

Promoting Community Mobilization for Harm Reduction

Webinar Series

How to Work Inclusively with People who use Drugs
Tuesday September 29, 2020

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Laken Ethun, MPH – Program Manager, Community Health Initiatives
University of Pittsburgh, School of Pharmacy, Program Evaluation and Research Unit

How to Work Inclusively with People who use Drugs

Brooke M. Feldman, MSW – Philadelphia Center Manager, CleanSlate Outpatient Addiction
Medicine

Gus Grannan – Harm Reduction and Data Coordinator, Project SAFE

Upcoming Sessions

Tracy Pugh – Senior Manager, Overdose Prevention Program, Vital Strategies

Housekeeping



Webinar is being recorded.



Please stay muted.



Questions? Please put them in the chat.



Please fill out the evaluation.

Welcome and Introductions

Laken Ethun, MPH – Program Manager, Community Health Initiatives, Pitt PERU

Webinar Objectives


Objectives of this webinar are to learn and discuss:

1. How the inclusion of people who use drugs (PWUD) fits in a *harm reduction approach to overdose* prevention
2. The particular expertise of PWUD for planning, implementing, and leading drug-related initiatives.
3. Using an equity lens to develop inclusionary spaces and establish collaboration
4. Creating safe space for vulnerable populations to invite, facilitate, and promote inclusive participation.
5. Identifying, recruiting, and compensating people with lived experience related to drug use
6. Protections and considerations for including vulnerable populations to avoid punitive recourse and criminal justice system involvement
7. Using data to ensure inclusion

How to Work Inclusively with People who use Drugs

Brooke M. Feldman, MSW – Philadelphia Center Manager, CleanSlate Outpatient Addiction Medicine


Gus Grannan – Harm Reduction and Data Coordinator, Project SAFE



COALITION HARM REDUCTION WEBINAR SERIES

How to work inclusively with people who use drugs in planning, implementation, and leadership of drug use related initiatives

Brooke M. Feldman
Gus Grannan



DEFINING HARM REDUCTION

(H)arm (R)eduction	(h)arm (r)eduction
A movement based in a political liberatory framework that shifts power and resources to people vulnerable to structural violence	The interventions and practices

Harm reduction is a set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.

Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs.

- Harm Reduction Coalition

Community Level Harm Reduction Services

- Outreach & engagement
- Syringe service programs
- Naloxone training and distribution
 - *Getting naloxone into hands of people who use drugs/around people who use drugs*
 - *People who use drugs are most often first responders to opioid overdoses*
- Low-threshold MOUD
 - *OBOT model; mobile bupe/methadone induction services*
 - *“Warm-handoff” programs in EDs*
- Housing-first
- Low-threshold recovery housing (i.e. not requiring abstinence)
- Supervised consumption
- Safe supply

Important to remember...

- The most effective harm reduction practices have come from people who use drugs
- Harm reduction has public health outcomes but you cannot organize harm reduction around public health alone

Harm Reduction IS Low-Threshold

- Typically, access to services has had a high threshold
 - *Commitment to abstinence*
 - *Engagement in clinical services*
 - Ex: mandated group or individual therapy
- Programmatic expectations have been out of alignment with person's needs

PWUD Are The Experts in Overdose Prevention

■ History of:

- Community-based Naloxone distribution
- Safe consumption
- Syringe distribution
- Safe supply

Equity in the era of the “Opioid Epidemic”

- Let’s just talk about the “opioid epidemic” narrative
 - Most overdoses are polysubstance events
 - SAMSHA data vs narrative
 - Opioid-only policy does not describe the reality of drug use for many people

Creating Safe Spaces for Inclusion of PWUD

- Focus groups/surveys (low-hanging fruit for engaging PWUD)
- Organization providing services must take positive steps forward re: providing support that is relevant to PWUD
- Understanding how oppression and marginalization influence interactions with PWUD
- May have to adjust preconceived deliverables and project goals

Identifying, Recruiting & Compensating PWUD

- Reduce thresholds for participation
- Consider meeting times and spaces
- Ask yourself: how would I compensate a Subject Matter Expert (SME) consultant
- Consider the reality of life for the people you are trying to engage
 - *i.e. meeting structures*
- Cannot make receipt of services contingent on participation

Protections and Considerations

- Law enforcement experiences; disparities in law enforcement experiences
- Be realistic and clear about limitations re: risks and ability to provide protection
- Keep in mind that PWUD are in legally precarious positions

When It Comes to Data...

- Build respectful relationships and center the subjective expertise of PWUD
- Understand real-time experience can conflict with the literature base or other sources of data

Q&A

Upcoming Webinar Series



Racial Equity Part 1: Using Data

October 2020



Racial Equity Part 2: Strategies and Practices

November 2020

Reminders



Please fill out the evaluation.



**Webinar recording will be made
available on *overdosefreepa.pitt.edu***

Thank you!

Please submit any additional questions to
vvargas@vitalstrategies.org