**SCHRC Meeting Minutes**

**October 10, 2023**

**Model Syringe Services ACT:**

In NC, the way it is written gives the state the option to fund it, but they don’t have to.

One discussed strategy is to add in policy that will be considered somewhat extreme so that when they look to limit aspects of the proposal, they are removing items that we didn’t expect would be considered at that time.

**Sponsor for the bill**

Should the Harm Reduction Act be re-submitted, or go with a fresh approach?

* SC harm reduction act suggests that SC will exchange.

Ed Schafer stated it may be good to get R and D on the House and Senate sides to get traction on the bill. Ed thinks we are better off bringing in a new one. Make it appeal to both D and R. Figure out why it should be appealing to Republicans.

Do we need to get DHEC leadership in on this? Model Act has DHEC in charge.

* Ideally, yes. Will make it harder to get passed if no support.
* We have support from boots on the ground, but not yet in leadership.

Next step in drafting the bill? Take the Model Act and present new information or?

* Need to recognize that things may change.

The director of the Model Act suggests that a politician who is a Republican who comes from law enforcement, or a faith-based community will be helpful.

**Relationships with legislators?**

Look at committees and see who the chairperson is. Find sub-committee chairmen bc they are the ones who influence the chair to form a meeting.

Trisha Christensen stated that we should follow other models that pitch the messages as “helping law enforcement” even though needle sticks are not an issue in NC.

Update on ACLU SC chapter; knowledgeable advocacy team. Will help us with contacting legislators. Coming in November for the political affairs meeting.

Duane Morrell: The National Harm Reduction Coalition will talk with us in the December meeting.

**Set up a day on the hill?**