

2022 Harm Reduction Conference

Friday, May 20th, 2022 | 9am – 4pm

\$35 | 6 CECs

We are currently facing a national and state-wide opioid crisis which demands enhanced treatment services, recovery supports, and prevention initiatives. Despite increased availability of these systems and interventions, there are still many individuals affected for whom traditional services have not worked and harm reduction becomes an alternative.

This state-wide conference will bring together experts in the field of addiction and substance use to discuss approaches to reduce risk for those who struggle with an opioid use disorder.

Click here for
On-Site
Registration

Click here for
Virtual
Registration

Presenters



Mishka Terplan, MD, MPH,
FACOG, DFASAM



Elizabeth J. Evans, BScN, MEd



Kimberly Sue, MD, PhD

Workshop Descriptions

Stigma and Scapegoat: The Opioid in History and Health

Mishka Terplan, MD, will review the history of opioids in health and literature from the Ancient Greek through to modern pharma. Participants will learn how the concept of stigma perpetuates inequity and begin to understand population health approaches that do less harm.

Community Harm Reduction Panel

Learn about various harm reduction efforts in local Connecticut Communities. Hear from local experts about barriers to treatment and how to overcome them in your organizations.

Supervised Injection - Lessons from the front lines of the first legally sanctioned injection site in North America

Liz will present the story of opening the first legally sanctioned safe injection site in North America; Insite. She will describe the historical context alongside the strategies required to open the site including public education, advocacy and the four pillars policy framework.

She will describe the legal and court battles that took place between the Federal government of Canada and the program operator, alongside two brave program participants. Key research findings will be presented in tandem with a description of the implementation and design of the model, and its outcomes.

Addressing Stigma in Harm Reduction & Treatment

This keynote talk will address the role of stigma in current American approaches to substance use both generally and across the harm reduction and treatment landscape. With over 100,000 overdose deaths in the past 12 months, the United States is seeing unprecedented suffering and harm. Key aspects of this lecture will include social science theoretical frameworks such as structural violence, structural racism, and other important variables such as gender and age, that affect the lived experiences of people who use drugs and their engagement in care systems.

Conference Schedule

On-Site: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Bristol, CT

Virtual: Zoom

9:00 – 10:45am: Stigma and Scapegoat: The Opioid in History and Health, Mishka Terplan, PhD (lecture)

10:45 – 11:00am: Break

11:00am – 12:00pm: Community Harm Reduction Panel, moderated by Maria Coutant Skinner, LCSW

12:00 – 1:00pm: Lunch

1:00 – 2:15pm: Supervised Injection – Lessons from the front lines of the first legally sanctioned injection site in North America, Elizabeth J. Evans, BScN, Med

2:15 – 2:30pm: Break

2:30 – 4:00pm: Addressing Stigma in Harm Reduction & Treatment