

State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan

Background

In 2008, the Department of Health (DOH) convened an Unintentional Poisoning Workgroup to address the alarming increase in overdose deaths involving prescription opioids. Several years later when overdose deaths related to heroin increased, DOH expanded the focus of the group to include overdose deaths related to any type of opioid and changed the name of the workgroup to the Opioid Response Workgroup.

In 2015, the Opioid Response Workgroup, now comprised of multiple state agencies, health care organizations, academic institutions, and other vital stakeholders, worked to develop a comprehensive statewide opioid response plan.

On September 30, 2016, Governor Jay Inslee signed [Executive Order 16-09, Addressing the Opioid Use Public Health Crisis](#), formally directing state agencies to implement key elements of the Washington State Opioid Response Plan. This order led to the creation of the State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan (SOORP), with current executive sponsorships shared between the Health Care Authority (HCA), DOH, and the University of Washington.

HCA continues to utilize the SOORP as a collaborative framework by which to facilitate consensus building, community engagement, planning, and implementation related to opioid related funding. Currently this work is focused on opioid settlements. Lessons learned during the opioid settlement recommendation process have informed process and plan updates for the SOORP that are currently under way.

Plan goals

- **Goal 1** – Prevent Opioid Misuse
- **Goal 2** – Identify and Treat Opioid
- **Goal 3** – Ensure and improve the health and wellness of individuals who use opioids and other drugs
- **Goal 4** - Use data and information to detect opioid misuse/abuse, monitor

morbidity and mortality, and evaluate interventions.

- **Goal 5** – Support individuals in recovery

Coordination and implementation

The executive sponsors for this plan are responsible for approving and overseeing the implementation of the plan. They include:

- Charissa Fotinos M.D. – State Medicaid Director (HCA)
- Tao Kwan-Gett M.D. – State Science Officer (DOH)
- Michael Langer – DBHR Deputy Director (HCA)
- Caleb Banta-Green Ph.D., MPH, MSW - (UW ADAI)

The executive sponsors convene for a monthly strategic meeting for ongoing plan implementation and guidance, facilitated by the State Opioid Administrator. Nine workgroups have been established to coordinate the ongoing actions and activities of the five goals of the plan and provide input on plan updates. Workgroups meet regularly to assess progress and identify emerging issues that require new actions.

The State Opioid Administrator also coordinates bi-monthly Opioid Response Workgroup meetings. These meetings bring together all stakeholders who are working together on the opioid crisis to discuss planning and implementation. These meetings are open to the public. For more information on these meetings as well as access to previous meeting material please visit [Opioid Response Workgroup Information](#).

Workgroups

- Prevention
- Treatment
- Criminal Legal System Opioid & Overdose
- Pregnant, Parenting, and Families with Children
- Health and Wellness for People who Use Drugs
- Recovery Support Services
- Data Collection and Evaluation
- American Indian/Alaskan Native Workgroup
- Communications

- National Opioid Abatement Trust
Subcommittee

For more information:

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