

**Oahu Outreach Provider Meeting**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Service providers present: Achieve Zero, Hale Kipa, Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center, Institute for Human Services, Kalihi-Palama Health Center, Kealahou West Oahu, Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, Mental Health Kokua, Project Vision Hawaii, Revive + Refresh, RYSE, UnitedHealthcare Justice Liaison, U.S. VETS, Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, Waikiki BID Block By Block, Partners in Care, CORE

Call to Order/Client Success Story

- This month's story is about [Leayne](#), who is now permanently housed at the Kamaoku Kauhale. Leayne shared her story with KITV and other stakeholders during the Kamaoku celebration event last week. When we saw her after two months of being stably housed, she looked like a completely different person. Now that she is housed, Leayne wants to focus on her goal of homeownership.

Presentations

➔ **Provider Input on HDOT Strategies to Reduce Traffic Accidents Involving People Experiencing Homelessness**

- HDOT is seeking input from providers on ways to improve safety for people experiencing homelessness who camp near or cross busy streets. There have been a few unfortunate traffic fatalities this year, including the recent incident of a couple killed while sleeping in a car on the side of the highway in Maui, and even more concerning is the number of traffic incidents that are “near misses.” The City & County of Honolulu is also interested in this feedback.
- Provider suggestions include:
  - Crosswalks with red and green lights instead of simply the yellow flashing lights.
  - Remediating some of the conflicting crosswalk markers (e.g. on King St., some of the crosswalk stripes have been removed but there are still yellow signs indicating that there is a crosswalk there).
  - Speed tables, such as those on Farrington Hwy. in Nanakuli.
  - Pedestrian overpasses in high-risk areas.
  - Flags that pedestrians can use at crosswalks.
- Providers are encouraged to share ideas with HDOT, along with any traffic hot spot areas that may be an increased risk for people experiencing homelessness.
- HDOT is interested in initiatives that can support traffic safety for people experiencing homelessness, even if these initiatives do not directly involve traffic-related initiatives. HDOT may have funding available to support providers who are interested in these initiatives. Please contact [dreanalee.k.kalili@hawaii.gov](mailto:dreanalee.k.kalili@hawaii.gov) with any questions or ideas.

➔ **Substance Use Trends, HHHRC – Sophie Gralapp and Echo Wyche** (see attached slides)

- HHHRC's Syringe Exchange Program (SEP) is available statewide through HHHRC and their partners. The process is currently a 1-for-1 exchange but they are hoping for a change to legislation that would allow people to receive more than one needle at a time.
  - Oahu office line: (808) 521-2437 ext. 273
  - Chinatown outreach van cell: (808) 285-4265

- Syringe exchange appointment outreach van cell: (808) 286-2852
- Over 1.18M syringes were exchanged statewide in 2020 – a record number, compared to 34,365 when the program started keeping track in 1993. However, the number of SEP visits decreased in 2020 compared to 2019, likely due to COVID concerns, despite the number of syringes exchanged being up 34%. Gatekeeping activity was also on the rise in 2020.
- Other than syringes, the primary items people needed from the outreach vans were first aid kits and food/snacks.
- HHHRC can help with training and outreach if syringes are being found in any areas. Providers and community members are encouraged to call if syringes are being found, especially since it may indicate that there are people there who don't know about SEP services. Contact SEP Program Manager Echo Wyche at [ewyche@hhrc.org](mailto:ewyche@hhrc.org) to request these services.
- HHHRC has trained over 1,300 individuals to administer naloxone since 2016. Based on data collected from people who receive naloxone training, the most commonly used substances are heroin, alcohol, and more than one substance.
- Data collected from SEP registration also shows that that most commonly used substances are heroin, methamphetamine, and more than one substance.
- HHHRC has funding available through DOH to help learn more about substance use among people experiencing homelessness. Please contact Heather at [hlusk@hhrc.org](mailto:hlusk@hhrc.org) to learn more about this opportunity.

➔ **Preventing Opioid-Related Overdoses with Naloxone, HHHRC – Heather Lusk** (see attached slides)

- Opioids act on the body's nervous system, causing symptoms like pain relief, cough suppression, feelings of euphoria, constipation, nausea, dry mouth, and constricted pupils. High doses can cause cessation of breathing, which can result in brain damage and death.
- There are different types of natural, semi-synthetic, and full synthetic opioids. Fentanyl is an example of a full synthetic opioid and can be 100x more potent than an equal dose of morphine.
- Due to the very small amount needed to create the intended effect, fentanyl is showing up in a lot of counterfeit drugs like Oxycodone, Xanax, heroin, cocaine, and meth. People who are unaware that fentanyl is present in their drugs can easily overdose.
- Overdose is one of the leading causes of injury-related death in Hawaii. The number of synthetic opioid deaths is also increasing. From 2016 to 2020, there was virtually no sizable amount of fentanyl in Hawaii. However, in 2021, over 24 kgs of fentanyl were seized in the state.
- Recognizing signs of opioid overdose vs. opioid high:

<u>Really high</u>	<u>Overdose</u>
Muscles become relaxed	Deep snoring or gurgling (death rattle) or wheezing
Speech is slowed/slurred	Blue skin tinge – usually lips and fingertips show first
Sleepy looking	Pale, clammy skin
Responsive to stimulation like yelling, sternum rub, pinching, etc.	Heavy nod, will not respond to stimulation
Nodding out	Breathing is very slow, irregular, or has stopped/faint pulse

Using opioids with other depressant drugs, using after a period of abstinence, or unknowingly using highly potent opioids like fentanyl can increase the risk of overdose.

- Naloxone (Narcan) is a nasal spray that reverses the effects of opioid-induced sedation within 2 minutes. There is no potential for abuse and is harmless if opioids are not present.
  - Naloxone is available without a prescription and people who administer Naloxone or an opioid antagonist to someone who is overdosing are protected under state law.
  - Request naloxone at <http://hhrc.org/naloxone> and receive free online overdose prevention training.