

From: [Dedicated Outreach & Prevention Education Services](#)
To: [Apodaca, Sheila, DOH; shiela.apodaca@state.nm.us](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 7.4.6 Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022 10:54:12 AM

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Greetings from D.O.P.E. Services,

We are a local NMDOH Harm Reduction contracted service provider. Our organization would like to show strong support for the new changes to the harm reduction regulations here in New Mexico. Our state has had the opportunity to promote harm reduction practices within our communities for quite some time, making us not only an example but a leader in harm reduction practice in the United States. We are proud to be a service provider as new resources become available and restrictions decrease. Individuals engaging in risky behaviors need the opportunity to stay safe during times of such struggle. As our technologies progress, we are given the chance to make decisions for our communities that are alternative to standard practice in order to maintain that safety. Our community members are dying in record numbers. This is not only due to overdose, we are also seeing wound care, non-traditional housing, gun violence, nutrition and pandemic induced issues that are adding to the barriers we encounter every day. Current substance use trends are changing rapidly and we have been successful in responding to the trendz because we have been so progressive in the past. Although we have compelling data on overdose death, we don't always recognize how successful our harm reduction programs have been at saving lives and maintaining opportunities for community members to stay safe.

We are urging you to make these necessary changes so that we can not only be appropriately reactive, but more proactive as a state. Keeping people safe is our priority, not judging their decisions and behaviors. Please make these changes a reality so that we have all the tools we need to promote the safety, personal health and well-being of all NM residents no matter what risks they are engaging in.

Thank you for your consideration,

D.O.P.E. Services

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