THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Therapeutic Cannabis Program

TO: The Honorable Members of the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

FROM: Michael Holt, Therapeutic Cannabis Program Administrator

RE: The New Hampshire Therapeutic Cannabis Program

DATE: January 26, 2018

This memo informs the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee of the continuing progress the Department of Health and Human Services has made over the past year with respect to the implementation of the Department's Therapeutic Cannabis Program (TCP).

Alternative Treatment Centers

The four Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) are fully operational. All ATC dispensaries were opened between April and August 2016.

Program Growth

The Program has seen significant growth since its inception.

	2016 Data Report (Dec. 19, 2016)	2017 Data Report (June 30, 2017)	Current (Jan. 26, 2018)
Qualifying Patients	2089	3493	5028
Designated Caregivers	129	258	355
Certifying Providers	560	703	833

Preliminary Impact of 2017 Legislation

In 2017 the NH state legislature expanded the list of medical conditions eligible for TCP (effective August 2017). Approximately half of the program growth in the past 6 months has been due to the new conditions. (Numbers as of January 4, 2018.)

- Moderate to severe chronic pain (412 patients)
- Moderate or severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (162 patients)
- Severe pain that has not responded to previously prescribed medication or surgical measures or for which other treatment options produced serious side effect (164 patients)
- Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (17 patients)

Therapeutic Cannabis Program 2017 Annual Data Report

RSA 126-X:10 requires: (1) the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services shall report annually on the Therapeutic Use of Cannabis Program established under RSA 126-X to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee established under RSA 126-A:13, to the NH Board of Medicine, and to the NH Board of Nursing; and (2) the report shall be in electronic format to allow for

identification of patterns of certification by patient and caregiver, location, age, medical condition, symptom, or side effect, and provider, and for analysis and research to inform future policy, educational, and clinical decisions.

The *Therapeutic Cannabis Program 2017 Data Report* presents information from the Therapeutic Cannabis Registry, the Alternative Treatment Center (ATC) Annual Reports, and the Qualifying Patient Satisfaction Surveys. It provides details about qualifying patients, designated caregivers, and certifying medical providers who are active in the program as of June 30, 2017.

In December 2017 the report was published on the Department's web site and was made available to the NH Board of Medicine, the NH Board of Nursing, and the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee.

The vast majority of patient and medical provider data is confidential per the statute. The data reported is aggregated to prevent the release of any confidential personal information.

Report Highlights

Qualifying Patients

- Majority of patients are in mid-40s to late 60s
- Very few minor patients (8 as of report date; currently there are 17)

Qualifying Medical Conditions

Most common qualifying conditions:

- One or more injuries
- Spinal cord injury or disease
- Cancer

Most common qualifying symptoms:

- Severe pain that has not responded to previously prescribed medication or surgical measures;
- Severe, persistent muscle spasms;
- Constant or severe nausea

Certifying Medical Providers

- 82% physicians; 18% advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs)
- 8% out-of-state providers
- Most common physician specialties:
  - Family Practice / Family Medicine (40%)
  - Internal Medicine (22%)
  - Neurology (6%)
  - Oncology (4%)

Alternative Treatment Center Information

Effectiveness of Cannabis

- ~20% patient participation rate
- ~90% report positive outcomes

Patient Affordability Program

- ~40% of patients are eligible for the ATCs' Patient Affordability Programs
- ~$450,000 of discounted product sold in SFY 2017

Patient Satisfaction Survey

- 13% participation rate
- 99% report satisfaction and would recommend the program to others who qualify
- New question asked this year:
    - "Have you been able to reduce the amount of prescription medication you take since becoming a patient of the ATC?"
    - The vast majority of respondents said they have reduced some, most, or all of their use of prescription medications.

Yes, all prescriptions	Yes, most prescriptions	Yes, some prescriptions	No prescriptions
67 (19.48%)	92 (26.74%)	144 (41.86%)	41 (11.92%)

- The greatest area of improvement noted by patients is the cost of the cannabis products, with 81% of respondents reporting this as an area of improvement.

Legislation

2018 Pending Legislation

- HB 1476, permitting qualifying patients and designated caregivers to cultivate cannabis for therapeutic use.
- HB 1672-FN, prohibiting release of certain information relative to users of therapeutic cannabis to federal agencies.
- SB 380, relative to the therapeutic use of cannabis. (Department-requested)
- SB 384, relative to written certification under the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes law.
- SB 388, relative to satellite dispensaries for therapeutic cannabis.
- SB 477, establishing a therapeutic cannabis medical oversight board.

Note: There are no bills which would add additional qualifying medical conditions.

TCP Organization

Administrative responsibility for the Therapeutic Cannabis Program is being transitioned into the Division of Public Health Services (DPHS).

Ongoing Work

The Department continues to work on tasks and processes essential to the implementation of the Therapeutic Cannabis Program, including:

- Improving program policies to streamline the process for reviewing and processing applications and issuing registry ID cards to qualifying patients and designated caregivers
- Developing a more robust registry database, including an on-line portal for applicants to submit applications electronically
- Updating inspection tools and protocols
- Developing relationships with stakeholders
- Updating rules to support program priorities and to create efficiencies for patients, for providers, for ATCs, and for the program administration