

Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

January 6, 2025, 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 checked="" 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"/>	Tony Walton, SURSAC Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amber Cope	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donnell Tanksley
<input type="checkbox"/>	Amber Leaders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brandie Flood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Malika Lamont
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sen. Manka Dhingra	<input 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"/>	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 type="checkbox"/>	Don Julian Saucier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	James Tillett		Alternates / Optional Attendees:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Mire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Lynch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Jamila Taylor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexie Orr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sarah Gillard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rep. Gina Mosbrucker

Meeting Attachments

- Meeting Agenda
- MURAL Planning Agenda for future meetings

Substance Use Recovery Services Advisory Committee (SURSAC) Updates

Tony Walton, SURSAC Chair and Adult Substance Use Section Manager, with Washington State Health Care Authority, provided SURSAC updates.

Public Comment

- No public comments.

Walk-on Item Requests

- No Walk-On Item Requests.

2025 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Legislation Updates

Representative Lauren Davis shared 2025 SUD Legislation Updates.

Questions and Comments for Rep. Davis RS: 2025 Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Legislation Updates

Q: As we look at the data relative to the impacts of substance use disorder in Washington State, where are they reducing in the state? If we plan to ask for more money, we need to ensure programs across the state are reducing the number of fentanyl and opioid-related deaths.

A: The data, itself, is- not geographic so we cannot point to massive reductions in any particular area or region or city. We do have data for individuals participating in these types of programs, like LEAD and RNP, and Scala Northwest (that is currently collecting data). This type of data is recording and showing trends in improved quality of life, decreased use of emergency departments for drug-related reasons, etc.

Q: Have we looked at your bill proposal, we would be taxing the storage capacity of supplies from companies like McKesson?

A: We are not taxing the storage capacity, but the sales. We are looking at taxing the business volume that they are doing in pharmaceuticals, regardless of where that warehouse is physically located.

Q: How can we, as citizens, become more informed about these types of Bills being introduced during legislative session so that we can advocate for them, particularly for Bills relative to revenue?-

A: Generally, the best way is to work with an advocacy organization topical to the areas of interest you are seeking to advocate on. Organizations like Washington Recovery Alliance are working on the revenue piece and Recovery Advocacy Day (RAD Day) and they will provide ample updates throughout the legislative session. They also provide training on how to share stories and advocate.

Q: How can we support and advocate for the changes you have told us about today?

A: Contacting your local legislators in your respective regions is the best way. Additionally, asking for meetings and getting to know them. I will put the All-Members Roster link in the chat so you can find the email address of anybody working in the legislature to make it easier to find who your respective representatives are.

COMMENTS:

- A SURSAC Committee member shared datapoints that in Walla Walla, in October 2024, 302 uses of naloxone were charted, which is equal to their entire 2021 year. Additionally, as of Dec. 7, 2024, they surpassed 1,700 instances of lay people utilizing naloxone to try to reverse an overdose, which is almost double the 933 occurrences in 2023.
 - A SURSAC Committee member shared that Blue Mountain Heart-to-Heart has been instrumental in their region.
- A SURSAC Committee member shared that as an opioid use disorder treatment nurse, they appreciate all of the work being done within the state legislature to address this crisis.
- A SURSAC Committee member shared that there will be an Advocacy Day with Washington Poverty Network on Jan. 20, 2025. There will also be convenings advocating for impacted individuals hosted by the Washington Recovery Alliance on February 6 and February 10, 2025.

Preview of 2025 Legislative Session

Senator Manka Dhingra shared some updates to the 2025 Legislative Session.

Questions and Comments for Senator Dhingra RE: Preview of 2025 Legislative Session

Q: What is being done at the state-level to ensure programs will continue in the community?

A: Making sure that all of our work is seeing through a health-equity lens and that we are not balancing the state budget on the backs of the most marginalized populations across the state.

Q: Can you explain what is being worked on in this Bill (6109) that leads you to say we should give this a hearing and potentially consider this Bill more?

A: The Bill being referenced, 6109, passed the legislature last year and signed into law and is effective June 6, 2024.

Q: If it's really about the children, his contention in this bill is then we've got to remove the parents, remove the children from those homes, protect them and require these parents to prove they're clean and sober before the kids are put back into these homes. Would you support?

A: I would have to read the exact Bill number and Bill language before being able to properly answer this question.

Q: Are we basing our legislative priorities on what we know is currently working and ensuring that they are data-driven?

A: We are always wanting to be data-driven and evidence-based and that will not change.

COMMENTS:

- A SURSAC Committee member shared they were appreciative of Senator Dhingra's recognition of economic disparity and impacts on marginalized communities.
- A SURSAC Committee member shared that it has been expressly difficult trying to make differences in our communities and reduce opioid and other drug deaths when there are programmatic funding cuts all over.

- A SURSAC Committee member shared that they found it unfortunate that an individual would utilize this meeting platform and use discriminatory language against people that experience substance use disorders. They hope that we can do a better job of managing the conversation as the SURSAC meeting is not a press conference, it is where the group receives updates from legislators.

MURAL Review

Kelley Sandaker, SURSAC Administrator, and **Michelle Martinez**, Senior SUD Project Manager, shared the results from the MURAL exercise conducted at the November 2024 meeting. Feedback was captured from SURSAC members as to what topics they would like to see covered within each field. Fields ranked from highest to lowest included:

- Rural Healthcare
- LEAD Model Education Series
- University of Washington (UW) to present on drug checking network and Washington State Patrol Crime Lab Data
- 6109 Implementation
- Simple Possession – Post-2E2SSB 5536
- Contingency Management
- Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Behavioral Health
- State Opioid Overdose Response Plan (SOORP)/SURSAC
- Presentations about OTN Jail Report
- Training for Caregivers of Youth with Substance Use Disorder
- Diversion Data Integration Platform
- SUD Prevalence Data Reporting
- *Updates from SUDISA and SSWG working groups will be provided after the conclusion of 2025 Legislative Session, which ends April 27, 2025.

Walk-on Item Follow-Up

- No Walk-on Item Follow-Up.

Public Comment

- No Public Comment.

Next Steps

1. Kelley will send out the next SURSAC agenda prior to the February 2025 meeting.
2. Kelley will email link to the 2025 SURSAC MURAL Planning Agenda to the committee.