

State Opioid and 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.

In 2019, funded by SAMHSA award State Opioid Response dollars, the Health Care Authority has taken lead in the coordination of the plan through the State Opioid Coordinator. The Health Care Authority continues to work with a broad group of stakeholders across the state to provide updates, examine changing scientific evidence, implement new policies passed by the legislature, and develop new activities supported by state and federal funding to address the opioid crisis.

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 (HCA)

- Michael Langer (HCA DBHR)
- Caleb Banta-Green (UW ADAI)

The executive sponsors convene strategic meetings for ongoing plan implementation and guidance. The State Opioid Coordinator convenes monthly interagency opioid planning meetings to conduct long term planning and share information among partners. Seven workgroups work to coordinate action steps under each of the five goals of the plan. Workgroups meet regularly to assess progress and identify emerging issues that require new actions.

The State Opioid Coordinator also coordinates Bi-monthly Opioid Response Workgroup meetings. These meetings bring together all stakeholders who are working together on the opioid crisis to discuss planning and implementation. These meetings are open to the public. For more information on these meetings, past meeting materials or to review the **2021** plan please visit HCA's [State Opioid and Overdose Response plan website](#).

Workgroups

- Prevention Workgroup (Goal 1)
- Treatment Workgroup (Goal 2)
- Criminal Justice Opioid Workgroup (CJOW) (Goal 2)
- Pregnant and Parenting Women Workgroup (Goal 2)
- Morbidity and Mortality Workgroup (Goal 3)
- Data Workgroup (Goal 4)
- American Indian/Alaskan Native Workgroup

For more information:

Kris Shera, State Opioid Coordinator
Health Care Authority's Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
kris.shera@hca.wa.gov