

## State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan

### Background

In 2008, the Department of Health convened an Unintentional Poisoning Workgroup to address the alarming increase in overdose deaths involving prescription opioids. Several years later when overdose deaths related to heroin increased, the department expanded the focus of the group to include overdose deaths related to any type of opioid and changed the name of the workgroup to the Opioid Response Workgroup.

In 2015, the Opioid Response Workgroup, now comprised of multiple state agencies, healthcare organizations, academic institutions and other vital stakeholders, worked to develop a comprehensive statewide opioid response plan. On September 30, 2016, Governor Jay Inslee signed [Executive Order 16-09, Addressing the Opioid Use Public Health Crisis](#), formally directing state agencies to implement key elements of the Washington State Opioid Response Plan. This order led to the creation of the State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan, with current executive sponsorships shared between the Health Care Authority and the Department of Health.

The SOORP serves as the collaborative framework by which the State facilitates consensus building, community engagement, planning, and implementation related to opioid related funding. Currently this work has focused on opioid settlements. Lessons learned during the opioid settlement recommendation process have informed process and plan updates for the SOORP that are currently under way.

### Plan goals

**Goal 1** – Prevent Opioid Misuse

**Goal 2** – Identify and Treat Opioid

**Goal 3** – Ensure and improve the health and wellness of individuals who use opioids and other drugs

**Goal 4** - Use data and information to detect opioid misuse/abuse, monitor morbidity and mortality, and evaluate interventions.

**Goal 5** – Support individuals in recovery

### Coordination and implementation

The executive sponsors for this plan are responsible for approving and overseeing the implementation of the plan. They include:

- Charissa Fotinos M.D. – State Medicaid Director (HCA)
- Tao Kwan-Gett M.D. – State Science Officer (DOH)
- Teesha Kirschbaum – DBHR Director (HCA)
- Lacey Fehrenbach – Chief of Prevention (DOH)

The executive sponsors convene for monthly strategic meetings to support ongoing plan implementation and guidance that are facilitated by the State Opioid Administrator. Nine workgroups have been established to coordinate the ongoing actions and activities of the five goals of the plan and provide input on plan updates. Workgroups meet regularly to assess progress and identify emerging issues that require new actions.

The State Opioid Administrator coordinates Bi-monthly Opioid Response Learning Community meetings. These meetings bring together all stakeholders who are working together on the opioid crisis to discuss policy, opioid trends, state and local planning, and opioid response implementation updates. These meetings are open to the public. For more information on these meetings as well as access to previous meeting material please [visit the State Opioid and Overdose Response Learning Community Series webpage](#).

### Workgroups

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Criminal Legal System Opioid & Overdose
- Pregnant, Parenting, and Families with Children
- Health and Wellness for People who Use Drugs
- Recovery Support Services
- Data Collection and Evaluation

- American Indian/Alaskan Native Workgroup
- Communications
- National Opioid Abatement Trust Subcommittee

### For more information

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