



# 2017 NORTH SOUND OPIOID SUMMIT REPORT

1,280

Hours Invested by  
Community Leaders at  
the 2017 North Sound  
Opioid Summit

On October 25th, 2017, more than 150 stakeholders convened in Bow, WA, with the goal of expanding the collective efforts that will finally begin to reverse the progression of the opioid epidemic across the North Sound region. Leaders from **Law Enforcement, Drug Courts, Treatment Agencies, Primary Health Care, County Public Health and Human Services, Elected Officials, Tribal Partners and others** gathered to learn the latest research on effective strategies and discover promising local efforts. ***BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEY BROUGHT THEIR IDEAS AND SKILLS TO HELP BUILD NEW PARTNERSHIPS AND PLAN NEW SOLUTIONS TO FIGHT THE OPIOID CRISIS IN THE NORTH SOUND REGION.***

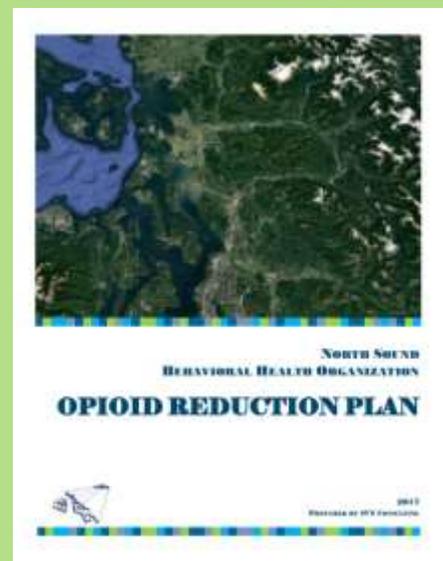
## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ◇ **Expand “Upstream” efforts**
  - ◆ Work closely with schools, youth-serving organizations and other key partners to expand evidence-based prevention, outreach/early intervention and treatment programs for youth
  - ◆ Increase efforts to support parents and families in preventing childhood trauma and accessing services when needed, such as parent education and family-focused care coordination
  - ◆ Support community drug “take back” programs and other efforts to keep medications secure
  - ◆ Increase funding to expand access to naloxone for people at risk, such as those leaving jails or detox
- ◇ **Increase community support for, and the availability of, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**
  - ◆ Provide financial incentives for primary care physicians and other providers to prescribe Buprenorphine
  - ◆ Address local community concerns related to the siting of MAT clinics
  - ◆ Use mobile vans to increase access to MAT especially in rural areas
- ◇ **Provide MAT to persons who are incarcerated or being released from Jail. Encourage and support Jails in replicating effective pilots such as those in Snohomish County.**
- ◇ **Expand Syringe Exchange Programs, and support the growth of connected services such as Outreach, ongoing Care Coordination, Primary Health and Dental Care**
- ◇ **Actively create Housing opportunities for Persons who are receiving MAT**
- ◇ **Expand the Workforce of CDPs, Peer Counselors and Recovery Coaches through tuition subsidies and other supports**
- ◇ **Continue to address the Stigma around both Opioid Use Disorder and the use of Medication Assisted Treatment to address it**
- ◇ **Support local efforts to address the Opioid crisis as a Public Health problem, including comprehensive strategies to conduct community “Surveillance” on Overdoses and Mortality, as well as documenting the effectiveness of Treatment and Prevention efforts.**
- ◇ **Expand Recovery Supports, such as Housing, Child Care, Transportation, Employment, Education and ongoing Recovery Coaching**
- ◇ **Transition the Treatment paradigm to support Effective Strategies**
- ◇ **Actively partner to fill gaps and “scale up” effective local programs, like MAT in Jails and Behavioral Health Professionals embedded with Law Enforcement**

- \*Prevention in schools? How do we know what's happening and expand what's working?
- \*How can we expand . . . programs to reach more people? What are the barriers?
- \*How do we deal with ACEs at the adult level? . . . What is the best medication for Generational ACEs?
- \*Drug take-back programs require involvement by Law Enforcement, but what about . . . requiring drug companies to establish drug take-back programs?
- \*Could it be legislated that overdoses be reported back to the prescriber . . . so they know the effect of their prescribing practices?
- \*[What about] Methadone program[s] issuing Narcan to individuals or family when enrolled in OTP?
- \*How do we promote policy and practice . . . to improve: Collaboration among sectors (Law enforcement, jails, counties, treatment); Resource (\$) coordination and optimization (Housing, transportation, Rx . . .)?
- \*[We] can't just focus on the "shiny object!" [We] must ensure a full continuum of care!
- \*If you get someone on MAT how do you guarantee the continuum of care? Care management is essential.
- \*Need housing for success in recovery
- \*Given the limited resources, how do we bridge between MAT in criminal justice settings and community providers?
- \*How do we communicate to community and policy makers to provide additional funding for jail services (workforce for MAT, diversion programs)?
- \*How do we move from working on our own little piece and instead working on the problem collectively? . . . How can we align our systems to move in the same direction?
- \*What does it take to educate providers to change course, change philosophy and adopt new Treatment modalities?
- \*Detox 90% failure rate increases overdose risk – Why do we do it?
- \*Withdrawal only is ineffective and unethical
- \*What can we do to encourage [the] whole community to stop asking "When are you going to get off medicine?" . . . . "When are you gonna get off of that?"

## NEXT STEPS

1. The North Sound BHO will create an electronic distribution list to keep interested persons and organizations informed about ongoing efforts and opportunities to participate.
2. Relevant Opioid Summit recommendations will be integrated into the North Sound Opioid Response Plan.
3. Individual county human service and public health departments will continue to pursue county-based strategies and provide opportunities for summit participants to become involved.
4. The North Sound BHO and the North Sound Accountable Community of Health [ACH] will support local efforts, coordinate regional strategies, and provide opportunities for summit participants to become involved.
5. The North Sound BHO, North Sound ACH and Counties will collaborate to increase data collection and monitoring.
6. The North Sound BHO, North Sound ACH, Counties and Tribal Partners will collaborate to develop specific legislative proposals for enhancements to policies and funding.



THE NORTH SOUND  
OPIOID REDUCTION PLAN

[http://northsoundbho.org/Assets/PDFs/  
Opioid\\_Reduction\\_Plan/](http://northsoundbho.org/Assets/PDFs/Opioid_Reduction_Plan/)