

# California Legislative Highlights for 2022

January 18, 2022

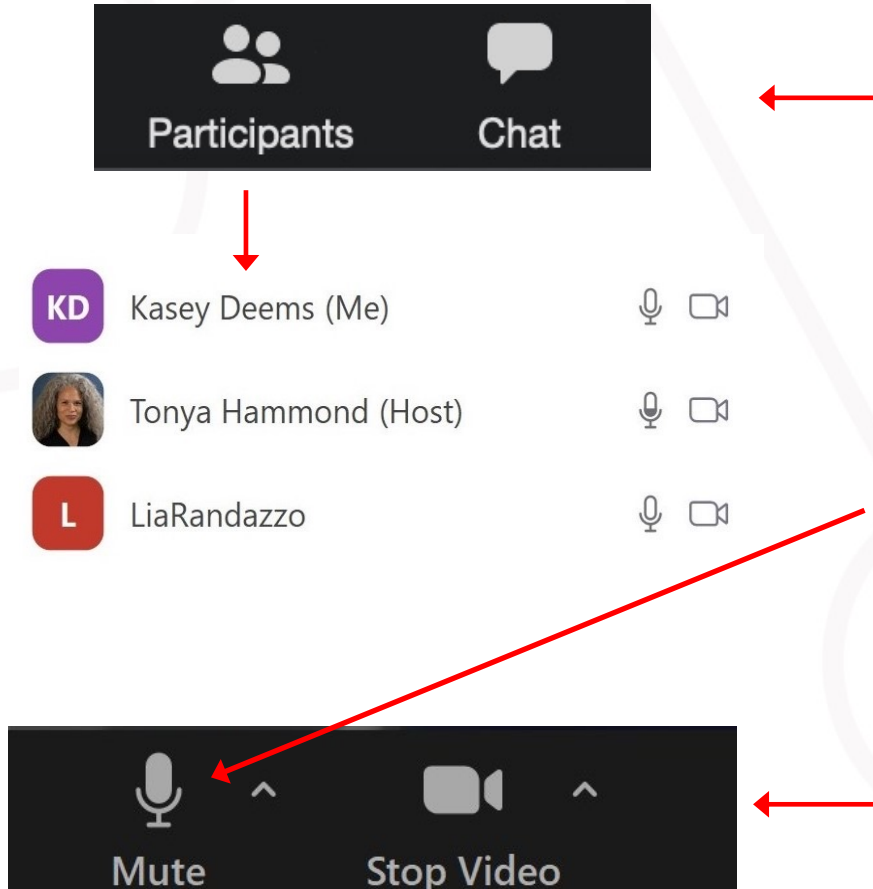
OVERDOSE PREVENTION NETWORK CALIFORNIA



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Director,  
Center for Health Leadership and  
Practice

Director, Dialogue4Health,  
Public Health Institute

#### RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Former HHS Agency Director & Health Officer,  
City of Berkeley

Former Medical Director, La Clínica de la Raza

Past President, American Public Health Association

Board Member, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California



**Carmen Rita Nevarez,  
MD, MPH**



# California Legislative Update-What is on the horizon for 2022?

By Jeannette Zanipatin, CA State Director, Drug Policy Alliance





California State Director,  
Drug Policy Alliance



**Jeannette Zanipatin,  
CA State Director**



# Learning Objectives

- Gain a comprehensive update on what new laws will be implemented in 2022 in drug policy and harm reduction in California.
- Understand local and national perspectives on Overdose Prevention Programs.
- List what is on the horizon for drug policy and harm reduction in 2022 and beyond.



# Takeaways

- Strong momentum is building in places like LA, San Francisco, and nationally to support harm reduction approaches to addressing the overdose crisis.
- In spite of the momentum we have gained, we need to be vigilant that the pendulum is swinging within the criminal justice space that will have an impact on our collective work.



# Major Drug Policy and Harm Reduction Bills

***AB 1344 (ARAMBULA) CEQA EXEMPTION FOR CALIFORNIA SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAMS (SSP)–This bill would provide an exemption for SSPs from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).***

- Syringe services programs (SSPs) have been essential in reducing HIV, hepatitis C, and other infectious diseases in California.
- SSPs play a vital role in California's harm reduction infrastructure, often serving as an initial point of contact for substance users throughout the state which provide access to life saving services, clean supplies, and critical information and referrals.
- Challenges to SSPs can still be brought under CA nuisance laws.





# SB 73 (Wiener)-Mandatory Minimums

**SB 73 (WIENER)– REPEAL MANDATORY MINIMUMS**—*repeals mandatory minimum sentences for persons convicted of specified nonviolent drug offenses and provides judges with the discretion to grant probation and treatment.*

- This bill is a step toward ending mass incarceration and the failed war on drugs, which has devastated California families and significantly impacts our state budget.
- SB 73 can serve as a model on how to decriminalize low-level drug offenses while reducing our prison population.



# SB 483 (ALLEN) THE RISE ACT OF 2021

**SB 483 (ALLEN) THE RISE ACT OF 2021** –*SB 483 a bill to Repeal Ineffective Sentencing Enhancements (RISE).*

- Represents a meaningful step towards reducing the harm of overly long and unjust sentences, a harm that disproportionately falls on marginalized and low-income groups most affected by decades of mass-incarceration.
- This bill would address the automatic and retroactive application of 3-year and 1-year sentence enhancements for prior drug sale and prior felony convictions.



# SB 57 (WIENER) OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS (OPP)–

**SB 57 (WIENER) OVERDOSE PREVENTION PROGRAMS (OPP)–** *This bill would authorize an OPP where adults may use controlled substances under the supervision of staff trained to prevent and treat overdose, prevent HIV and hepatitis infection, and facilitate entry into drug treatment and other services.*

- OPPs would be authorized in the City and County of San Francisco, City and County of Los Angeles and City of Oakland.
- Just voted out of the Assembly Health Committee on January 11, 2022.
- Next stop Assembly Public Safety and the Governor’s desk for signature.



# Momentum Building on Overdose Prevention Centers

## **Rhode Island-**

- First state to pass legislation to authorize Overdose Prevention Centers.
- In the process of drafting regulations.
- Projected opening Spring 2022

## **New York City-**

- First jurisdiction to implement OPCs without state or federal authorization.
- Two sites opened in Washington Heights and Harlem
- As of 12/21 59 overdoses reversed





# Momentum Building on Overdose Prevention Centers

**San Francisco**-*Moving forward to implement OPC absent state or federal authorization. Mayor introduced her own Emergency Declaration that was ratified by SF BOS on 12/23. Her plan is to utilize OPCs as a broader enforcement strategy.*

**Los Angeles**-*Building off of the momentum in other jurisdictions, LA actively exploring the possibility to open OPCs in Skid Row and possibly East or South LA. DPA coordinating with county and city entities to move toward implementation.*



# Safehouse Litigation

- The US DOJ has not weighed in on the litigation spearheaded by the Trump Administration on the Safehouse case.
- A week ago, the Biden Administration asked for an extension in the briefing schedule for the case. We are cautiously optimistic that this is a good sign.



# Questions and contact information

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**Thank you!**  
**Let us know how we can  
support your overdose  
prevention efforts.**

Contact us at  
**[info@healthleadership.org](mailto:info@healthleadership.org)**

For more resources and to sign up  
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**[californiaopioidsafetynetwork.org](http://californiaopioidsafetynetwork.org)**



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UPCOMING SESSION

# **COPN Workshop: Developing a Strategy for Health Equity**

Tuesday, February 22, 2022  
11:00 AM

