Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

February 13, 2023, 9:00-11:00 PDT

Meeting Recording: [WA State Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee (SURSAC) February 13, 2023 - YouTube](#)

HCA Executive & Administrative Support

☐	Jason McGill, Executive Co-Sponsor	☒	Tony Walton, 5476 Project Manager	☐	Michael Zayas, Admin Assistant
☒	Michelle Martinez, Administrator	☒	Brianna Peterson, Plan Writer	☒	Sandy Sander, Admin Assistant
☒	Blake Ellison, Meeting Facilitator	☒	Rachel Downs, Admin Assistant		

Committee Members (28)

☒	Michael Langer	☒	Amber Daniel	☒	Donnell Tanksley
☒	Amber Leaders	☐	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	☒	Sarah Melfi-Klein	☐	*Youth in Recovery - TBD*
☒	Caleb Banta-Green	☒	Sherri Candelario		
☒	Don Julian Saucier	☐	James Tillett		**Alternates / Optional Attendees:**
☐	Chenell Wolfe	☒	Christine Lynch	☐	Rep. Jamila Taylor
☒	Alexie Orr	☒	Sarah Gillard	☐	Rep. Gina Mosbrucker

Meeting Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- [Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) slides - Ryan Keith](#)
- [Housing 101 slides - Melodie Pazolt](#)
- [HARPS – Wanda Johns](#)
- [Forensic HARPS – Michael Donovan](#)

Public Comment

No comment was made.

Legislative Updates

Michael Langer provided an update regarding bills related to SURSAC recommendations that have been introduced so far during the legislative session and key dates to keep in mind:

Bill Updates:

- SSB 5536: As of February 13, this bill has passed out of the Senate Law & Justice committee with several amendments to include recommendations from the SURSAC initially embedded in SB 5624 and has been referred to the Senate Ways and Means committee. **(Update**: As of February 24, a second substitute bill, 2SSB 5536, has been adopted and passed out of the Ways and Means committee, moving to the Rules committee)

Key Cut-Off Dates:

- Policy cut-off is February 17
- Fiscal cut-off is February 24
- House of Origin cut-off is March 8
- Last day of session is April 24

Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) – Overview

Ryan Keith, Recovery Navigator Program Administrator, provided an overview of the RNP to provide the committee with foundational knowledge of how the RNP operates, in part to provide context for the RNP Quarterly Report review coming up at the March 6 SURSAC meeting. The presentation covered:

- RNP overview
- Implementation Timeline
- Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organizations (BH-ASO)
- LEAD Core Principles and LEAD TA support
- RNP Workgroups consisting of Policy Coordinating Groups (PCG) and Operational Work Groups (OWG)
- Service Coordination
- Referral Data for Q4 2022 – (October-December) consisting of statistics captured regarding referral & outreach and case management
- Success Story from Grays Harbor and Kittitas Counties
- What's Next – Plans to implement 24/7 coverage

For additional information, please refer to slides linked above under Meeting Attachments.

Q: What do 3000+ "contingency management" mean? Discussed, enrolled, started, completed? That is a large percent and number, so interpretation would be helpful.

A: More information about what each of these labels refers to specifically will be provided at the March meeting during the RNP Quarterly Report review.

Q: There are a lot of "unknown" indicated for the demographics. How are people engaging with gathering information?

A: The demographic data collection is voluntary, so if an individual refuses to list that or doesn't know, it is marked as "unknown". We are working on the dialogue to get more data. Collected data is being utilized to inform current data collection processes.

Recommendation: Split the categories of "Other" and "Decline" so they are distinct responses and tallied separately (Follow up around this recommendation will be provided at the March meeting)

Q: Do the Navigators work in conjunction with the PEER and PEER PathFinder programs?

A: Yes. The outreach teams often work for the same organization. They are well connected with each other.

Q: Are hospital emergency rooms partners in the RNP program and contributing to referrals? Or is law enforcement the only means for referral when patients are in crisis at a hospital emergency room?

A: Law enforcement is the primary target for referrals, but community and social contact referrals are always welcome. Some regions have a great partnership with their local hospitals and social workers and receive referrals from them.

State-Administered Housing Programs (Part 1 of 2)

Housing 101

Melodie Pazolt, Managing Director of Apple Health & Homes, at the Department of Commerce provided context on a lot of the work currently being done at Commerce to address meeting various needs of the communities across Washington State. The presentation covered:

- Housing 101 – Types of housing, types of SH services, rent assistance programs, Capital – Brick and Mortar, and Residential 'home like' facilities across local, state, and federal levels
- Overview of the Department of Commerce's new Housing Division and organizational structure
- Housing Policy Team
- Homeownership Unit
- Housing Assistance Unit
- Housing Trust Fund
- Office of Apple Health & Homes/Permanent Supportive Housing
- Draft Growth Management Act Statewide housing needs numbers by 2044

For additional information, please refer to slides linked above under Meeting Attachments.

Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (HARPS)

Wanda Johns, Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (HARPS) Program Administrator, provided context related to the HARPS program. The presentation covered:

- Research describing correlation between inpatient treatment and homelessness
- HARPS overview
- Program eligibility requirements
- Program objective

For additional information, please refer to slides linked above under Meeting Attachments.

Forensic HARPS

Michael Donovan, FHARPS and Trueblood Program Manager, provided an overview of the Trueblood Contempt Settlement Agreement/Forensic HARPS. The presentation covered:

- Trueblood Background
- Trueblood class members
- Forensic mental health system overview
- Trueblood settlement agreement programs (FHARPS)
- Strategies

For additional information, please refer to slides linked above under Meeting Attachments.

Questions re: Housing Programs

Q: Is there any programs that will be advocating LGBTQIA+ community in Trueblood? Or is there a way to get that advocacy added to Trueblood?

A: We don't know enough about Trueblood class members yet. I love the idea of focusing on that group.

Q: The point in time count, which is flawed, has demonstrated that the LGBTQA+ community is disproportionally homeless, and most of the programs receiving funding for these programs are openly discriminatory to that community. What is the state looking at doing in response to this, with these particular types of housing programs?

A: One of the tools used by Commerce is called a Snapshot count, which is utilizing administrative data to get a better picture of true understanding of homelessness. It is unclear at this time if the Snapshot count provides specific data to the LGBTQIA+ community. The Office of Homeless Youth is currently concentrating on priority areas, and Melodie Pazolt can get them connected to Kim Justice from that program. The Pathways to Housing site is a great tool to familiarize yourself with your rights for housing and as a tenant.

Q: Do those rights apply to shelters?

A: Pathways to Housing link; The landlord tenant laws do not apply to shelters. However, a shelter could not discriminate based on being LGBTQIA+. There should be policies based on this within contracts to ensure protections.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Upcoming Agenda: March 6, 2023

- RNP Quarterly Report review: 2022/Q4
- State Housing Programs, Part 2 of 2: Apple Health & Homes, Foundational Communities of Health (FCS) Supportive Housing, Housing First, Oxford House Program
- UPDATE: Adding Committee Chairs & new seats of representation

There was time at the end of the meeting to initiate the request for agendas to be set at the end of each meeting while members are assembled.

There were no agenda items requested for inclusion at the March meeting. However, it was noted that for the April meeting that the meeting should not attempt to address the topics of addressing stigma, media and messaging, and the Safe Supply Workgroup since each of these topics will require a lot of time and dialogue. It was further suggested that the Addressing Stigma topic should look at: how data collection can perpetuate stigma, how to improve data collection methods, and individuals/organizations that have begun/have been addressing this issue, and analyzing how has stigma and stigma reduction strategies differed between youth and adults.

It was asked whether or not it would help to provide a survey to the SURSAC to determine the order in which the topics should be addressed and there was support of that.

Next Steps

1. There will be an extra month added to the request to providing a short bio for the SURSAC directory.

2. Michelle will send out a survey for prioritizing future agenda topics and conversations.