

# Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

August 5, 2024, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kelley Sandaker, 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 type="checkbox"/>	Brianna Peterson, Plan Writer	<input checked="" 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"/>	Amber Cope	<input type="checkbox"/>	Donnell Tanksley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber Leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brandie Flood	<input type="checkbox"/>	Malika Lamont
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sen. Manka Dhingra	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stormy Howell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ady 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 type="checkbox"/>	John Hayden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hunter McKim
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Dan Griffey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Niki Lewis		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Caleb Banta-Green	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sherri Candelario		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don Julian Saucier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Tillett		<b>Alternates / Optional Attendees:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Mire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Lynch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Jamila Taylor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexie Orr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Gillard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Gina Mosbrucker

## Meeting Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- Housing Subsidy 5536 33 (8) Slide Deck
- SUD Prevalence & Interactions Reporting Slide Deck
- SUDISA Workgroup Updates Slide Deck
- Diversion Data Integration Platform Slide Deck
- Washington Statewide Opioid Administrator Updates Slide Deck

## Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee (SURSAC) Updates

**Tony Walton**, Adult Substance Use Disorder Section Manager, some updates to include:

- He will continue to ad-hoc chair the SURSAC Committee until a new permanent Chair has been selected to represent the WA HCA
- August 31 is International Overdose Day and HCA will try to get a summary of some of the events going on around the state to honor the memories and lives of people that we have lost to overdose, as well as help breakdown stigma in the community and raise awareness to the fact that we are losing people and that there are ways to respond to overdose, to save lives.
- September is Recovery Month, and the hope is the September SURSAC meeting will focus on and highlight recovery.

## Public Comment

- A meeting attendee shared that during her morning, she witnessed an individual smash a window of a small business and later found out the individual was looking for shelter. Their local County Commissioner, who the meeting attendee indicated had been heavily involved in Recovery Navigator Program (RNP), was talking to the individual and tried to get him to call Salvation Army for Coordinated Entry. This is an example of the importance of there being multiple ways to support others in our communities and doing what we can to ensure people are aware of and connected to their local services. They also referenced an [independent report](#) on the Lewis County RNP.

## Walk-on Item Requests

- No Walk-On Item Requests.

## State Opioid Administrator Updates

**Kris Shera**, State Opioid Administrator with the Division of Behavioral Health & Recovery at Health Care Authority, shared updates related to their work to include:

- Hepatitis C Intervention Symposium
- Overdose Data Update
- Confirmed Overdose Deaths among Washington Residents
- Overdose Death Rate by Drug Type, USA, and WA (2000-2022)
- Number of Overdose Deaths by Quarter among Washington Residents
- Opioid Settlement Updates
- Opioid Settlement Activities

## Data Integration Platform for Diversion Programs Updates

**Michelle Martinez**, Senior SUD Project Manager with the Washington State Health Care Authority, shared updates on the following initiatives.

- RCW [71.24.546](#) Section 1.3 (m)
- SURS [Plan recommendation 13](#)
- (2023) RCW [71.24.908](#)
- Platform Elements
- Exploring Potential Technology Options
- Next Steps
- (2023) RCW [71.24.913](#)

### COMMENTS:

- A SURSAC Committee member stated that mentioning prevalence, the cited measures are actually service utilization, not actually population-based prevalence which would take generally some sort of survey work.
  - A meeting attendee shared that in the preliminary legislative report for the data inventory, HCA identified national survey data as an option for determining prevalence.
  - Tony shared that the Department of Social Health and Services- Research and Data Analysis are finalizing several updated reports associated with the Current State Assessment, originally done in 2019. Once those are published, HCA can ask for Researchers from RDA to come present their findings with SURSAC, if helpful.
- A meeting attendee shared that some of those data systems point to frequency of illicit and licit substance use, not necessarily the rate of substance use disorder (SUD).
  - A SURSAC Committee member shared that this point is critical as many utilization data are measure of a substance related visit v SUD. This matters a lot because there is often an assumption that everyone with a police encounter for drugs needs treatment. Many don't but would benefit from other services.

## SUD Prevalence Data Reporting

**Yumiko Aratani**, Research Manager, Enterprise Analytics, Research, & Reporting (EARR) with the Washington State Health Care Authority, shared a presentation to include:

- Team involved
- 2E2SSB 5536 Section 38
- Definitions
- Draft Outline of the Report
- Identifying Potential Data Systems/Sources (May-August 2024)
- Washington State Data Systems

### Questions and Comments for Yumiko Aratani RE: SUD Prevalence Data Reporting

**Q: What are we going to do with this data, RE: prevalence of SUD in WA state?**

A: Tony noted that these efforts help meet a legislative requirement in RCW 71.24.913(2)(a): *The authority shall identify the types and sources of data necessary to implement the appropriate means and methods of gathering data to provide the information required in subsection (1) of this section. (b) The authority must provide a preliminary inventory report to the governor and the legislature by December 1, 2023, and a final inventory report by December 1, 2024.*

**Q: : In the Annual SUD prevalence assessment report, will the eventual report focus only on statewide data, or will it also include data broken down by the county level? What about REDO or King County?**

A: Yumiko indicated HCA is still evaluating the use of county-level data and will consider gathering unique county data that the state would not otherwise have.

**Q: I'm just curious if this data is just going to be used to indicate STD prevalence throughout the state, or if it's also going to be used to identify availability of services? The way funding is dispersed is based on population saturation throughout the state and I would like to know if the data will be used to identify gaps in infrastructures, specifically in rural areas.**

A: The data should be utilized to identify gaps throughout the state regionally based on individual characteristics.

COMMENTS:

A SURSAC Committee member shared that the data issue appears to have been moving backwards as there is a large misunderstanding on prevalence. Yumiko offered to meet with them to better understand their concerns.

## **Substance Use Disorder Intake, Screening, and Assessment (SUDISA) Workgroup Updates**

**Kelley Sandaker**, SURSAC & SUDISA Administrator with the Washington State Health Care Authority, shared updates as to the progress of the workgroup to include:

- SUDISA meeting cadence
- Recommendations #1-2
- Recommendations #3-4
- Consultation with Associations

### Questions and Comments for Kelley Sandaker RE: Substance Use Disorder Intake, Screening, and Assessment (SUDISA) Workgroup Updates

**Q: Is there an FQHC association you can consult with? Some are health hubs, and many are trying to do more low barrier work.**

A: There is one and they will be reached out to for consultation of these recommendations.

COMMENTS:

A SURSAC committee member wanted to caution again peer services being fee-for-service as the success of peer services is that it is less clinical and less of a power differential when providing daily services.

## RNP Highlights: Carelon North Central

**Katie Person**, Project Leader for Justice System Support Programs, from Carelon Behavioral Health and **Crystal Gunn**, Senior Program Manager covering Grant & Okanogan Counties of Advance Northwest, shared updates RE: their RNP program to include:

- Region is busy with peers and providing that peer support and recovery coaching services, along with providing services to help individuals seek and patient whether it's detox treatment or inpatient treatment, even outpatient treatment.
- One behavioral health facility in Okanogan County, so most places peers go to include Yakima, Spokane, and Tri-Cities because the closest facility to them is three hours away.
  - As a result, their program works very hard to establish connections to service providers and other resources throughout neighboring areas and regions.
- A success story was shared about an individual who spent over twenty years in incarceration but was finally connected to a Recovery Coach to provide services. This individual was eventually offered a drug court option, participated, and found steady employment. Further, he moved into a men's Oxford House and is almost two years in recovery, allowing him to begin rebuilding relationships within his family and community. He also went to the recent CTS conference and shared his story, which 300+ participants found to be meaningful, hopeful, and enlightening.

### Questions and Comments for Katie Person and Crystal Gunn RE: RNP Highlights: Carelon North Central

#### COMMENTS:

- A SURSAC member highlighted the importance of ensuring that dedicated funding for other court-system programs (e.g. Drug Courts and Criminal Justice Treatment Account) are being utilized whenever possible, so that RNP funding is not being used to fund activities otherwise funded as part of Drug Court operations. They also noted that previous legislation in 2018 ([SHB 1524](#)) expanded the criminal justice treatment account to be able to fund recovery support services and peer services.

## Proviso 5536 33 (8) Short Term Housing Subsidies FY24

**Lisa Bennett-Perry**, Recovery in Community Supervisor with the Washington State Health Care Authority, shared updates to include:

- Update Houses Resources for FY24
- Priority-Short-Term Housing Subsidies
- Year 1 Grant Period – January 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024
- 20 agencies selected, 4 agencies in each of the 5 counties (Pierce, King, Snohomish, Spokane, Vancouver)
- Housing Subsidy Data – January 2024 – June 2024
- Oxford House Level 1 (PEER RUN)
- WAQRR Level 2 (MONITORED)

### Questions and Comments for Lisa Bennett-Perry RE: Proviso 5536 33 (8) Short Term Housing Subsidies FY24

**Q: Are there thoughts as to why this data collected appears more complete than the RNP data?**

**A:** HCA staff indicated they will take this back for conversation.

**Q: Are we concerned that target populations are the smallest amount served?**

A: This is roughly six months of data, and we are hoping that when there is more data collected next year, we will see more trends regarding this.

**COMMENTS:**

- A SURSAC committee member shared that regarding the data collected, for the LGBTQIA+, consider adding an option reflecting “prefer not to say”.
- A meeting attendee shared that it might be more meaningful to compare those percentages against other programs' percentages of those populations served.
- A meeting attendee shared that the Washington Syndemic Planning Council and the Governor’s LGBTQ Commission might be good groups to reach out to RE: connecting with organizations focused on the LGBTQ+ communities and building connections.
- A meeting attendee suggested not only connecting with these organizations but contracting with these organizations. A lot of these organizations are not familiar with the extensive list of programs out there to help these communities.

**Walk-on Item Follow-Up**

- No Walk-on Item Follow-Up.

**Public Comment**

- A meeting attendee shared their concern about the City of Seattle Attorney’s Office proposing Stay out of Drug Area (SODA) zones in Seattle, WA. They would like to see the SURSAC Committee address this.
  - Link to article regarding this proposal: <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/seattle-city-attorney-wants-to-bar-some-drug-users-from-downtown/>
  - A SURSAC Committee member shared that "squeeze the balloon" policies have the impact you would expect. A major issue is that many people who policy makers/prosecutors say they will divert to services often turn out to be ineligible.
  - A meeting attendee clarified that this legislative proposal is brought by the City of Seattle Attorney’s Office and NOT the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.
  - A meeting attendee shared that this is also inequitable because often, services that these individuals need may very well be located within the proposed ‘SODA zones.’

**Next Steps**

1. Kelley will send out the next SURSAC agenda prior to the September 2024 Meeting.