

HMA

Safe Supply Work Group

Work Group Meeting

May 23, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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Photo source: <https://filtermag.org/people-who-use-drugs-safer-supply/>

Land Acknowledgement

We stand on the lands of the Chehalis, Chinook, Colville, Cowlitz, Duwamish, Hoh, Jamestown S’Klallam, Kalispel, Lower Elwha Klallam, Lummi, Makah, Muckleshoot, Nisqually, Nooksack, Port Gamble S’Klallam, Puyallup, Quileute, Quinault, Samish, Sauk-Suiattle, Shoalwater Bay, Skokomish, Snoqualmie, Spokane, Squaxin Island, Stillaguamish, Suquamish, Swinomish, Tulalip, Upper Skagit, Wanapum, and Yakama tribes.





AGENDA

- » Land Acknowledgement
- » Agenda Review
- » Introductions
- » Public Comment
- » Discussion on Future Meetings
- » Introduction to Recording the Presentations
- » Survey Results and Discussion
- » Presenter Dr. Geoff Bardwell
- » Next Steps

MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

- Name
- Pronouns (*optional*)
- Affiliation



HMA TEAM



Charles Robbins, MBA

(he/him/his)

Principal

Health Management
Associates



Erin Russell

(she/her/hers)

Principal

Health Management
Associates



Megan Beers

(she/her/hers)

Senior Consultant

Health Management
Associates



Carlos Mena

(he/him/his)

Consultant

Health Management
Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

- » The workgroup meetings of the Safe Supply Work Group are not subject to the WA Open Public Meetings Act
- » Members have requested the ability for non-members to participate, but in listen mode only
- » We would like to offer 5 minutes for public comment at this time. Please be respectful and brief in your remarks.
- » Please know that future meetings may be closed at the discretion of membership
- » Members may request a link to view recordings of missed meetings. Presentation PDFs will be shared with members after the meeting.

RECORDING

The presentation will
be recorded at this
time



SURVEY RESULTS WITH DISCUSSION

SURVEY QUESTIONS

How knowledgeable do you feel about safe supply? What are your biggest information gaps?

At this point in the work group, what do you see as the potential value of safe supply?

At this point in the work group, what concerns do you have about safe supply?

HOW KNOWLEDGEABLE DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SAFE SUPPLY? WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST INFORMATION GAPS?

“With the data [presented], speakers and discussions in this group, **very knowledgeable!**”

“I feel fairly knowledgeable about Safe Supply. I think that the **biggest information gap is a discussion around what it would look like to allow for more open, regulated access, that reduces barriers as much as possible.** Moving away from a medical model that doesn't promote quality of life by having time restraints, locking people to their clinic neighborhoods, etc, will not work for everyone (especially homeless folks who get swept around by so many systems).”

“I feel reasonably knowledgeable about Safe Supply, but would like to **bolster my familiarity with the evidentiary support** in order to better shape my contributions in this discussion. **Regional or county by county information regarding resources and current overdose rates** would be useful for reference during this discussion as well.”

WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL VALUE OF SAFE SUPPLY?

“A **pathway to save lives** and give people access to services who wouldn't seek them.”

“Not only would it reduce overdose risk by remaining consistent in potency, with people knowing what they're taking, it could also **help with skin and soft tissue infections** as the supply wouldn't have whatever random contaminants that are used to cut the drugs, it could **reduce neighborhood violence**, **reduce negative police interactions** with neighborhoods that lead to further violence and mistrust, **reduce incarceration rates** and burden on a prison system that fails to provide adequate care, reduce the negative outcomes that result from removing people from their communities and to those who depend on them for support, increase people's capacity to make decisions in their lives and experience pleasure and connection, **reduce stigma**, allow people to hold steady jobs, and the list goes on...”

“The value of safe supply appears to be **quality of life improvements** and **reducing overdose deaths.**”

WHAT CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE ABOUT SAFE SUPPLY?

“**Changing the platform** to make a true impact and gain main stream approval. **We know its the right thing to do but it keeps getting overlooked.**”

“I have concerns about the **political landscape** primarily at this time.” in parallel with
“How can this **be pragmatically implemented in the US?**”

“My concern is creating something so narrow that **it doesn't help enough people,** particularly those **who are most marginalized.**”

POLL QUESTIONS

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>> Question 1:

- >> My preference for meetings going forward in July is
 - A) Keep bi-monthly for 1-hour on Thursday
 - B) Change to monthly for 2-hours on Thursday**

>> Question 2

- >> If monthly, my preference for a 2-hour meeting on a Thursday is:
 - A) 8 am to 10 am
 - B) 8:30 am to 10:30 am**
 - C) 9 am to 11 am

PRESENTER

PRESENTER



Dr. Geoff Bardwell

University of Waterloo, Ontario

Assistant Professor

HMA

- » Dr. Bardwell's research seeks to understand how social, structural, political, and environmental contexts shape substance use and related public health interventions. He is a social scientist with training and expertise in qualitative and community-based participatory research.
- » Dr. Bardwell is currently the Principal Investigator for the national evaluation of MySafe: a low-barrier safer supply program across three provinces. He is also the Principal Investigator for a longitudinal qualitative evaluation of tablet injectable opioid agonist therapy (TiOAT) programs in rural BC (Duncan and Kamloops).

NEXT STEPS



Dari Pogach

Health Management Associates
Washington, DC

Senior Consultant

HMA

- » Next Work Group Meeting:
 - » June 6, 2024 8:30am – 10:00am (PST)
- » Presenter: Dari Pogach
- » Topic: Legal Barriers to Safe Supply

About Dari Pogach

Dari began her career as a legal services attorney and represented clients as they navigated complex and bureaucratic social services systems to access crucial services and supports. She approaches her work with the passion of an advocate and a commitment to achieve the best possible outcomes for her clients and the populations they serve.