, the permanent rules promulgated and submitted to the Legislature regarding this section will not take effect until Fall 2022 – sometime between mid-August or mid-September. Although the permanent rules are not yet effective, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (“OSDH”) Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Service (“SHHRS”) realizes that organizations in the community would like to begin engaging in services immediately. As such, OSDH SHHRS is providing the following information on how to begin providing harm reduction services under 63 O.S. § 2-1101.

Under 63 O.S. § 2-1101(A), the following entities are authorized to engage in harm reduction services:

1. Government entities, as outlined in 63 O.S. § 2-1101(A)(1);
2. Religious institutions or churches;
3. Nonprofit organizations;
4. For-profit companies;
5. Nongovernment entities partnering with a governmental agency; and
6. Tribal governments.

63 O.S. § 2-1101(A)(1) – (6).

In order to begin providing harm reduction services in Oklahoma, authorized providers must register with OSDH SHHRS, as required by 63 O.S. § 2-1101(B). We request, at this time, that all registration under this section be provided to OSDH SHHRS via written correspondence to:

Kimberly Restrepo
Harm Reduction Coordinator
Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health
MD 308
123 Robert S Kerr Ave, Suite 1702
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
E-Mail: harmreduction@health.ok.gov

Once registration has been received by SHHRS, we will provide written correspondence acknowledging your registration has been received.

Additionally, authorized providers are required under 63 O.S. § 2-1101(C) to report to SHHRS on a quarterly basis the following information:

1. The number of clients served including basic demographic information;
2. Number and type of referrals provided;
3. Number of syringes, test kits and antagonists distributed;
4. Number of used syringes collected; and
5. Number of rapid HIV and viral hepatitis tests performed including the number of reactive test results.

We request, at this time, all reporting under this section be provided to SHHRS via written correspondence to:

Jennifer Baldwin
Data and Evaluation Epidemiologist
Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Service
Oklahoma State Department of Health
MD 308
123 Robert S Kerr Ave, Suite 1702
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102
E-Mail: JenniferSB@health.ok.gov

Please begin reporting the required information 90-days from the date of your registration letter was provided to SHHRS.

Authorized providers choosing to register with OSDH SHHRS prior to the permanent rules becoming effective will be required to register again, once the rules take effect. As we approach the fall, we will reach out to prepare all authorized providers regarding the new registration requirements and standards outlined in the permanent rules.

OSDH SHHRS appreciates the excitement to begin harm reduction services and we hope this process will allow us to start these life-saving harm reduction services much sooner. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact harmreduction@health.ok.gov or 405-426-8400.

Sincerely,



Terrainia Harris | Director
Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Service