



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES

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

December 9, 2025, Virtual Meeting, 12:30-1:24 PM

Facilitator: Dr. Ronni Brown, County Chair, Omar Brown, County Co-Chair, and Marc Rappaport, County Co-Chair

Members Present: Brian Greenberg, Jorge Quezada Flores, Todd Henderson, Diana Reddy, Eamonn Hartmann, Jared Thomas, Jackie Almes, Mary Bier, Mary Taylor, Corina Chung, Marc Rappaport, Mira Shamel, Omar Brown, Rondel Davis, Edith Cabuslay, Ronni Brown, Mark Karandang, Isabelle Valderrama, Jared Thomas, Marika Buchholz

Steering Committee Roster: 25

Quorum required: 13

Members in attendance: 20

Members Absent: 5 Judith Modlen, Diana Campos-Gomez, Nicholas Colucci, Laurence Boone, Lea Tillier, Phoebe Rutaquio

Members Resigned: 2 Gil Perez, Cameron Christensen

#### **Welcome-** Ronni Brown

Ronni welcomed the Steering Committee members to the virtual meeting, reviewed the agenda, and noted that high priority agenda items would now be placed at the beginning of each meeting based upon post-meeting survey responses from the October meeting.

#### **Community Agreements-** Marc Rappaport

Marc read the Community Agreement to foster respectful, thoughtful, and healthy conversations, and include:

#### ***With each other, we will:***

Attack the problem not the person

Listen to learn





- Respect each other
- Allow all voices (loud and soft)
- Lean into hard conversations
- Allow space for differences
- Be open to a change of mind
- Strive to be prepared for each meeting
- Protect others' confidentiality
- Engage in open dialogue without judgment

**Increasing Meeting Productivity**-Marc Rappaport

Marc reviewed October's post-meeting survey question "*What is/are the best way(s) to increase meeting productivity and the forward momentum of the meeting's agenda?*"

The responses receiving the most votes were:

1. Start meetings with higher priority agenda items
2. Assign time limits for discussion points
3. Have smaller group discussions and tasks.

Based on this feedback, meetings will be structured per the suggestions listed.

Marc emphasized the importance of feedback from all members, commenting on the low response rate (n=7) from the October post-meeting survey. These surveys are used to increase meeting productivity and advance the agenda of the coalition. Marc requested that all meeting attendees complete future post-meeting surveys.

**Status of the Coalition:** Ronni Brown

Ronni asked the committee to reflect on the coalition's status and determine which stage we are in, based on the five stages group development proposed by Bruce Tuckman's 5 stages of group development (Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing, and Thriving). Most members felt that the coalition is in the Norming state and Mary Bier stated, "*I feel like we did some storming recently and now we are on the same page!*".



**Skill Sets**- Ronni Brown

Ronni asked the committee members to put into the chat three skills they have that can advance the mission and vision of the coalition. She will create a skill set summary and send to all members. She requested that Action Team chairs use this skill set summary to recruit committee members whose skills are critical for their action teams.

**Action Teams Report:**

**Youth and School Action Team**- Marc Karndang, Chair

The team met with Kyle Sentoro, producer of the award-winning documentary “Fentanyl High”. Kyle was a student at Los Gatos High School and embarked on creating a documentary about youth, peer pressure, substance use, and addiction. The action team would like to host movie screenings at San Mateo County High Schools to increase overdose awareness and prevention.

The team has established a strong partnership with SMC Office of Education and invited the Program Specialist and Director of Safe and Supportive Schools to participate in the Accelerator 7.0 Program through the California Overdose Prevention Network (COPN). The program is designed to help multi-sector teams build adaptive leadership skills to integrate overdose prevention activities with behavioral health and recovery services. The team envisions creating a leadership academy for high school students to integrate prevention activities at their respective schools. The application has been submitted, and acceptance notification will be announced on January 12. More information will be shared upon application acceptance. Ideas and participation regarding these initial action plans were solicited by attendees and Mark invited members to join the Action Team.

**Unhoused and Vulnerable Population** – Marika Buchholz, Chair

The team has met several times and developed two plans of action. The first action plan is to conduct a literature review to identify articles related to unhoused individuals and overdoses in peer reviewed journals and leading news agencies, such as the New York Times. The goal is to identify effective interventions for unhoused populations, inform decision making and resource allocation, and facilitate conversations. Dr. Brian



Greenberg and Jorge Quezada Flores are leading this effort. A summary of the findings will be shared at the next meeting.

The second action plan is to contact shelter providers to determine their resource needs (overdose prevention, training, how to obtain naloxone from DHCS Naloxone Distribution Project). Ideas regarding these action items were discussed.

**Business Items-** Ronni Brown

Oct 14 meeting Minutes- Marc Rappaport made a motion to approve the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Mary Bier seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by a quorum of the Steering Committee.

Coalition Charter has been signed by Ronni Brown-County Chair, Marc Rappaport-Community Co-Chair and Omar Brown-Community Co-Chair

Steering Committee Updates- Gil Perez and Cameron Christensen have resigned from the Steering Committee due to work commitments. They submitted their resignations via email to Ronni and would like their membership status moved to the General Membership category.

Membership Termination-Laurence Boone joined the Steering Committee in August and attended the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. He did not attend the October 14<sup>th</sup> and is not in attendance at today's meeting. Ronni sent Laurence two emails and one text prior to today's meeting about his interest in continuing as a Steering Committee member. She has not received any responses from email or text communications. Ronni recommended that Laurence be removed from the Steering Committee and moved to a general member category citing the Termination Policy in the SMC OPC charter (members subject to termination if do not attend minimum of ¾ meetings). Group agreed to remove Laurence from the Steering Committee, however a vote was not taken. Edith and Corina suggested that the procedure for termination be outlined. Ronni will draft a procedure and send out for review. Vote for termination will be added to the February agenda.



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Ronni is working to obtain a Zoom account for the coalition.

### Calendar of Events

Steering Committee Meeting: February 10, 12:30-1:30 pm

General Membership Meeting: February 10, 1:30-2:30 pm

Youth and Schools Action Team 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Jan., March, June, Sept. 3:30-4:30 pm

Unhoused and Other Vulnerable Populations Action Team 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday Jan., March, June, Sept. 12:30-1:30 pm

### **General Membership Meeting Recap**-Ronni Brown

Ronni shared the following feedback from the first General Membership meeting held November 4<sup>th</sup>:

“I thought the meeting was ***well run***, and I especially liked the fact that there were ***champions from diverse sectors*** across the county (e.g., SamTrans).”

“The presenters did a good job making us all feel like ***we*** can be ***part of the solution*** and that you were ***eager to hear our ideas***. The first meeting was a very good start to this work.”

“Being a data storyteller, I could see the value of ***sharing some data*** – e.g., a data point/graph that's in the news or aligned with an agenda item – at the start of each meeting. That could provide some helpful context.”

**Closing:** Meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.