

# **San Mateo County -Overdose Prevention Coalition Steering Committee Meeting**

April 8, 2025, College of San Mateo

Host: Gil Perez, Coordinator of the Mental Health Peer Educator Program

Members Presents: Mary Taylor, Jei Africa, Edith Cabuslay, Rondel Davis, Mary Bier, Mira Shamel, Ronni Brown, Riley Casenti, Omar Brown, Marc Rappaport, Lea Tillier, Judith Modlen, Jasmin Flores, Jackie Almes, Gil Perez, Eamonn Hartmann, Diana Reddy, Diana Campos-Gomez, Cameron Christensen, Brian Greenberg, Fatima Rodriguez, Mira Shamel

Facilitator: Dr. Ronni Brown-Senior Community Health Planner-Overdose Education and Response

## **Welcome:**

Ronni welcomed the Steering Committee members and asked them to introduce themselves by their name, title, and action word that best describes the favorite aspect of their current job or position. The members shared the following words:

Trust, Impact, Compassion, Tools, Love, Change, Liberation, Results, Creativity, Heart, Innovation, Sharing, Education, Community, Systems, Collaboration, Service, Action and Authenticity.

## **State and Local Data:**

Eamonn Hartmann, epidemiologist with San Mateo County Office of Public Health, Policy, and Planning, provided an overview of state and county overdose deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits. He reported an increase in overdoses since 2019, with increases in both opioids (involving fentanyl) and stimulant related deaths.

## **Focus Group-**

Ronni and Eamonn provided a summary of the key findings from the 6 focus group sessions that were conducted throughout San Mateo County during months of September 2024-Janauary 2025 in Redwood city, San Mateo, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Pacifica and virtual.

## **Vision Board Activity:**

Ronni discussed the vision statement development process to describe the desired outcome and end-result of the coalition's work. She provided examples of vision statements from the corporate and non-profit sectors. The committee used pictures and words from magazines and newspapers to create a vision board (a "visual" vision) of the coalition's desired outcome.

## **Vision Statement:**

The Steering Committee drafted vision statements, which included the following:

Save lives by preventing overdose.  
Accessible services tailored to individual needs.  
Create a collaboration to prevent overdose.  
Empower individuals to make informed choices.


Use evidenced based protocols to end overdose.  
Early education to prevent experimentation.  
Meet people where they are at, and treatment is not forced.  
A San Mateo free from overdose activated or mobilized by the community.  
To empower and mobilize a community free of drug overdose.  
A world where we lose no one to overdose.

The three statements that generated the most interest and discussion were:

To empower and mobilize a community free of drug overdose.  
A world where we lose no one to overdose.  
A San Mateo free from overdose, empowered by community.

### **Community Shout-Outs:**

Members shared the following upcoming events:

Peninsula Health Care District is sponsoring a free  **heart screening event for youth and young adults (ages 12-25) on Saturday, April 26 from 10-3pm at San Mateo High School. Pre-registration for the heart screening required:** <https://kylejtaylor.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/kylejtaylor/event.jsp?event=425&>

College of San Mateo, Harm Reduction Society is a supportive and caring community that focuses on harm reduction, self-care, and eliminating stigma. The HRS holds meetings every Thursdays from 03/07 to 05/23, from 3:10 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Building 5, Room 352.

SamTrans has implemented a Voluntary Naloxone Program for its safety and security team to administer naloxone to riders experiencing a suspected opioid-involved overdose!

### **Next Steps:**

The next committee meeting will be held on either June 3 or 10<sup>th</sup> and a survey will be sent to all Steering Committee members regarding the preferred date.

### **Closing:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30PM.