

## Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee (SURSAC)

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### Overview

The Washington Health Care Authority (HCA) has established a committee to consult and collaborate with HCA to write and implement the Substance Use Recovery (SURS) Plan and provide guidance related to the Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) (RCW 71.24.115), as directed by ESB 5476 (passed during the 2021 legislative session), Section 1.

### SURSAC programming

#### Recommendations to HCA for the Substance Use Recovery Services (SURS) Plan

In 2022, the SURSAC provided recommendations to HCA for the SURS Plan. Within these recommendations were measures to assist persons with substance use disorder (SUD) in accessing outreach, treatment, and recovery support services that are low-barrier, person-centered, informed by people with lived experience, and culturally and linguistically appropriate. The SURS Plan was submitted to the governor's office in January 2023 for consideration during the 2023 legislative session. 2E2SSB 5536, passed in the 2023 legislative session, directed or expanded upon several programs and initiatives outlined in the SURS Plan.

In the 2023 session, the legislature also directed the formation of the Safe Supply Workgroup and the Substance Use Disorder Intake, Screening, and Assessment (SUDISA) Workgroup as a result of recommendations made in the SURS Plan. Recommendations from those workgroups are forthcoming for consideration in the 2025 legislative session.

[Read the Substance Use Recovery Services Plan](#)

#### Safe Supply Work Group (SSWG)

The primary objective of SSWG is to conduct a comprehensive analysis and assessment of the current situation and develop recommendations as

to how a safe supply model could be implemented in Washington State. The work group was staked with providing a preliminary report and recommendations to the governor and the relevant legislative committees no later than December 1, 2023.

[Read the Safe Supply Workgroup preliminary report](#)

A final report is expected to be submitted by December 1, 2024, encompassing the work group's conclusive findings and recommendations.

[Find the 2024 Safe Supply Report and Digest on the HCA Legislative Reports webpage](#)

#### Substance Use Disorder Intake, Screening, and Assessment (SUDISA)

The goal of the SUDISA workgroup is to provide specific, actionable, state-level, and evidence-based recommendations to the Washington State Legislature which aim to:

- Broaden the workforce capable of administering SUD assessments.
- Make the assessment process as brief, low-barrier, and person-centered as possible—including only what is necessary to manage utilization and initiate care.
- Achieve any additional goals as identified by the work group members.

[View the SUDISA webpage](#)

[Find the 2024 SUDISA Legislative Report on the HCA Legislative Reports webpage](#)

#### SURS Plan implementation oversight

In consultation with the SURSAC, HCA must submit a report on the implementation of the SURS Plan to the legislature and governor by Dec. 1 each year from 2023 through 2026. The report must include progress made on the substance use disorder continuum of care, including statewide availability of outreach, treatment, and recovery support services.

[Read the annual Substance Use Recovery Services Progress Reports on the HCA Legislative Reports webpage](#)

## Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) quarterly report review and oversight

Each RNP must submit quarterly reports to HCA with information previously identified by HCA and the SURSAC. Quarterly RNP reports must be provided to the SURSAC for discussion at meetings following their submission to HCA.

### SURSAC members

The legislature required HCA to include a range of behavioral health professionals and individuals with lived experience related to substance use, as outlined in RCW 71.24.546. Areas of representation, the names of the selected members, and the county where each member resides can be found in the SURSAC roster.

[View the SURSAC roster](#)

### Authority

[RCW 71.24.546](#) authorizes the SURSAC to provide consultation to HCA related to the SURS Plan and annual implementation reports

[RCW 71.24.115](#) authorizes the SURSAC to receive RNP quarterly reports and provide consultation to HCA related to RNP

### Oversight

#### Internal

Administrative support and oversight for the SURSAC is provided through the Criminal Legal Systems and Blake Programs Unit within the Adult SUD Section of DBHR. DBHR collaborates with partner units in HCA, Clinical Quality Care and Transformation, Office of Tribal Affairs, and Medicaid Programs Division.

#### External

SURSAC meetings are subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. All meetings are recorded and posted to the HCA website and streamed live on TVW.org.

### For more information

Contact: [HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov](mailto:HCADBHRInformation@hca.wa.gov)

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Website: [Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee \(SURSAC\) | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)

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