

Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

May 6, 2024, 9:00-11:00 PST

Meeting Recording: [Substance Abuse Recovery Services Advisory Committee - YouTube](#)

HCA Executive & Administrative Support

<input type="checkbox"/>	Jason McGill, Executive Co-Sponsor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Walton, Section Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Downs, Admin Assistant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelley Sandaker, SURSAC Administrator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Melfi-Klein, Unit Supervisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Sheehan, BH Program Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Martinez, Project Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brianna Peterson, Plan Writer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Candela, Health Services Consultant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blake Ellison, Meeting Facilitator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hailee Fuller, Admin Assistant		

Committee Members (28)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Langer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amber Cope	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donnell Tanksley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber Leaders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brandie Flood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Malika Lamont
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sen. Manka Dhingra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stormy Howell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Addy Adwell
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sen. John Braun	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chad Enright	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Ballard
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Lauren Davis	<input type="checkbox"/>	John Hayden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hunter Mckim
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Dan Griffey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Niki Lewis		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Banta-Green	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sherri Candelario		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don Julian Saucier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Tillett		Alternates / Optional Attendees:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Mire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Lynch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Jamila Taylor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexie Orr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Gillard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Gina Mosbrucker

Meeting Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- ScalaNW Overview Slide Deck
- SUDISA/Safe Supply Work Group (SSWG) SURSAC Updates Slide Deck
- SURSAC/Health Engagement Hubs (HEH) SURSAC Updates Slide Deck

Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee (SURSAC) Updates

Michael Langer, Deputy Division Director and SURSAC Committee Chair shared that there is a new SURSAC Committee member.

Shawn Mire, CPC at Conquer, new SURSAC Committee Member, and resident of Stevens County, shared that he works remotely for Conquer and works at the local Stevens County Jail as a Peer Counselor working with individuals with Opioid Use Disorder. He helps to support individuals releasing from jail back into the community and meet them/their needs where they are at. Shawn further shared he was granted early release from prison, serving sixteen years out of a twenty-four year-sentence. He recently obtained his Certified Peer Counselor (CPC) certification through HCA and loves the opportunity to give back to his community through lived experience.

Michael further shared that they have contacted Department of Children, Youth, & Families (DCYF) on [Senate Bill 6109 – Supporting children and families](#) and they will be delivering a presentation at the July 2024 SURSAC meeting. Further, HCA is working toward creating a presentation on the Icelandic Model and updates on that will be given when it is scheduled for presentation at a SURSAC meeting in the near future. Lastly, Michael shared that this SURSAC meeting will be his last as he will be retiring July 1, 2024. The June 2024 meeting will be temporarily chaired by Sarah Melfi-Klein while a replacement chair is being identified.

COMMENTS:

- A SURSAC member shared that they are thankful for all of the work that Michael Langer has contributed to the field of mental and behavioral healthcare.

Public Comment

- No public comment from attendees.

Walk-on Item Requests

- A SURSAC member shared that they would like to make an announcement regarding a local event, which will occur at the end of the SURSAC meeting.

Health Engagement Hubs (HEH) – 2-Site Pilot Program Update

Sarah Melfi-Klein, Supervisor of the Criminal Legal System and Blake Projects Unit at Health Care Authority, and **Tim Candela**, Drug User Health//Harm Reduction Advisor at Department of Health delivered a robust update on the Health Engagement Hubs ([RCW 71.24.112](#)) program to include:

- **Origins of Health Engagement Hubs**
- **First Steps**
 - 2023 session legislature codified HEH (ESSB5536)

- Awarded \$2 million for two pilot sites
- **New Beginnings (Request for Interest in November 2023)**
- **Urban Pilot Site – HealthPoint**
 - Federally Qualified Health Center
 - Dedicated unit for HEH participants
 - Outreach and street medicine component by providers
 - Close partnership with WeCareDaily Clinic (Muckleshoot Tribe OTP)
 - Provides low-barrier healthcare to under-represented communities (South King County)
- **Rural Pilot Site – Blue Mountain Heart to Heart**
 - Legacy AIDs Services Organization (Ryan White Care)
 - Syringe Service Program
 - Recovery Navigator Program
 - Low-barrier buprenorphine
 - Multiple locations and settings
 - 2 fixed sites in Walla Walla and Clarkston
 - Mobile services throughout SE Washington
 - Will provide direct transportation to OTP
- **Current Events**
 - HCA currently in contracting process with both pilot sites
 - HCA developing contracts for technical assistance and evaluation
 - UW ADAI in partnership with SHE and ENGAGE clinic (technical assistance & implementation)
 - DSHS – Research & Data Analysis (evaluation)
 - Working on development of value-based payment models for Health Engagement Hubs
- **Service Model**
 - Low-barrier access to physical and behavioral health care supports and services
 - Harm Reduction
 - System navigation services
 - Miscellaneous services
 - Medication management
 - Trauma-informed care
 - Reproductive health
- **HEH Expansion**
 - \$3 million allocated in FY25 operating budget (opioid abatement funds)
 - 3 more sites operationalized in FY25
 - Will consider initial responses from Nov 2023 solicitation for interest
 - Prioritize geographic distribution and programs led by Black, Indigenous, People of Color
 - Announcement about contracting plans coming soon
- **What is Next?**
 - HCA hired dedicated HEH Program Manager
 - Finalize all contracts
 - Announce plans to identify three additional sites
 - Community engagement
- **Questions can be sent to HCAhealthengagementhubs@hca.wa.gov**

SURS Plan Workgroup Updates – SUDISA and SSWG

Kelley Sandaker, SURSAC Administrator with the Washington State Health Care Authority, shared updates on Substance Use Disorder Intake, Screening, and Assessment (SUDISA) and Safe Supply Workgroup (SSWG) to include:

- **SUDISA**
 - Meetings held twice a month for 90 minutes each
 - To date, meetings have focused on building shared understanding of the intake, screening, and assessment tools and processes are currently required by state or federal mandate (vs. believed to be required, or required on the agency or organizational level)
 - The work group has identified a need for more awareness, training, and support to keep providers up to date on changes that support a more streamlined intake process (e.g., X-waiver removal, ASAM 4th Edition Guidelines)
 - Mapping of challenges within the medical-setting-to-community-based-treatment referral process
 - [SUDISA Schedule and Attendance Links](#)
- **SSWG**
 - Meetings held March through June are held every other week and dedicated to learning and information gathering
 - 3/28: Group introductions and discussion of current hopes and concerns regarding safe supply
 - 4/11: HMA presentation on safe supply research and potential models to explore
 - 4/25: Presentation from Dr. Paxton Bach on Canada safe supply program
 - 4/25: Meeting with Office of Community Voices & Empowerment to discuss strategy and opportunity for centering people who use drugs and have lost loved ones
 - Meetings held July through September will be held monthly and dedicated to discussion to produce the final report
 - [SSWG Schedule and Attendance Links](#)

SURS Plan Workgroup Updates – SUDISA and SSWG

Liz Wolkin, Occupational Nurse Consultant with Health Care Authority, shared a presentation on ScalaNW/HCA ED Bridge Program, which included:

- **OUD in Emergency Departments (ED)**
- **Patient Outcomes**
- **Statistics charting number of OUD deaths and number of days since ED discharge**
- **Treatment Impact**
- **Treatment Gap**
- **ScalaNW Bridge Program**
 - Will offer 24/7 clinical consultation hotline and practice guidelines
 - Patient-facing portal with after-discharge support
- **Enrolling hospitals will receive:**
 - technical assistance

- support for staff education
- 24/7 scheduling for follow-up appointments
- Data reporting on patient outcomes
- **Psychiatry Consultation Line**
 - 24/7 for prescribers
 - 8AM-5PM for non-prescribers
 - Funded by State of Washington and free to all callers
 - Staffed by University of Washington (UW) faculty psychiatrists and addiction psychiatrists
 - Recent specialized training on MOUD in the emergency department setting
- **ScalaNW website and multiple resources that are available on demand**
- **Technical assistance**
- **Scheduling Line**
- **Capacity Building**
- **Enrollment Information**

Questions and Comments for Liz Wolkin RE: ScalaNW/HCA ED Bridge Program Presentation

Q: Can the information on the contact slide be provided?

A: Yes.

UW Psychiatry Consultation Line

1-877-927-7924

www.pcl.psychiatry.uw.edu

ScalaNW enrollment, TA, and questions

Info@ScalaNW.org

Website

ScalaNW.org

Q: You mentioned earlier that the high rate of death after discharge from the emergency room. Did they keep track of what the causes of death were?

A: The studies all specifically identified as cause mortality, so it was not specific to overdose death. The reason for looking at all-cause mortality numbers for these visits is because that is how all other medical conditions are evaluated.

Q: Is there a printable flyer that can be distributed on the program?

A: Yes. It will be provided to the organizers of the meeting to provide to the meeting attendees.

COMMENTS:

- A meeting attendee identified that they have been heavily invested in this program and they are thrilled to see it having positive results.

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) Highlight: Greater Columbia

Cameron Fordmeir, RNP Program Administrator of the Greater Columbia BH-ASO, **Lindsay Cannard**, Program Manager serving Asotin and Garfield Counties, **Shareen Hunt**, Executive Director of Merit Resource Services serving Benton and Franklin Counties, and **Melissa Denner**, Director of Mental Health & Recovery at Merit Resource Services serving Kittitas and Yakima Counties provided a robust update on their RNP program to include:

- **Greater Columbia BH-ASO structure**
 - Funding/Structure
 - RNP Team Structure
 - Client Care Costs
- **Governing Inslee toured their Kennewick office in November 2023, alongside the Benton County District Court Judge, Prosecutor, and Chief of Police.**
 - They highlighted RNP success stories and the collaborative efforts between RNP, law enforcement, court systems, and SUD treatment providers.
- **RNP Statistics**
 - Merit started RNP contract in Benton and Franklin Counties October 1, 2023
 - As of February 26, 2024 –
 - Received 79 pre-trial diversion referrals from Benton County District Court and opted them into RNP
 - 6 individuals out of 79 signed pre-trial diversion court order
 - Received two pre-trial diversion referrals from Franklin County District Court and opted them into RNO
 - Referrals with Benton County District Court are made via email to RNP peers each morning and RNP peers are present in the courtroom to begin services and engagement immediately. RNP peers speak with prosecutors, providers, and meet the individual outside courtroom to share lived experience and assist them. They also meet individuals both in and out of custody to complete RNP intake, consent and multi-party ROIs to begin intensive case management services.
 - Kittitas and Yakima County RNP programs began December 11, 2021, with first RNP peers hired on January 14, 2022.
 - Community-based case management services operationalized in May 2022 after formation of Operational Work Group and Policy Coordinating Groups.
 - They have collaborative involvement with local law enforcement, therapeutic courts, department of corrections, local jails, and district probation.
 - Local RNP team was interviewed by the news to include the lead RNP navigator and two program participants
 - First type of program of its kind in the Asotin and Garfield County region
 - RNP has assisted numerous clients meet their unique needs such as assisting in purchasing welding helmets, schoolbooks, driver's license examinations, clothes, weather-related items, car parts, etc.
 - They had a success story where a person had just been released from jail and they were very upset and causing a disturbance outside of the Police Department. They didn't have anywhere to go, and they didn't have shoes on

their feet, so R&P was called, and we were able to sit with that person and figure out a safe place for them to go. This person was helped by RNP by meeting them where they are and creating a safe place for them to feel heard and seen.

- The RNP program is multi-collaborative with local and state partners in the region to offer services

COMMENTS:

- A SURSAC committee member commented that they are very proud of where RNP has gone in installing pre-trial diversion services within their programs.

Walk-on Item Follow-Up

- **James Tillett**, member of the SURSAC Committee, shared that the annual conference of Peers Empower Peers, Entitled 'It Takes a Village' will take place at the Spokane Central Library, which is the host of the regional community court. The keynote speaker will be Officer Plunkett who partners with the local RNP program. Instead of traditional workshops, the conference will also include a resource fair and direct services onsite for those that need or want them. The event is free to attend and there will also be success stories, resources, and peer-respite. Additionally, there will be a self-care room, free lunch, a makeover room and additional recovery support services.

Public Comment

- No public comment from attendees.

Next Steps

1. Kelley will send out the next SURSAC agenda prior to the June 2024 Meeting.