

SURSAC meeting notes

December 1, 2025

[View the meeting recording](#)

Attendees

HCA executive & administrative staff					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blake Ellison, Meeting Facilitator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rachel Downs, Admin Assistant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex Sheehan, BH Program Manager
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason McGill, Executive Co-Sponsor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Melfi-Klein, Unit Supervisor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Candela, Health Services Consultant
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Martinez, SURSAC Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brianna Peterson, Plan Writer		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Thoemke, BH Communications Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hailee Fuller, Admin Assistant		

Committee members (24)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tony Walton, SURSAC Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber Cope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donnell Tanksley
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Governor's Office - TBD</i>	<input 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"/>	Rep. Lauren Davis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	John Hayden		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Brian Burnett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Niki Lewis		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Banta-Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sherri Candelario		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don Julian Saucier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Tillett	Alternates:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Adult in recovery from SUD - TBD</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Lynch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Mari Leavitt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexie Orr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Gillard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Deb Manjarrez

Meeting notes

HCA announcements & updates

Sarah Melfi-Klein, Criminal Legal System & Blake Project Unit Supervisor, Adult Substance Use Disorder Section at HCA, shared:

- The Post-Overdose Support Toolkit for Loved Ones has been published by HCA and was developed by HCA in partnership with Health Management Associates and informed by experts in the field as well as individuals with lived experience with overdose and their support systems
 - Process was informed by literature reviews, focus groups, surveys, 1:1 interviews, and extensive review by HCA and DOH staff
- The intended impact in developing this resource is to widen the safety net to mitigate the risk of subsequent overdose by educating, empowering, and supporting loved ones
- Through existing literature, it was found that existing resources are primarily for the individual with lived experience, and resources for support systems were broader.

[View the Post-Overdose Toolkit for Friends and Family](#)

Nicole Mims, Section Manager, Diversion & Reentry Services at HCA, shared updates and a presentation on Trueblood including:

- As a result of the Trueblood Settlement, HCA and DSHS are enhancing existing crisis behavioral health services to include:
 - Expanding crisis bed capacity in Spokane, King County and the Thurston-Mason regions
 - Implementing new programs such as outpatient competency, restoration, forensic housing and recovery through peer services (FHARPS) forensic projects for the assistance and transition from homelessness (FPATH)
- Phases of regional expansion
- Forensic mental health system overview
- Outpatient competency restoration program (OCRCP)
- Forensic HARPS
- Post-FHARPS Global Leasing Program
- Crisis Housing Vouchers
- Forensic PATH
- Crisis Bed Capacity
- Crisis Intervention Training

[Get more information about Trueblood vs. DSHS Court Monitor monthly reports and one-page Trueblood program factsheets](#)

Emalie Huriaux, Manager, Officer of Infectious Diseases at DOH, shared digital health-related resources including:

- Hepatitis C (Hep C) Hub Educational Resources
- Syringe Service Program (SSP) Directory
- Naloxone Finder & Resource Guide & One-Pager
- Preventing and Responding to Overdose: Guidance for Housing and Shelter Programs
- How to use health coverage to get naloxone at a pharmacy in Washington state
- Issue Brief: The Risks of High-Dose Naloxone Products and Nalmefene for Community Opioid Overdose Response
- Drug User Health Resource Hub

- Links to all resources shared below in **'Appendix A'**

SURSAC member announcements

- No SURSAC member announcements

Public comment

- A meeting attendee shared that people in prisons now have access to using 988 in the event of crisis. They also heard Washington state is the first state to make 988 available for incarcerated populations and wanted to confirm.
 - HCA followed up with the requestor by email.
- A meeting attendee inquired as to what the 2026 budget will look like for mental and behavioral health.
 - [View Agency Budget Requests submitted for consideration](#)
- A meeting attendee inquired about joining the SURSAC Committee and SURSAC Administrator, Michelle Martinez, will follow up with the application.

LEAD presentation: “Where pre-booking diversion fits in the landscape of response to behavioral health challenges”

View presentation slides

Lisa Daugaard, Brandi McNeil, Vanessa Martin, Jason Schwarz, Undersheriff Chris Chapman, Officer John Morbeck, and Sgt. Pete Navarro shared a presentation with the following information:

- Objectives
- Impact of Public Defender Caseload Standards Revision
- Prior Caseload Limits
- Caseloads Measurement of Time
- National Public Defense Workloads Standards (NPDWS) Case Types and Associated Hours
- Why Pre-booking (or pre-filing)?
- How it works: Pre-booking Diversion Flow
- Diversion Intercept Points
- Whatcom County Pre-filing Case Study
- Whatcom County Case Study: Alternative Response in Action
- Law Enforcement Perspectives on LEAD/RNP/AJA Model
- Law Enforcement Panel: Impact of Diversion on Public Safety
- Case Management Support with Medicaid Enrollment, Certification, and Work Requirements
- What we Need from Partners

Questions and comments

Q: What percentage of LEAD/RNP participants use public funded services compared to private?

A: Overwhelmingly, more public services are used. It is also important that Navigators support participants by matching their circumstances as they progress on a recovery pathway to what is also available within the community.

Q: Given the current funding environment, what impact does this have on the threat of trust being built that people are relying on for services?

A: There would be a huge impact, especially for those who need to get to court and meet court requirements, otherwise they are involved in a cycle of warrant issuance.

- A meeting attendee shared that updated information on Medicaid Impacts, as a result of HR1, can be found on HCA's webpage, and that these resources are continuously updated: *Medicaid (Apple Health) in Washington: Medicaid spending data and potential impacts of federal budget reduction proposals*
 - [Slide Deck](#)
 - [Fact Sheet](#)
- A meeting attendee shared that Medicaid is now serving our incarcerated populations by paying for services 90 days prior to release, which includes targeted case management and that RNP staff could be part of the TCM team, depending on how that is being operationalized in that particular carceral facility.

SURSAC: 2025 year-in-review

View presentation slides

Michelle Martinez, Senior Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Project Manager, shared a presentation to review the results from the 2025 agenda planning session with SURSAC in December 2024, and actual agenda items that have been covered throughout 2025.

Topics of interest that were not covered during 2025 SURSAC meetings included:

- 6109 Implementation
- Finding more ways to serve rural areas / Eastern WA
- Learning what other states are doing differently than the “west coast model”
- Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Behavioral Health
- Quarterly updates on opioid mortality statistics in WA State
- Contingency Management

The next meeting, in January 2026, will include a priority setting session to guide topics for agendas throughout the year. An editable “2026 agenda planning” document is available on the SURSAC members Share Point for direct input and collaboration around 2026 agenda-setting.

Public comment

A meeting attendee shared that there is no insurance requirements for individuals who are referred to RNP, so RNP staff can go into jails and provide services. They further wanted to clarify whether this was different from the services being provided as part of the Reentry Waiver work.

Tony clarified that RNP could be leveraged to help support individuals not eligible for Medicaid or to provide services that are not reimbursable through the Reentry Waiver. Tony also noted he would take that question and feedback to the Reentry team under Medicaid Transformation Project 2.0.

Next steps

1. Michelle Martinez will send out the January 2026 SURSAC agenda prior to the next scheduled meeting.
2. Tony Walton to follow up with HCA re-entry team and see if they can make a future SURSAC presentation.

Appendix A

DOH resources from the Drug User Health Team

- [DOH Hep C Hub](#)
- [DOH Drug User Health Resource Hub](#)
- [DOH Drug User Health Data & Reports](#)
- [WA syringe service program info and directory](#)
- [DOH Naloxone Finder](#)
- [Naloxone safety for families \(Spanish version coming\)](#)
- [Strategies to avoid or respond to opioid overdoses \(PDF\) | \(Spanish\)](#)
- [Preventing & responding to overdose: guidance for housing and shelter programs \(co-created with Dept of Commerce\)](#)
- [How to use health coverage to get naloxone at a pharmacy in Washington state](#)
 - [English \(PDF\) | English print version with QR code \(PDF\) | | Russian \(PDF\) | Russian print version with QR code \(PDF\) | Spanish \(PDF\) | Spanish print version with QR code \(PDF\) | Vietnamese \(PDF\) | Vietnamese print version with QR code \(PDF\)](#)
- [Issue Brief: The Risks High-Dose Naloxone Products and Nalmefene for Community Opioid Overdose Resp...](#)
 - [Naloxone dosage and compassionate opioid overdose reversal presentation \(YouTube\)](#)
 - [Naloxone dosage and compassionate opioid overdose reversal presentation slides \(PDF\)](#)

Other DOH webpages to know

- [DOH Opioids](#)
- [Lactation Guidance and Patient Education | Healthier Washington Collaboration Portal](#)
- [Fentanyl Exposure in Public Places | Washington State Department of Health](#)

Are there other resources that would be useful for your work? Reach out to emalie.huriaux@doh.wa.gov