

KURT L. WHITE, LICSW, LADC
BRATTLEBORO RETREAT

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TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF PSYCHEDELIC THERAPIES

Psychedelic psychotherapies have the greatest transformative potential the mental health field has seen in many decades – I believe it will be a great leap forward in the field – not a panacea but a once-in-a-generation leap

They have the immediate and available potential to help individuals with some of the most complex mental health conditions that exist: depression, trauma-related symptoms, substance use disorders, cigarette smoking

We have an opportunity as a State to do this *right*, to make a difference here, and with science and experts guiding us

Prohibition does not prevent use – as has been demonstrated

While no substance is without some risk, the overall risks of psilocybin is considered by experts to be very low, significantly lower than many commonly used and legal substances

Risk of addiction/compulsive use is also very low – as a substance, it works very differently than those that affect the dopamine pathways in the brain

SUMMARY

- Fully support S114
- Request for Brattleboro Retreat representative to be a part of the Therapeutic Advisory Working Group
- Urge the committee and legislature to act quickly on this issue, as Vermonters do need help and these drugs have real promise for some; delay may cause harms as people will use substances without any guidance or clinical oversight from professionals