

# April 3rd SURSAC Meeting

Washington State Health Care Authority  
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery  
(DBHR)

# How do I "Menti"?

To interact in this activity:

1. Open any web browser from any item (Phone, computer, etc)
2. Go to [www.menti.com](http://www.menti.com)
3. Type in the code at the top of your screen
4. Be ready! Your screen will change as we change the screen:)



# What does "public safety" mean in this context? What comes to mind?

44 Answers

Crime. Safety of person and property

I am the public and deserve to feel/be safe

Prevention of physical harm

maintaining the emotional and physical safety of the general population and property

buses, handicap ramps, police,

educating the public to respond with empathy and understanding instead of anger

Crime - person and property

Having a community that is free from harm and feels safe to work, play and recreate for myself and community members.

infectious disease prevention



# What does “public safety” mean in this context? What comes to mind?

44 Answers

Safety of family

equal ability to engage with societal activities

Feel safe when out in public.

no one is safe until we are all safe

Everyone everywhere has the right to feel safe.

avoidance of death

A basic human right

Safety from victimization either major or minor that interferes with everyday life

hospitals



# What does “public safety” mean in this context? What comes to mind?

44 Answers

Protection from crime or the potential for crime

safe needle handling

shelters

Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement, Maintenance and management of confinement facilities and community outreach to at risk communities

unity

Addressing the visible nature of current and problematic substance use by offering alternatives to criminal justice approaches and having appropriate resources and care for all individuals.

Not being scared to be in public

avoidance of assault and manipulation

Working to develop safest and best outcomes for the individual in balance with what is best for our community.



# What does "public safety" mean in this context? What comes to mind?

44 Answers

The capacity to live in a community where all individuals life, liberty, property, needs, and welfare are prioritized by protecting all from crime, exploitation, and the potential of crime.

Kids don't have to be traumatized by going to the park

Reducing public stigma

Public Spaces that are welcoming and available for every class of citizen

feeling of belonging in public, free from harassment

Acceptance ..... NO negative stigma NO judgement

From a constitutional perspective, every US citizen has the right to be physically safe and this can extend to comfortability at a mental level.

Practical Public space solutions like more public bathrooms and safe use sites and shelters instead of gentrification projects

De-escalation on a national scale, teaching this skill to the masses



# What does “public safety” mean in this context? What comes to mind?

44 Answers

Family safety in public

policy change

harm reduction

EVERYone have the ability to feel and be safe. People have autonomy. Services adequate to care for all people so that they have the the basic necessities of life.

Identifying ways to ensure public safety without dehumanizing anyone

safe supply

harm reduction

leave the blake decision as is



# What should be the objective of this public safety conversation?

34 Answers

Peaceful resolutions to community concerns

Education

inform policy

Awareness

Reduce stigma through education and peoples lived experience.

Protecting people from harm.

share with local governments

To facilitate community education

Myth busting





# What should be the objective of this public safety conversation?

34 Answers

Finding a solution that keeps every citizen safe, not just taxpayers but not excluding them either

Less polarization. Finding common goals and understanding.

actionable items to reduce stigma, barriers, and criminalization

educating law enforcement and local public health

Identifying the gatekeepers

identifying ways to ensure safety without dehumanizing people

learning how to balance individual rights for people who use drugs with safety concerns of the general public and get clearer on the evidence-based link between drug use and public safety

We need to reach a middle ground in which citizens including families, students, and visitors feel safe leaving the safety of their homes - while our homeless population also feels safe with each other

To identify things that are working and things that are not so as to begin to work for improvement.



# What should be the objective of this public safety conversation?

34 Answers

Public safety can align with harm reduction.

Education on current policies and existing options and creatively thinking about alternatives

Alternatives to sweeps, encampment clean-ups and other methods that "address" visible drug use but cause worse outcomes for individuals

evidence-based public safety practices. interventions that have increased public safety, like syringe service programs and safe smoking

Stop throwing money at gentrification projects and start allocating resources practically

Finding solutions that support ALL Washingtonians' to experience a sense of safety in their community. This should be done by hearing all perspectives and working for compromises while centering DEI

I would like to see a conversation on how stigma creates barriers to people feeling safe in their community either to get by or to ask for help.

Balancing what is best for the community with personal rights, including those that are often marginalized.

Consensus of people across different geographical, societal communities and beneficial to all people



# What should be the objective of this public safety conversation?

34 Answers

To develop informed public policy that addresses public safety issues in a manner that balances public concerns with an intelligent and humane approach based on sound public health practices

We have been discussing harm reduction practices, we should have some rules in place that also prevent high degrees of public intoxication and littered drug paraphernalia.

Belonging

How can we clean up our streets and public spaces without harming anyone?

finding a balance between compassion and personal accountability

Safe consumption centers would prevent "high degrees of public intoxication and littered drug paraphernalia"

Regulations for substance use on transit services.



# What specific aspects of the intersection of substance use and public safety do you want to cover?

Business

Workforce development topics

Diversion from jail, therapeutic courts, alternatives to prison

Homeless advocates

Homeless

How to support public safety by ensuring adequate services for first responders and outreach to refer/divert people to. e.g. many/most police would like take people to a 24/7 health engagement hub...

Stigma and general public education

Law enforcement

What answers can we give the public when they ask for their parks/streets to be "cleaned up"?

# What specific aspects of the intersection of substance use and public safety do you want to cover?

instead of jail IF it were available and they learned about successes.

jail alternatives

How best to assure that individuals who need services are able to engage them with a minimum of governmental coercion

Flow charts. Options.

The understanding of how to keep the visual usage minimized in public.

Lack of facilities for detox, treatment

how can we support clean safe community without criminalizing or otherwise harming homeless and drug using populations

how we can improve safety for people who use drugs while also increasing safety for the general public - it's all connected, e.g. increase housing, safe supplies, safe spaces in general

Equitable access to treatment and recovery support services (housing, workforce, childcare, etc) across the state



# What specific aspects of the intersection of substance use and public safety do you want to cover?

39 Answers

access to services

lack of places people can simply be, especially if experiencing homelessness

Parents and family groups

Diversity of services that cater to different demographics

considering safe places for use - alternatives to street use

Schools

Safe using sights.

equitable access to a complete continuum of care for ALL Washingtonians

Diversion from Criminal Justice system, harm reduction, protection of the public from substance abuse related property crime, re-entry from confinement to work force



# What specific aspects of the intersection of substance use and public safety do you want to cover?

39 Answers

regulation of substance use on transportation/transit services.

access to treatment/MOUD for youthy

Crime victim advocates

Help communicate the positive aspects of change in an individuals life who has support and how communities are safer when individuals are supported.

Public Bathrooms

Rural

Education and awareness of services so that you tell someone easily how to get help

BIPOC

No wrong door

# What specific aspects of the intersection of substance use and public safety do you want to cover?

39 Answers

Community testing

Creating services that meet people where they are at

Getting to the root causes of SUD





# What models of addressing public safety concerns around SUD would you like see implemented, considered, or studied in our state?

39 Answers

Housing First

De-escalation

24- hour health hubs

Peer Support

Access to foundational community supports

Safe consumption sites

Drug User Health Hubs

housing first!! safe spaces for supervised use, overdose prevention, safe supplies

Freestanding crisis centers



# What models of addressing public safety concerns around SUD would you like see implemented, considered, or studied in our state?

39 Answers

Diversion-RNP-Health engagement hubs-Supportive housinglet's do ALL of it and evaluate it

Recovery Navigators

Harm Reduction

equitable access to treatment

Large scale survey pertaining to residents - questions addressing how safe individuals feels, and more importantly their knowledge of what harm reduction is.

Co-responder, CAHOOTS

Treatment capacity increased

Withdrawal Management

Trauma informed care, de-escalation techniques. Crisis intervention training.



# What models of addressing public safety concerns around SUD would you like see implemented, considered, or studied in our state?

39 Answers

Sequential Intercept Model

Ease of access for services in each community

Therapeutic courts with regard to level of crime (both misdemeanor and felony), diversionary outcomes, address transportation (lack of) in rural communities for treatment and treatment related activities

That one day we will have a facility that is open 24 hours a day that when an individual makes the decision to be in Recovery they have immediate access and what it would take to have this happen.

Stigma reduction campaigns

Family treatment services

Immediately accessible housing and safe use sites

MOUD treatment given via EMS

Let's also stop saying recent state legal changes are failures, when their design is the failure, not the underlying premise e.g. decrim + diversion + services



# What models of addressing public safety concerns around SUD would you like see implemented, considered, or studied in our state?

39 Answers

Simplify the SUD assessment, Tx admission process

Prevention

law enforcement accountability to engage individuals in services

Early intervention

Access to services while incarcerated

Prevention efforts with both adults and youth

More publicly advertised volunteer opportunities.

Expand Oxford and other homes

Criminal record expungement



# What models of addressing public safety concerns around SUD would you like see implemented, considered, or studied in our state?

39 Answers

Better re-entry services for people exiting jail, or institutions

inclusion of non-traditional tx options...horticulture...equarian etc

criminologists, people who use drugs and have navigated the WA treatment landscape, addiction experts



# Assuming we continue the discussion in May, which specific topics or perspectives do you want to include in the discussion?

46 Answers

law enforcement

public health departments

Housing First

Harm Reduction

Individuals engaged with addiction, those in the early stages of recovery, and those with extended recovery

local government officials

Other states doing similar work with different approaches

Increased funding for law enforcement

How best to engage individuals in services as early in the process as possible

# Assuming we continue the discussion in May, which specific topics or perspectives do you want to include in the discussion?

46 Answers

Victims of crime. Property owners.

How we continue to balance public safety with individuals rights

RNP staff

Law enforcement perspectives - what are the barriers to public safety as they see it?

utilization of navigators

medical staff

Local elected officials

Business

businesses

# Assuming we continue the discussion in May, which specific topics or perspectives do you want to include in the discussion?

46 Answers

Access to Recovery Services that support folks on MAT

Medications while incarcerated

people with lived experience

fire fighters working in Pioneer Square have extensive first hand knowledge of the real world of people's lives AND the system barriers that perpetuate the tragic status quo

criminologists

This can't really be done by a policy but I think more of our legislators need to be exposed to the environments apropos to substance use disorder and homelessness, this may improve their policies.

Alternatives to CJ response

Churches

people who use drugs and who have navigated the treatment landscape in WA





# Assuming we continue the discussion in May, which specific topics or perspectives do you want to include in the discussion?

46 Answers

EMTs

diversion programs

community members with concerns to learn more about what is being worked on by groups like this

First Responders

People who have experienced homelessness and substance use

Public transportation

safe consumption sites - e.g. the ones in New York

Start asking people who have long term recovery what worked for them. We may learn how to help more people get there

Individuals whom would have benefited from the RNP program before it was introduced that struggled in finding support



# Assuming we continue the discussion in May, which specific topics or perspectives do you want to include in the discussion?

46 Answers

diversion programs, programs that have demonstrated ability to improve public safety

Family members

Shortage of adequate housing for all stages of addiction/recovery

Employers

Adolescent treatment providers of MOUD

How can we fill the gaps in the continuum of care that people in rural communities keep falling through?

Anyone that can bring equity to the table

What is already working that we can expound on?

Don't discount the value of Mutual Aid



Assuming we continue the discussion in May, which specific topics or perspectives do you want to include in the discussion?

46 Answers

I want to hear about the needs of law enforcement and prosecutors engage them into this conversation



# Thank you!

Washington State Health Care Authority  
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR)

