

Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

May 5, 2025, 9:00AM-11:00AM PST

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

HCA Executive & Administrative Support

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

Committee Members (28)

☒	Tony Walton, SURSAC Chair	☒	Amber Cope	☐	Donnell Tanksley
☐	<i>Governor's Office</i>	☒	Brandie Flood	☐	Malika Lamont
☐	Sen. Manka Dhingra	☒	Stormy Howell	☒	Addy Adwell
☐	Sen. John Braun	☒	Chad Enright	☒	Kevin Ballard
☒	Rep. Lauren Davis	☒	John Hayden	☐	Hunter McKim
☐	Rep. Dan Griffey	☒	Niki Lewis		
☐	Caleb Banta-Green	☐	Sherri Candelario		
☐	Don Julian Saucier	☒	James Tillett		Alternates / Optional Attendees:
☐	Shawn Mire	☒	Christine Lynch	☐	Rep. Jamila Taylor
☒	Alexie Orr	☒	Sarah Gillard		

Meeting Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- SUDISA Updates Slide Deck
- SSWG Updates Slide Deck

Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee (SURSAC) Updates

Tony Walton, Chair of the SURSAC Committee and Section Manager, Adult Substance Use Disorder, shared updates on:

- HB 1574 not passing
- Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) funding was cut 20%
- Bill seeking to terminate SURSAC did not pass
- Sarah Melfi-Klein shared that HCA is contracted with Health Management Associates (HMA) to build a toolkit for families and loved ones to support them in the aftermath of someone who has recently survived an overdose and presents an opportunity for education and support to mitigate the risk of subsequent potentially fatal overdoses.
 - Toolkit draft will be developed by June 30, 2025, and launched to coincide with International Overdose Awareness Day on August 31, 2025.
 - People can reach out to Sarah if they would like to provide expertise and consultation, which will be compensated.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Walk-on Item Requests

- No Walk-On Item Requests.

Legislative Updates

Shawn O'Neill, Legislative Relations Manager with Health Care Authority, shared updates from the 2025 Legislative Session on the following Bills and Funding Impacts:

- [SB 5361](#)
- [HB 1574](#)
- [SHB 1811](#)
- [HB 1391](#)
- [HB 1427](#)
- [HB 1813](#)
- [HB 1432](#)
- [SB 5745](#)
- [HB 1287](#)
- Health Engagement Hubs had \$500,000 underspent
- \$3.5 million reduction for arrest and jail alternatives by 10%
- LEAD reduction by 10%
- RNP reduction by 20%

- Short-term housing subsidies and support for individuals with mental health conditions reduced by \$5.3 million, a roughly 20% reduction.
- Target behavioral health housing grants reduced by \$400,000

Questions and Comments from Meeting Attendees RE: Legislative Updates

Q: What was the percentage reduction in dispensing machines?

A: 50%.

COMMENTS:

- Regarding Naloxone dispensing machines, the overall budget proposed budget in the conference budget for naloxone is about \$9 million less over the biennium than what we've had the last this current biennium.
- An attendee shared the importance of the creation of a post-overdose toolkit as it could have changed the outcome of their son who passed away from an overdose four months after having his first one. They thanked the staff and members who are working on this.

SUDISA & SSWG Updates

Kelley Sandaker, SURSAC Administrator, shared a slide deck with updates regarding the SUDISA and SSWG workgroups to include:

- ASAM 4th Edition HB 5361
- SUDISA timeline
- SSHB 1427 (2025) – Concerning certified peer support specialists
- Status of Safe Supply Work Group

Research and Data Analysis Presentation on Drug statewide arrest and charge data related to Simple Possession

Tasha Fox, Research Associate with Department of Social and Human Services (DSHS), presented data on unlawful possession arrest and charge data for July 2023-June 2024 (FY2024)

Questions and Comments from Meeting Attendees RE: Research and Data Analysis Presentation on Drug statewide arrest and charge data related to Simple Possession

Q: Can the data tables be shared with meeting attendees?

A: Some of them can, but Tasha will check with staff to make sure and get back to HCA on this.

COMMENTS:

- It was clarified that the data presented is aggregated by County, but it is a mixture of both county and municipal court jurisdictions. For example, when the data reads for 'Spokane County' that is inclusive of Spokane County District Court and the city/municipal courts within the County.
- Meeting attendees shared their appreciation for the transparency within the data that could be used to identify where additional program supports could be added to support those communities.

RNP Highlights – Greater Columbia BH-ASO

Cameron Fordmeir, BH-ASO Administrator for Greater Columbia, provided updates regarding RNP within their region to include:

- With 20% RNP reduction in funding, pre-trial diversion services are going to remain a priority to ensure the team stays whole and they are able to take as many referrals as possible.
 - They are looking at reducing some of the allowed expenses used for social referrals
- They are hosting a Diversion Summit on May 22-23, 2025.

Questions and Comments from SURAC Members RE: RNP Highlights – Greater Columbia BH-ASO

COMMENTS:

- A SURSAC Member shared that Greater Columbia is doing an exceptional job within their RNP program throughout the region.
- A SURSAC Member shared that the 20% reduction to RNP – which started at \$20 million and then went up to \$24.5 million, brings it down to a total operating budget of \$19.6 million annually, which is only \$400,000 from when it started as a program.

Extra Shared Links:

Please see below for a series of upcoming training opportunities and webinars focused on practical strategies for supporting individuals using methamphetamine and opioids, including those engaged in medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). These offerings are open to providers, outreach staff, harm reduction workers, and other interested professionals across Washington State.

◆ “What if I’m not ready to stop using meth?”
Exploring Practical Ways to Help People Using Opioids and Methamphetamine

📍 In-Person Training – Spokane, WA

📅 Tuesday, May 28, 2025

🔗 Register: <https://tinyurl.com/MethMay28>

(Note: This same training was previously held in Seattle on March 26, 2025)

A practical, in-person session for those working with individuals taking MOUD who are also using methamphetamine. Open to all Washington-based providers and staff.

◆ Caring for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder in the Era of Fentanyl

📅 First Wednesdays of February, May, August, and November

🕒 12:00–1:30 PM PT (Virtual)

🔗 Register: tinyurl.com/2025SORMOUD

A quarterly webinar series featuring short presentations and panel discussions on current clinical challenges and best practices related to MOUD.

➡ May 7, 2025: Managing Precipitated Withdrawal

Featuring:

- Jasmine Zavala, MD, MPH – Sea Mar Adolescent Clinic
- Elly Bhatraju, MD, MPH – Harborview Inpatient Addiction Medicine
- Jeremy Hoog, RN, BSN, MA – Downtown Emergency Services Center

◆ What's the Latest? EMS-Initiated Buprenorphine

📅 Tuesday, June 4, 2025

🕒 12:00–1:00 PM PT (Virtual)

🔗 Register: tinyurl.com/SORStatewide-June

A panel of EMS professionals from the City of Port Angeles Fire Department and South County Fire in Snohomish County will share frontline experiences with post-overdose buprenorphine initiation in the field.

◆ Stimulant Health Matters: Three-Part Webinar Series

📅 Mondays – June 2, 9, & 16, 2025

🕒 12:00–1:00 PM PT (Virtual)

🔗 Register: tinyurl.com/StimulantsAndHealth2025

This series highlights practical health interventions for people who use stimulants.

Topics & Speakers:

- Neuropsychiatry & Mental Health – Kayla Cross, MSN, MA, ARNP, PMHNP-BC
- Wound Care & Skin Health – Hailey Heilman BSN, RN, CWON, and Emily Fejeran BSN, RN
- Cardiovascular Monitoring & Treatment – Danee Hidano, MD

◆ ADAI Focus on Meth 2025 Online Symposium

📅 Wednesday, June 12, 2025

🕒 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM PT (Virtual)

🔗 Register: <https://adai.uw.edu/methsummit2025/>

A full-day virtual event exploring the impact of methamphetamine use in Washington State, featuring data, lived experience, clinical approaches, harm reduction strategies, and the latest research on treatment options.

Final Comments

- Kelley shared out the tentative schedule for the June 2025 SURSAC meeting.

Next Steps

1. Kelley will send out the next SURSAC agenda prior to the June 2025 meeting.