**SCHRC PAC Meeting Minutes\_April 10, 2024**

Rollie Martinson ([01:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

My name's Rollie Martinson. I am the Director of Public Health for South Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition. And in my full-time, I'm a policy associate with the Community Education Group. And I'll pass it.

Marc Burrows ([09:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hey guys, I'm Marc Burrow with Challenges Inc. and SCHRC.

Rachel Kaplan ([09:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hey guys, my name is Rachel Kaplan. I am the treasurer with SCHRC, and I also do consulting and some volunteering with Challenges Inc.

Gregory Jacobs ([09:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hey everyone, I'm Gregory Jacobs. I'm with Community Based Alliance of Rural Peer Support. We're an RCO in servicing the area of Darlington Dillon and Marion County. Um, was invited to this meeting by Amber and just anxious to see how I can help out.

Amber Frazier ([10:12](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hey. I'm Amber. Peer Support Outreach Coordinator at the Courage Center and volunteer with Challenges.

Tricia Christensen ([10:28](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Hi all Tricia. I work with Rollie at CEG.

Kris Stepp ([10:52](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Kris Stepp with Aid Upstate, also volunteer with Challenges and SCHRC. Glad to be here.

Rollie Martinson ([11:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

First thing on our agenda is our Syringe Bill. Last week, it went to the full committee, um, and the bill wasn't heard. Senator Davis says it's not gonna be taken up this session by the full committee, full medical committee in the House. It just does not sound like it's a priority for them for this year. So I think the focus of today really is what are our next steps? I think we have a, a few different options. This session ends May 9th, so exactly in one month. So one thing would be maybe some last minute pressure. I don't know if we could do that within the next month, to see if we can get it at least through the House, but then it's not gonna, I don't think there'll be enough time to also get it through the Senate.

Rollie Martinson ([12:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So we're looking for ideas. If t's not gonna be heard this session, what can we do in the meantime through next year? Or do we potentially wanna start over and look for a whole new sponsor, have a bill that our group's more involved with? We don't really know how dedicated Senator Davis is to this issue. Some of us think maybe it was just like a bargaining chip with some of the other bills he has up. So just open discussion on any ideas y'all think for, for this meantime?

Marc Burrows ([13:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, I'll jump in. I don't know what to say about this bill. I think we all had a lot of hopes for this bill, and it is what it is. I I think this was a really great learning experience. I know for myself and all of us involved, like personally, I've never been this close to a policy, uh, issue or, or a legislative bill, but I feel like policy's one of those things that's really hard to learn and unless you go through it. This is the furthest an SSP bill has gotten; we've only only had two.

Marc Burrows ([14:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So I think that's a lot of progress.Some things to improve upon or change moving forward is really finding a sponsor who's invested in the bill and someone where it's maybe more of a priority for. So I think that's kind of number one. I think the bill was really well written and I don't know how all this works moving forward. Would, would Senator Davis reintroduce the bill next year? Is he interested in doing that? Does he want to continue to sponsoring that bill? If not, could we literally adopt that bill and find a new sponsor? Because I do think it's really well written.

Rollie Martinson ([15:52](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Well, one thing that comes to mind is that we intentionally took a hands-off approach to really getting deeply involved with Senator Davis. Like one-on-one going off of some advice we got from Ed and others. So, I think one step would be to see if we can go ahead and get a meeting with him or his staff and eally hammer in on does he want to help us push this through next year.

Marc Burrows ([16:19](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Right? That's where I would come back to the whole R Street thing, right? I think we all know about R Street's involvement in this bill and their relationship with Senator Davis. And although I think they're great and they did an awesome job, and, you know, we love everyone over there, like nothing bad to say, but I do think one mistake maybe was not kind of routing this from within, right?

Tricia Christensen ([17:50](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I was gonna suggest exactly what you said Rollie. Take this time in the interim to get to know Senator Davis, so you guys actually have a relationship with him. And then you can ask him these questions: (1) why didn't it get taken up? (2) Is it simply that he had other priorities and this was pushed to the bottom of the pile? (3) Or maybe there was like one guy on the committee who's adamantly against SSPs, that's good information to know. Right? So it could be a range of reasons why they didn't take it up. (4) Are you passionate about this issue? (5) Would you take this on again next year? (6) Would you be fine giving it to another senator? In my experience, if another person is taking on the bill, there can be a weirdness of not wanting to step on toes. So they want to make sure the other person's okay with it. And then they'll usually give some nod to them, like, "oh, so and so had this bill in the past, and I'm just taking on the torch now". So there's all of that political stuff in the background that you have to consider.

Rollie Martinson ([18:53](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And if I remember, Davis didn't have any co-sponsors on the bill, so maybe that would be, you know, if he kept it, we could say "we also found somebody who's willing to really advocate for it and push it through".

Tricia Christensen ([19:06](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And sometimes if it's a new sponsor, then the old sponsor would be like the first co-sponsor. I remember doing that in Maryland before, but they would know all of that decorum themselves.

Rollie Martinson ([19:27](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So to me it sounded like our next step with this is getting a meeting with Davis. Amber, do you think Ed would be willing to help facilitate that?

Amber Frazier ([19:40](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, I'm sure he would do what he can.

Marc Burrows ([19:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I think he would.

Tricia Christensen ([19:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Your R Street folks might be able to help too, since they know this issue. You might wanna keep them engaged, but like yeah, try to make it clear, like, hey, we really wanna be more involved.

Rollie Martinson ([19:56](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

That's a great, I I think that'd be two next steps. I can set up a meeting with R Street and report back. I'll invite y'all to it. Talk to them, do like a postmortem of this bill and let's see if and how we can get a face to face, or at least on the phone, meeting with Senator Davis.

Amber Frazier ([20:19](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Marc, do you wanna reach out to Ed or do you want me to?

Marc Burrows ([20:25](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I can, I can ask him.

Marc Burrows ([20:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I'm kind of wondering how that would go, having a meeting with the senator, now that the bill has kind of been dropped, it's the end of the session. I'm just wondering what the reality of that is, but I guess Ed could help guide that process.

Gregory Jacobs ([21:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So I have a question. I'm sorry.

Rollie Martinson ([21:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, go ahead, Greg.

Gregory Jacobs ([21:21](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I'm not familiar with the relationship between Senator Davis and the Coalition. Would the meeting make a difference in any way in terms of next steps?

Rollie Martinson ([21:59](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

This bill surprised us. There's a group called R Street. They're a policy-like center, an advocacy group. And this is the first year they started working more in the syringe space. So they had a pre-existing relationship with Senator Davis and had reached out to him and got him to introduce this. So we were not involved, like in the introduction, the writing of this bill. We had some advice to take a hands-off approach to working directly with Senator Davis and let him push this through. So I, I think the purpose of the meeting would be to (1) ensure he knows who SCHRC is, and (2) get a feel if this is an issue he really wants to support. Sometimes legislation is introduced, even though the goal might not be to actually push it through.

Marc Burrows ([23:08](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I think just to get a face-to-face relationship with him. We've been communicating through one of our members who has an acquaintanceship with him, but not really with the coalition directly. I could see him being reluctant to have a meeting, right? Let's say he's not really interested, or it's just not a priority right now. I could imagine him and his position, not being motivated to have a meeting with us. Not saying we shouldn't try, but I think the purpose would be to get a read on him and see if he is interested in reintroducing this next year. If so, can we put our heads together and collaborate? I think that would be the goal.

Rollie Martinson ([24:21](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And I'm thinking, if he's not willing to meet with the people who actually do syringe service in the state and he is sponsoring a syringe service bill, then we will just start looking for someone else.

Marc Burrows ([24:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. The other thing I wanted to mention is, and Greg, you might have insight on this, this process that we just experienced gives us a good read on the temperature of the climate in South Carolina. Who supports it, who doesn't, who's willing to advocate, who's willing to speak up.

Tricia Christensen ([25:09](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Did you get to meet Senator Davis, like was he in the room during the bill hearing even?

Marc Burrows ([25:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, he was the one directing it all. When I testified, when Amber testified, he was the one kind of directing the questions to us, but it was in a formal hearing setting. We left right after and didn't get to speak to him.

Tricia Christensen ([25:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Say that when you reach out. Be like, "hey, we didn't actually get a chance to chat. I know the bill is probably dead for this year, but we'd really like to meet up with you after session ends, so we can talk about next year". That's your opening;

Marc Burrows ([25:55](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, I like that. Something that we need to see different for next year, f we had more time to plan and organize around this would be really pushing DHEC and DAODAS to show up. My conversation with DAODAS was that they were waiting to hear from the Governor's Office on how they were supposed to respond. And I'm guessing their direction was just don't do anything.

Gregory Jacobs ([26:54](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

You're absolutely right. You're talking about politically appointed leadership, right? That's where they're gonna take their direction from. Would it have been okay for them to say, "hey, we support the efforts that you all are putting in"? That would've been maybe okay, and not go into detail. Keep it kind of ambiguous without mentioning syringe services, which they're, which they're afraid to speak on. If we want to try to include that the next go round, I still have some contacts over there. I could try to push the needle. I've had personal conversations with people who work in that office verbally say, "yeah, syringe services are a good thing". But they're not the ones who are gonna make a difference. It's the leadership.

Rollie Martinson ([28:07](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, that's been my experience too, Gregory.

Marc Burrows ([28:32](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

An interesting thing too that's going on right now that could change all of this as far as leadership being Governor appointed, and that's where they're getting their direction, is this whole DHEC restructuring. That's gonna be rolled out this year. I don't know if DAODAS will exist or if leadership for DAODAS will be Governor appointed. So it might open up opportunities for less restriction.

Gregory Jacobs ([29:27](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

What I've been told internally is that no one will lose their current position and they will operate as a division. Now, before coming here, I worked in Maryland where they did the behavioral health marriage several years ago. And yeah, no one lost their job. But after about a year of observation and looking at redundancy, some people were actually removed from their position or put in different positions. So right now there's no telling whether they're going to remain intact or whether they're gonna be absorbed or whatever. But again, if that's how we want to move, I can still try to talk to the right people or the right person and get some support.

Rollie Martinson ([30:48](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So, Eric Bedingfield, he's no longer in the legislature, but he actually awarded about $140,000 to, to one of our coalition members that includes syringe purchases.

Tricia Christensen ([31:08](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Reach out to anyone, any of those folks at the hearing that you don't already know and get to know them. Invite them to these meetings. Maybe they want to be part of the Coalition, or at least want to stay engaged and know that you guys exist and are pushing for it. I didn't realize that Eric Bedingford was a previous legislator. That's a really good ally to have. I would bring him into those conversations for sure. If you can get him to write an op-ed or something about his support, that would be really helpful too.

Tricia Christensen ([31:48](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

What I would find, I also used to work in Maryland, Gregory, and it was a little different 'cause they did have, you know, some, some political support and they had, um, you know, authorized programming. But my job I often found was just to go to government meetings and say the words "harm reduction". I used to like count the times that I would go to a meeting, I would say the words "harm reduction", and then the health secretary would start talking about how great their harm reduction programs are. You know, so it's like, yes, they are really great and you need to be talking about it and touting it more and advocating for them. So just by putting the words out there it can help to build support.

Rollie Martinson ([32:40](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I think we'll have more success getting some official support from DHEC because they're willing to at least mention syringe programs in their materials. Like their Ending the Epidemic Conference. They have presentations on it. It's in their materials. Whereas DAODAS, you can't even find the words in their materials, their largest grant, their substance use block grant, number one service priority population is people who inject drugs. They don't even have a strategy for that.

Marc Burrows ([33:20](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Again, I just think it will be interesting to see how this whole restructuring rolls out, because I really think that could open up some opportunities. I think we can use that as a great argument or pressure.

Tricia Christensen ([34:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I wonder if Eric Bedingford would be willing to author an op-ed or something making those points. He can bring in his personal experiences. Now he is the chair of the SCORF Board. Like, we have already awarded money for X, Y, Z, this is an allowable use. It's at best practice across the nation, but in South Carolina, we're in this weird gray area. This is why we need SSPs. I would think he'd be willing to author something like that unless he was worried it was going to come back on him somehow.

Rollie Martinson ([35:34](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I think the good thing on that, politically, they have their SCORF seats secured for the next, I think five or six years. So he's not, not really up for reelection or anything. And Marc, that's a good point. You brought up the Governor's Opioid Summit. I think that'd be a chance for all of us from the Coalition that are going to get in some conversations and talk to some of the agency folks.

Marc Burrows ([36:04](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. I mean, at the end of the day, maybe I'm being too like simplistic, but that's really what it is, right? It's all just coming back to the drawing board, continuing all the work that we're doing, the advocacy, the networking, you know, opportunities for engagement and awareness education. It's like all the we do every day regardless. And that's how we've gotten to where we are now. And you really have to change that culture, make people not afraid to speak up, make people feel more comfortable. Nobody wants to be the first one to jump, right? So, once people start seeing other groups doing it...but, but maybe like a more strategic effort and then obviously a more strategic intentional effort towards a reintroducing of a bill and a sponsor. If it's going to happen, we need to be hands on in that. We can't just be like on the back end of it. So I think that would be our goal to work towards. And now we've got eight months to work on that basically.

Rollie Martinson ([37:22](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Marc is going to send an email to Ed to see if we can get in touch with Senator Davis. I'll reach out to R Street.

Rollie Martinson ([37:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The other thing that we are going to talk about today is, or the last few times is identifying another priority area to work on. One thing that came up last time was the drug induced homicide bill. So, I did some research this morning, because there are four different bills that are related to drug induced homicide. There's fentanyl induced homicide, they're all similar, but slightly different. Only one of those had any movement this year. Senate bill 586, it's pending in the judiciary subcommittee. So it looks like it's not gonna go through this year.

Rollie Martinson ([38:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And another thing that we had talked about that goes along with the drug induced homicide bill would be expanding Good Sam [the Good Samaritan Law]. And a third thing that I just looked at today when I was doing some keyword searches in legislature, is that there are two Kratom bills that had movement this year. One of those, House bill 3742, would make Kratom a Schedule 4 substance. Right now in South Carolina, Kratom can be bought online, it can be bought in stores. If you aren't familiar with Kratom, it's opioids. It usually comes from a plant related to the coffee plant, usually comes in a pill or a powder. A lot of folks use it to manage opioid withdrawal symptoms, or even similar to using it like methadone, like as a maintenance medication or even like recreational.

Rollie Martinson ([39:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

What I found interesting though, at the same time that this bill's going through, is there's one in the House that's directly opposing it. That would regulate the sale of Kratom, which in my opinion, is the direction that most of our drug policy should go. That would provide some oversight and regulation. Right now there's no standards on what's being sold or what's actually in the products. Bringing in another issue or so in the next year would bea way to maintain momentum with the Coalition.

Amber Frazier ([40:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. What is it, American Cred Association? Has anybody talked to them?

Rollie Martinson ([40:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

No, I haven't reached out to them. I know they've been very active in other states.

Marc Burrows ([40:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I'd also like to see about CBD, you know, all that stuff that's going on. I wonder if that's an area for us to work in? The CBD, Delta8, all these head shops getting busted and shut down and stuff. If nothing else, it would be nice for the Coalition to be clear on what the laws actually are and more educated on all that.

Rollie Martinson ([41:20](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. So if anyone's not in the loop, um, there's been several seizures of legal cannabinoids. So Delta 8/Delta 9 is illegal federally because of the Hemp Farm Bill. Some law enforcement, especially in Greenville County, have taken the stance that it is illegal. I know right now in Greenville, several of the hemp dispensaries are trying to work out legal strategy and may be coming together. Our SC Attorney General did have an opinion last year that contradicts federal law too, in regards to the Hemp Farm Bill. So, I think all these would be a way for us to generally frame drug policy versus prohibiting. So that's the direction, in my opinion, I'd like to see us move towards; regulation versus not having anything. I know some people in the harm reduction space don't really want regulation, but I think that's a more realistic step for us.

Marc Burrows ([42:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. I'm with that. Well, you're right. Maybe it's just opportunity for baby steps, right? Like, like you said, reframing of these policies. Even if it's just via social media, or via our other collaborative community partners and our networks. ? Because they don't really know, most of these groups we work with, they think all this stuff is a good thing. They think we should criminalize Kratom and we should remove all the CBD stuff. I think that's an opportunity for us to provide education and advocacy as to why those bills can be problematic and why that approach in general can be problematic. I think there's like an opportunity there for us to provide that education in the state.

Rollie Martinson ([43:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. And I kind of see the Kratom bills, and what's going on with CBD and the cannabinoids, there aren't any bills up to regulate it. Where I know other states have regulated it, so folks who are using those legal cannabinoids can know there's not pesticides in it. Right now it's just completely the wild, wild west out there with what you could buy in the gas station.

Marc Burrows ([44:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Right? So yeah, maybe we can do a better job, kind of like a social media campaign.

Rollie Martinson ([44:17](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. We'll, we'll bring it up again. I like those two areas. We'll bring it up again with the Board and maybe at the next PAC committee. But if y'all are good with it, I might start working on some creative social media.

Amber Frazier ([44:32](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

And address the Good Samaritan Law too. It's very vague. How do we get law enforcement to partner with this law?

Rollie Martinson ([44:57](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. You know, I think a lot of folks aren't aware of how weak our Good Samaritan Laws are. People only look at the law that has the Good Samaritan info in it, but there are are other pieces that completely override it. For example, that's where we get our limits on these protections only apply to one gram or less of cocaine, one gram or less of methamphetamine. So, I like that idea too, Amber. that might be something you and I could partner with together as a side project. I've been working with a group in North Carolina who's trying to expand their Good Samaritan law in reaction mostly to their drug induced homicide bills that have been enacted there.

Rollie Martinson ([46:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I see value even in just writing up and really educating what the protections are in South Carolina. I haven't seen many places that have a nice summary of what the limitations are in South Carolina. And we can spread to our networks that are doing overdose prevention and Naloxone trainings.

Marc Burrows ([46:53](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

We've got a participant of Challenges Inc. who was wrapped up in that large state grand jury indictment a couple months ago. It made like big headlines in the upstate. The Attorney General, Alan Wilson was there for the press conference. So the state prosecutor, Creighton Waters, he's involved in this. It was a big publicity/press conference thing. Press conference thing. The name of the indictment was "The Devil in Disguise", and it was all about bringing down fentanyl dealers. So anyways, one of our longtime participants got wrapped up in that and is being charged with murder from a fentanyl overdose.

Marc Burrows ([48:06](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

So, they're not calling it drug induced homicide. They gave him murder and conspiracy to commit murder. They're giving him 30 years to life, or that's the proposed sentence. So, you know, we're trying to help this guy however we can. It's not been easy. I've been visiting him in jail. We put some money on his books so he could get some commissary. I've been communicating with him just for emotional support and then mostly I've been trying to find attorneys that would represent him, which obviously when you don't have any money is a really hard task. And that's kind of why I'm proposing it to this group:, can we as a group support this guy?

Marc Burrows ([48:59](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I've reached out to just about every legal advocacy group in the state. None of them seem to handle individual cases. Even the ACLU doesn't handle this type of thing. My most recent contact was a national, famous activist out of NY who helps people who were wrongly convicted. I'm waiting on a response from him, but I'm basically trying every lead. I know I've contacted the South Carolina Public Defender's office and free legal representation. None of it's done anything. I'm just trying to help this guy. I was trying to find someone who had a personal interest in the drug induced homicide stuff, who wanted to push back on those laws, and that's been a hard task.

Amber Frazier ([50:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I may know somebody here in Columbia, somebody that we use for some of our participants. I'll reach out and see. I don't know if he can, but also Ed, you know, he has his Joyful Justice thing.

Marc Burrows ([50:29](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah. I could try Ed. I think Ed's thing is just for attorneys.

Amber Frazier ([50:37](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, but it might be a platform where they all kind of get together and someone might be on board.

Marc Burrows ([50:49](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah, that's true. I see Rachel's comment, I have not reached out to Disability Rights South Carolina. I could try that.

Rollie Martinson ([51:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Seems like the issue with a lot of the legal groups I tried reaching out to is they don't want to touch criminal cases. Only civil.

Marc Burrows ([51:23](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yeah.

Rollie Martinson ([51:25](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

This would be a big case for someone that they took up because there are multiple people with murder charges for distributing fentanyl, which also makes me wonder. I think the purpose of the drug induced homicide law is to make it easier for murder charges to stick. Our grand juries are already show willingness to prosecute people for murder charges for distributing drugs. So I think the purpose of the drug induced homicide law is to make it easier for that charge to stick.

Marc Burrows ([51:57](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

With Challenges Inc., with him being our participant, if we were given the opportunity to have a role in his defense, would be to advocate on his behalf tha he has personally reversed dozens of overdoses for the years that he was getting our services. He distributed hundreds of doses of Naloxone, is responsible for reversing overdoses. We would advocate in that way, that this doesn't make sense for his character. They're trying to say that he sold Fentanyl to this girl, was getting high with her, and then left her in a bathroom to overdose. His side of the story is, is he never sold drugs to her. He only dealt with her boyfriend and the bathroom story is not true. But I can account for him receiving Naloxone over the years, distributing that Naloxone, and things like that. It's been an interesting process just seeing like how little resources there are. If you Google it, a ton of stuff comes up, but none handle criminal cases or even personal legal matters. It's more just reentry stuff.

Rollie Martinson ([53:55](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I looked on the pro bono site and you can see the applications, and it's a lot of the legal groups applying to the pro bono association.

Tricia Christensen ([54:07](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Marc, did you reach out to like Leo Ky and those national law people?

Marc Burrows ([54:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Is he out of the northeast?

Tricia Christensen ([54:17](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

He's out of Temple University.

Marc Burrows ([54:21](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yes, I think so. I think I did just talk to him.

Tricia Christensen ([54:26](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

I don't think that they have the resources yet, unfortunately, but they're trying to build up this idea of harm reduction legal support. He recently sent an email that was asking essentially for legal professionals to add themselves to a database they are creating to that end.

Marc Burrows ([54:55](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

He and I did talk. He was great. He was actually the only person that was the most helpful so far.

Tricia Christensen ([55:06](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

He's a helpful person for anything legislative advocacy-related. FYI, for the future.

Marc Burrows ([55:13](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

He connected us to this professor at USC in Columbia who works around a lot of legal people. So he's been trying to help. He gave me some esources, but those didn't pan out.

Amber Frazier ([55:47](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Something else that came to mind is the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative. They have a focus on reducing harm within the justice system. And speaking about PAAR, there's about to be a meeting at one o'clock with a focus in South Carolina South.

Rollie Martinson ([56:19](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

That's where the Power Collective started. That was when we were trying to do that turn in your drugs thing with the police.

Amber Frazier ([56:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

They, they do have some diversion programs and it's ex law enforcement, um, and they do education for law enforcement about different things and fentanyl exposure and stuff like that, drug trends. They work inside state agencies.

Marc Burrows ([57:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Are you going to that meeting right now?

Amber Frazier ([57:14](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Yes.

Marc Burrows ([57:15](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Okay.

Rollie Martinson ([57:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

The only last thing I had, random announcemen. Next week our Coalition will start recruiting sites for Save a Life Day. So start spreading the word. I know, Amber, you brought in a lot of folks last year. I'm gonna reach out to someone I know at DHEC see if they maybe want do it at, at their health departments.

Marc Burrows ([57:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

Eager to hear more about that. People have been asking us questions.

Rollie Martinson ([57:51](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/QBefn1WtFYzPiazHRllK1hObix1IzK3U0Af4qP6ghm17uDQtsk49YhUQ7fyTTeY1YU00I4jEYFaoN99msqZ6N46CHs0?loadFrom=DocumentDeeplink)):

By next week I'll get it all written up and sent out so we can start sharing it.