Seattle and King County Heroin & Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force Process & Recommendations

Caleb Banta Green, PhD MPH MSW
Principal Research Scientist, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute
Affiliate Associate Professor, School of Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Sponsors & Leadership

- KC Executive Dow Constantine
- Former Seattle Mayor Ed Murray
- Auburn Mayor Nancy Backus
- Renton Mayor Denis Law

Chairs:
- Brad Finegood MA, LMHC (Behavioral Health)
- Jeff Duchin MD (Public Health)
Timeline

The Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction Task Force met over a six month period from March to September 2016 to review

1) current local, state and federal initiatives and activities related to prevention, treatment and health services for individuals experiencing opioid use disorder;
2) promising strategies being developed and implemented in other communities; and
3) evidence-based practice in the areas of prevention, treatment and health services.

The final report and recommendations were provided to the conveners in September 2016. Implementation workgroups ongoing

Process

- Three workgroups were initially formed to address the Task Force’s focus areas
  - opioid abuse prevention
  - treatment expansion & enhancement
  - health services and overdose prevention).
- These workgroups were comprised of Task Force members with related subject matter expertise, and met between full Task Force meetings.
- A fourth workgroup formed to address policy considerations.
- A fifth workgroup formed to address evaluation
- A sixth de-facto workgroup to address communication
Process

During the course of the Task Force process, a series of community meetings were held in order to

- provide public education about heroin and opioid addiction, treatment and health services, and/or
- to obtain community input

Task force members also utilized various media venues (including radio, television, print and social media) to discuss the heroin epidemic and efforts to address this issue.

Comprehensive Web Page

Task Force Participants

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Auburn Police Department
- City of Bellevue Emergency Medical Services
- City of Seattle Mayor’s Office
- Department of Community and Human Services
- Downtown Emergency Services Center
- Evergreen Treatment Services
- Harborview Medical Center
- Hepatitis Education Project
- Kelley-Ross Pharmacy
- King County Adult Drug Diversion Court
- King County All Home
- King County Emergency Medical Services
- King County Needle Exchange
- Neighborcare Health
- King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
- King County Sheriff’s Office
- Muckleshoot Tribe
- People’s Harm Reduction Alliance
- Public Defender Association
- Public Health – Seattle & King County
- Puget Sound Educational Service District
- Recovery Community
- Renton Police Department
- Seattle Children’s Hospital
- Seattle Fire Department
- Seattle Human Services Department
- Seattle Police Department
- Seattle Public Schools

- Swedish Hospital, Pregnant and Parenting Woman Program
- Therapeutic Health Services
- US Attorney for Western Washington’s Office
- US Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- UW Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI)
- WA State DSHS of Social and Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery.
**PREVENTION**

Increase awareness of the possible adverse effects of opioid use, including overdose and opioid use disorder.

Promote safe storage and disposal of medications.

**TREATMENT EXPANSION**

Make buprenorphine more accessible and available in communities with the greatest need.

Make treatment on demand available for all types of substance-use disorders.

Alleviate artificial barriers placed upon opioid treatment programs.
USER HEALTH SERVICES & OVERDOSE PREVENTION

Continue to distribute naloxone kits to reverse the effects of heroin overdose to more locations such as treatment providers, homeless shelters, law enforcement, and first responders.

Create at least two locations where adults with substance-use disorders will have access to on-site services while safely consuming opioids or other substances under the supervision of trained healthcare providers.