

Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

June 2, 2025, 9:00AM-11:00AM PST

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

HCA Executive & Administrative Support

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason McGill, Executive Co-Sponsor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Walton, Section Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Downs, Admin Assistant
<input type="checkbox"/>	(Vacant) 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brianna Peterson, Plan Writer	<input 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"/>	Tony Walton, SURSAC Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amber Cope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donnell Tanksley
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Governor's Office</i>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chad Enright	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Ballard
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Lauren Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Hayden	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Gillard		

Meeting Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) Q4 Quarterly Report Slide Deck
- Washington State Behavioral Health Treatment Need and Service Utilization Update 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 the following updates:

- Kelley Sandaker, former SURSAC Administrator, has left state service with the Washington State Health Care Authority as of May 30, 2025, going back to local behavioral health system work, Michelle Martinez, Senior Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Project Manager, will be the interim SURSAC Administrator.
 - If anyone has issues accessing resources or has questions, they can reach out to Michelle Martinez via the HCAESB5476@hca.wa.gov email address
- The King County Substance Use Recovery Conference is taking place on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, from 9:00AM – 3:00PM PST at Green River College
 - REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/king-county-substance-use-recovery-conference-tickets-1295168506869> (NOTE: The conference was sold out as of June 2, 2025, however individuals can still join the waitlist.)

Sarah Melfi-Klein, Criminal Legal System and Blake Project Unit Supervisor, shared a follow-up update from the May 2025 SURSAC Meeting RE: partnering with Health Management Associates (HMA) on the co-creation of a Post-Overdose Support Toolkit

- The purpose of the toolkit is to help the helpers – those supporting individuals who have experienced overdose (e.g. friends, family members, loved ones, etc.)
- There will be several phases of research that HMA will be conducting
- A provider survey went out through Gov Delivery and SURSAC Listservs for providers working with directly with families and/or individuals with lived experience with overdose to get their perspective
 - The survey requires roughly 60 more responses and should take between 5-10 minutes to complete
 - There was an ask for meeting attendees to share this with their networks
 - [Click this link to take the provider survey](#)

SURSAC Member **Caleb Banta-Green** shared a link to the *Addictions, Drug & Alcohol Institute (ADAI) Focus on Meth 2025 Online Symposium* taking place on Wednesday, June 12, 2025, from 9:00AM – 3:30PM PST (Virtual) – “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.”

- REGISTRATION LINK: <https://adai.uw.edu/methsummit2025/>

- Caleb reported that the conference will share what data is showing, harm reduction, behavioral and treatment interventions, and stories of lived experience. They are expecting between 500-700 virtual attendees.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment.

Walk-on Item Requests

- No Walk-On Item Requests.

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) Q4 Quarterly Report

Brianna Peterson, Report Administrator & Technical Plan Developer, shared updates from the Q4 2024 RNP Quarterly Report to include:

- 2025 Reporting Schedule
 - The December 2025 report out will also include a fiscal year review as this meeting will cover Q2 2025.
- Referral and Outreach Data Q4 2024
- Referral and Outreach Demographic Data Q4 2024
- Case Management Data Q4 2024
- Case Management Demographic Data Q4 2024
- Data Workgroup Updates
 - Review for next workbook/system update
 - Updating process improvement efforts regarding data collection and counts on dashboard
 - Crosswalk of data entry information to lean on ways to expand demographics for next Workbook update working with Health Equity team
 - Partnering with HCA's Behavioral Health Data Team and RDA regarding data collection improvements along with documentation and communication efforts surrounding RNP data
 - Questions regarding RNP Quarterly reports can be routed to Brianna Peterson at Brianna.Peterson@hca.wa.gov or to Ryan Keith at Ryan.Keith@hca.wa.gov

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (ATTENDEES):

A meeting attendee shared that other BH-ASOs, and LEAD compare the race, ethnicity and age categories with general population but also with jail/incarcerated populations to highlight the disparity and understand if they are hitting the right targets they are trying to make an impact on. Additionally, it would be useful to have the question "Do you work with other diversion programs" within the updated workbook so they have a way to identify cross-service utilization.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS (COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

Q: What is the average length of meetings with participants over ninety days? Intensive case management is supposed to be more concentrated.

A: Currently, this data is not broken down in the data between light case management and intensive case management. Brianna will take this back to the data team to see if they can get this data.

Q: Where did the five average meetings with participants come from? Was this for light case management?

A: It was dividing the number of active participants by the number of referrals and contacts.

Q: Did we do anything about the excessive use of dropdown menus and ability to copy+paste data within the workbooks?

A: They are currently working on editing the workbook. A survey will go out and there will be roughly 10 days to respond to be able to incorporate feedback from SURSAC members to make edits as best they can to alleviate user issues.

A SURSAC member noted that it is concerning that the second largest racial ethnic group is 'Unknown or Refused'. However, the overall numbers of the data do look much better than it has in the past. Additionally, the numbers do not represent the disparities within the criminal-legal system and are not in alignment, so this seems concerning for those deeply involved in the criminal-legal system.

Research and Data Analysis Presentation on Current State Assessment

Katie Bittinger, Ph.D., Senior Research Associate, shared a slide deck with selected findings related to Washington State Behavioral Health Treatment Need and Service Utilization to include:

- Background
- Current State Assessment Update
- Key Definitions
- Interpretation Guidance
- Report #1: Prevalence of SUD Diagnoses
 - Prevalence of SUD and OUD Diagnoses among Medicaid Beneficiaries
 - Rates of SUD and OUD Diagnoses among Medicaid Beneficiaries
- Report #2: Variations in Behavioral Health Treatment Rates (SFY 2020 – SFY 2022)
 - Total Washington State Behavioral Health Treatment Rate Trends
 - Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Rates by Demographics and Year
- Report #3: Variations in Utilization of SUD Treatment Modalities (SFY 2019 – SFY 2022)
 - Trends in Statewide Substance Use Disorder Treatment Modalities for Medicaid Beneficiaries with SUD or OUD Treatment Need
- Report #4: Frequency of SUD Related Acute Events (SFY 2019 – SFY 2022)
 - Acute SUD-Related Events among Medicaid Beneficiaries with a SUD or OUD Diagnosis
- Discussion

- Questions and Contact – Katie Bittinger, Ph.D., can be reached at 360.902.0721 or via email at Katherine.bittinger@dshs.wa.gov

QUESTIONS:

Q: Does this data only include people who have been diagnosed with an SUD via an ASAM assessment because the jails and WADOC report that 85% have SUD?

A: This data is based on diagnoses that is identified and seen within Medicaid records.

Q: Can meeting attendees get a copy of the PowerPoint?

A: Yes. This slide deck can be made into a PDF file and sent out with the meeting minutes. These can be accessed [here](#)

Q: In looking at the criminal-legal system involved individuals' column (52%), is this indicating that 52% of Medicaid beneficiaries with an SUD diagnosis also were identified to be involved with the criminal-legal system?

A: Yes.

Q: Does this data only a case that came up during the reporting period and not past cases? So, would it count as one instance of engagement with the criminal-legal system or ongoing engagement?

A: These are only arrests as recorded in the Washington State Patrol system in SFY 2022.

Q: With the Reentry Waiver, as we start to see DOC and jails providing the 90-day window reentry services, would we then (in the future) see a more robust data set covering those numbers?

A: Yes. Especially as the data could help further improve definitions and social and criminal-legal system involved individuals. Ultimately, this will help us better understand the limitation of administrative data which is used for these reports. There is potential for better measurement and understanding of individuals and their experiences in carceral settings.

Q: Does treatment medication within the data mean any medication within the given year? It is not just day supply or any amount of coverage?

A: Correct. Any medication received within the fiscal year.

Q: Do you know the rough percentage of the total population for the identified SFY 2022 13,000 individuals with SUD diagnoses/Medicaid beneficiary with a SUD diagnosis/access inpatient treatment?

A: A caveat to this data is that this is the number of acute events (individual events) and not the number of individuals. So, one individual could have had multiple inpatient treatment stays or an inpatient program that followed an SUD outpatient visit. This analyses/dataset was oriented around acute events rather than individuals with this diagnosis, but it is something that can be looked at potentially in the future.

Q: Given that there are only 28 days left in the current state fiscal year, at what point would it make sense to be able to see data for SFY 2023 – SFY 2025?

A: It would be interesting to see how these trends changed and there are some data maturation guidelines and Medicaid claims particularly related to behavioral health that take a while to be submitted. It will be a while before data for this time period, especially 2025, could be collected and analyzed.

COMMENTS:

There is a data team at HCA that conducts the ARM dashboards related to medications for opioid use disorder that includes other metrics such as 30-day continuation and long-term usage. They are currently being updated, and someone could come present that data as a follow-up to this presentation.

Public Comment

- Representative Davis shared [House Bill 1427](#) that passed this year during legislative session that introduced a lot of things relevant to the SURSAC Committee
 - Billing Medicaid pathways for some of this work including Recovery Navigator Program (RNP), LEAD programs, Arrest and Jail Alternatives (AJA)
 - Directs the HCA to issue contracts to outside entities to go forth and do this work but also for someone to work with stakeholders to create proposals related to substance use disorder peer respite. This does not currently exist anywhere nationally but there are mental health care respites
 - Looking at opportunity for Medicaid billing to reimburse Tribal Elders for peer services and other services
 - This Bill was recently signed, and no work has yet commenced.
- Representative Davis asked if there was a way that the SURSAC meetings could be structured in such a way that makes more use of the diverse professional and lived experience of SURSAC members.
 - Breakout sessions, for example
- Caleb Banta-Green shared a document he and colleagues put together because while the state of Washington got half of the opioid settlement dollars and generally has a plan that needs approval from the Governor, each local area across the state gets their own settlement dollars and spending is at their discretion. The document is for community members to think about what things their communities would consider around prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction in terms of having a complete continuum of care for services. There is a real space and need to take a more comprehensive approach across this field to think about what the state's goals are.
- Alexie Orr stated there is the Outreach Academy happening June 12-13, 2025. LINK: <https://web.cvent.com/event/1d4b19b0-8ee3-4f98-a781-696e30a51b4e/summary>

Final Comments

- Michelle shared out the tentative schedule for the July 2025 and August 2025 SURSAC meetings
 - As the meeting is short, there is opportunity to have a short meeting or cancel the July 2025 meeting and combine the line items with the August 2025 SURSAC meeting.

Next Steps

1. Michelle will send out the next SURSAC agenda prior to the next scheduled meeting.