

## ATTENDEES

Jasmine Jones & Jessica Thorton, Sound Pathways; Tracy Franke, Darrington School District Superintendent; Rachel Smith, DEM Program Coordinator-Opioids, and David Fine, DEM Emergency Management Program Manager; Katie O'Hara, Sultan Prevention Coalition Coordinator; Amy Wheat, Opioid Outreach Specialist, HHS; Jacob Grillo, Conquer Clinics, Mental Health Program Director; Brenna Smith, SUD Team and Juliet D'Allesandro, Prevention/SUD Team Lead, SCHED; April Provost, Katie Olson, and Erin Lopez, Ideal Options; Dan Rankin, City of Darrington; Eric Britt, Evergreen Health; JanRose Ottaway-Martin, NS-SBHASO; Marree Perrault, DPICC Coordinator and Darrington School Board; Randy Hayden, [CDMH](#) & Darrington School Boards; ; Lori Fleming, SHC Project Lead.

## OVERVIEW

The Snohomish HRSA Consortium (SHC) meeting, led by Lori Fleming, included an overview from Randy Hayden, CDMH Board Chair, on the administration of the Chemical Dependency Mental Health (CDMH) funding and its distribution in Snohomish County. The presentation emphasized the need *and* the opportunity for an SHC member to join the CDMH Advisory Board to provide enhanced rural representation to the CDMH funding decisions. Additionally, during the meeting a rapid-fire discussion was facilitated to garner ideas and commitments from SHC members in support of the June 26-27th, 2024 Community Conversations initiative. Participants proposed and committed to strategies and action for engagement, and to sharing resources across various platforms to ensure widespread community involvement.

**Key action items identified:** The recruitment of rural representative(s) for appropriate CDMH board vacancies, refining the SHC's understanding of CDMH's financial oversight and process amidst their transition to a two-year budgeting process, and several strategies to ensure community involvement in the SHC's Community Conversation on Stigma and Train-the-Trainer Initiatives. (See SHC [Meeting Packet](#), [Padlet](#), and [Video](#))

## DISCUSSION

### Chemical Dependency / Mental Health Advisory Board Overview

- **CDMH Funding Overview:** Randy Hayden, Chairman of the CDMH Advisory Board, provided an overview of the CDMH funding, detailing its sources, allocation process, and key focus areas such as prevention, wellness, crisis engagement, and outreach. He noted the current budget this board advises the County Council Members for this funding is ~ \$28 million. (See SHC [Meeting Packet, slide 3-10.](#))
- **Board Composition Changes:** Randy discussed proposed changes to the board's composition to include more positions and better representation, reflecting shifts in focus due to evolving healthcare policies and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Rural Representation:** Emphasis on the need for greater rural representation on the board to ensure that rural areas are adequately considered in funding decisions and implementation strategies. Advocated to get someone from SHC to sit on the CDMH Advisory Board.
- **Future Budgeting and Financial Tracking:** The transition to a two-year budgeting process was mentioned, with challenges about its timing and implications discussed. It was noted there is an

opportunity for improved clarity in the process to be awarded funding and the tracking of funding allocations, especially with overlapping service areas.

### What Rural Stakeholder Engagement Could Look Like

The discussion on Rural Stakeholder engagement stressed the critical role of representatives from rural communities in participating actively in funding and decision-making processes. It was emphasized that these representatives, drawn from local communities, should be robustly supported by the broader consortium to effectively articulate their perspectives and needs. This support includes providing them with essential information and advocacy tools to represent rural interests at strategic planning meetings, aiming to reduce disparities in behavioral health services between urban and rural areas through equitable representation.

Regarding the distribution of opioid settlement dollars, it was noted that funds are allocated based on population, favoring cities with over 10,000 residents and excluding smaller rural areas from direct funding. Lori Fleming pointed out the opportunity to enhance rural representation by including rural viewpoints in the broader county discussions on the utilization of opioid settlement funds. This inclusion would ensure that the specific needs and circumstances of rural communities are considered in strategic decisions, despite these communities not receiving direct allocations due to their smaller sizes.

### Planning for June 26 & 27 Community Conversations Exploring Stigma

During the meeting, a rapid-fire discussion took place where each attendee quickly shared ideas and commitments on how they could contribute to the success of the upcoming Community Conversations and Train-the-Trainer events. Key contributions included:

- **Juliet D'Allesandro** suggested leveraging health department communication channels for widespread promotion.
- **Joe Neigel** emphasized the importance of inclusive, multilingual promotional materials and suggested framing discussions around substance use disorder (SUD) and "mental strength" to engage more participants effectively.
- **JanRose Ottaway-Martin** offered to disseminate event information through the NS-BHASO network and its advisory board.
- **Rachel Smith** supported using established communication teams for effective outreach.
- **Eric Britt** discussed leveraging local hospital resources to promote the events, and is willing to help us connect with the right folks in his organization.
- **Erin Lopez** recommended engaging faith-based organizations to expand reach.
- **Jessica Thorton** of Sound Pathways proposed utilizing resource centers like Carnegie hall for distributing event information.
- **David Fine** discussed using the Joint Information System for outreach through PIO networks. David emphasized that this system is usually intended for spreading information among PIOs but could be

effectively used to inform the wider community about the Train-the-Trainer event, ensuring comprehensive coverage.

- **Marree Perrault** will work to involve youth coalitions in promotions. Lori will work with Marree and her inclusivity group to ensure that promotional materials are accessible and appropriate before they are distributed through the various channels.
- **Devon Kienzle** would distribute flyers to primary care providers in rural areas such as Darrington, Smokey Point, and Arlington. This distribution aimed to ensure that patients and other community members visiting these healthcare facilities would receive information about the Train-the-Trainer event, enhancing outreach and participation from these rural communities. **He noted transportation will be key to help people get to and from each of these events.**
- **Jacob Grillo** suggested involving local emergency services personnel to aid in community engagement efforts. He will connect with the Gold Bar Fire Chief on this.
- **Tracy Franke**, is willing to ensure the posters/social media go through the Darrington School District outreach channels.

#### **SHC Members: Wins, Needs, and Insights**

- Juliet D'Allesandro shared good news about nearly completed contracts for various strategies, signaling progress in operational processes and partnerships.
- Marree Perrault expressed excitement about the youth coalition starting their peer-to-peer training, showcasing a win in engaging younger community members in meaningful roles.
- David Fine, DEM mentioned a significant upcoming event focused on recovery at Funko Field in Everett. He highlighted the event's planned comprehensive approach to providing immediate resources like mobile showers and ID cards, along with a recovery-focused baseball game. This event is aimed at addressing immediate needs and promoting recovery in a community-engaging manner.