



Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

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May 13, 2022

The Honorable Madeleine Dean  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dean:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Becerra in which you recommend the establishment of an interagency Federal Task Force to develop and lead a public-private partnership that can address the myriad of complex issues associated with the anticipated approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) for the treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and psilocybin for the treatment of depression within approximately 24 months. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) was asked to respond on the Secretary's behalf.

SAMHSA agrees that too many Americans are suffering from mental health and substance use issues, which have been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and that we must explore the potential of psychedelic-assisted therapies to address this crisis. SAMHSA also agrees that the use of psychedelic medicines will require a broad-spectrum interdisciplinary stakeholder approach to effectively tackle the complexity of issues that stakeholders anticipate will arise with their introduction.

SAMHSA, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary for Health, is exploring the prospect of establishing a Federal Task Force to monitor and address the numerous complex issues associated with emerging substances. The Task Force may establish and oversee the functions of a public-private partnership that can broadly focus on addressing numerous complex issues associated with psychedelic (psilocybin) and entactogenic (MDMA) medicines but whose risks to public health may require harm reduction, risk mitigation, and safety monitoring. Collaboration across federal agencies with outside stakeholders will be the most effective way to ensure we are thoughtfully coordinating work on emerging substances such as MDMA and psilocybin.

Thank you for taking the time to elevate this important issue.

Sincerely,

Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon  
Assistant Secretary for Mental Health  
and Substance Use