

State Prevention Enhancement (SPE) Policy Consortium Notes

March 17, 1-4 p.m.

MS Teams

Attendees			
Anderson, Michael	DOH	Sanchez Cornejo, Brisa	OSPI
Bartz-Overman, Carly A	DOH	Schmierer, Alexis	HCA
Belisle, Christopher	HCA	Shield, Margaret	Wa Breathes
Browne, Allison	DOH	Smith, Brittany	HCA
Christensen, Allen	DOH	Squetimkin-Anquoe, Annette	HCA/OTA
Cook-Lalari, Sarah	HCA	Thompson, Linda	WASAVP
Garza, Codie	HCA	Timm, Krista	Px Voices
Gray, Marie	DOH	Tinder, Renee	DOH
Horodowicz, Ray	HCA	Unland, Kyle	DOH
Kenney, Jolynn	Mentor WA	Vandagriff, Jaymie	HCA
Lauderdale, Connie	HCA	Weiner, Brittany	WSHA
Levenson, Cheri	DOH	Whitaker, Jeremy	HCA
Mariani, Sarah	HCA	Wilhelm, Liz	DOH
Oliver, Rachel	HCA	Wulff, Isaac	HCA
Peterson, Julie	Healthy Gen.	Zimmermaker, Micah	DOH
Reamer, Billy	HCA		

Meeting Notes

1. Introductions and announcements

Sarah Mariani, HCA; Allen Christiansen DOH

- Sarah opened the meeting at 1:06 p.m.
- New members: Sarah Cook-Lalari, HCA – OTA; Krista Timm, Prevention Voices; Cheri Levenson DOH (2nd mtg)
- *Attendees met in breakout rooms to chat about engagement and mutual support.*

Observances and announcements

- March: [National Nutrition Month](#). [Problem Gambling Awareness Month](#).
- April: Alcohol Awareness Month; SAMHSA has a [toolkit](#) you can use.

SPE organizational structure

- We talked about this at the last meeting and had some volunteers to help with it more. However, the changes happening now at the state and federal levels, we're stepping back for a bit until things have settled down and there is more clarity on what we can affect.

2. Legislative Session and policy check-in 2025

SPE Co-Chairs and Members

Current climate

- At the state level, we have a significant budget shortfall. State agencies are working to curb our spending now in advance of budget finalization.
- Executive orders are also affecting things at the state level. Information is changing rapidly.
- This all generates emotions and confusion. It is also hard work to navigate, particularly if it's your first time through a short budget. We truly appreciate all the work you do.

Resources available and things that are working well

- Engaging with our legislators is and will continue to be helpful. Be the content expert for your legislator.
 - Legislators are saying they want to hear more from communities/from those who are affected.
 - Even thanking legislators for the things currently in place will put that in their minds and reduce the likelihood of those going away.
- The Athena Forum has [Research Briefs](#) across different prevention topics that can help educate/train.
- There are also 1-pagers on CPWIs, CBOs, and more.
- MENTOR Washington will host a youth focused training workshop at their virtual conference on May 14.

- Organizations like League of Education Voters do workshops such as "Advocacy 101."
- WASAVP has a training focused on Advocacy.
- [Prevention Voices](#) has great online resources and meetings focused on processes/education.
- WSPHA has a podcase: [Public Health is Essential](#).

Concerns

- Lack of communication at multiple levels.
- Fear of this being political. We can be nonpartisan yet still express our needs politically. Policies affect us at every level and policies *are* affected by politics. Educate ourselves and others on how to talk about our needs and educate others on the issues.
 - WA Breathes is no longer allowed to educate legislators on issues. No facts, no papers.
 - WA Breathes transitioned to a non-profit. Some of what they do has been perceived as lobbying, which would not be allowed as a non-profit. The order was likely a way to make that separation and jump to non-profit status.
- Inequality. A disproportionate number of people of color are being arrested for DUI, yet the issue might be a light that's out that they're too poor to fix.
 - Several senators talked about needing to stop repeat DUI offenders. Prevention is preventing that happen in the first place. The message that policies are a form of prevention, and the prevention message at large aren't getting across.
 - Prevention must have good policy + full funding + systems change....
- Health Care and Treatment. How the insurance companies are dictating treatment/health care is another huge issue affecting our citizens/communities.

Actions

- We need to acknowledge the things happening in Washington D.C. and how they will affect people – especially those already marginalized.
- We need to stay hopeful. Hope is about action, not apathy.
- Use the SPE's [State Plan](#) to communicate. It includes our roles, synergies, and the economies that result. It also includes outcomes.

Breakthroughs/Successes

- SPE's space to share our work.
- The new strategic plans coming in from CPWIs show more understanding of planning and incorporating policy, advocacy, and community conversations (town halls). This climate is motivating communities to step up more.
- The YCCTPP program at DOH found a new commercial tobacco prevention program manager.
- At a recent Spokane County DUI Victims Panel, three participants asked for treatment information because they realized that they truly do need treatment.
 - Another person, who had attended our Panel a month ago, stopped X on the street to share, "You saved my life. I'll never drink and drive again...and I am back at AA."
- Two evaluation successes:
 - Jaymie V. was invited to co-author a brief with SAMHSA folks on CPWI evaluation results (for a broad public audience).
 - Some of the early CPWI evaluation results were published in a peer-reviewed journal a couple weeks ago! It was also in the Athena newsletter [View the article](#).
- Mentor Washington's [conference](#) is on May 14th and we'd love to have prevention colleagues there. They are prioritizing youth and young adults to be their keynote speakers and encouraging workshops to be at least co-led by youth and young adults.
- Find ways to celebrate good things that are happening! Invite policymakers.
- Concrete's elementary school prevention club, "the Helpful Turtles" created a Kindness Wall.

3. Advancing the EIP list with a health equity lens

Alexis Schmierer HCA

- Please refer to the PPT for more information.
- Alexis shared about the [Excellence in Prevention](#) strategy list on Athena Forum.

- She shared steps taken to reach the current EBP criteria and list, and a summary of efforts to reconsider programs marked for removal. This includes a shift toward Practice Based Evidence.
- Next steps: First-priority programs will be reviewed by early April.
- [Colorado's EBP processes](#)
- Contacts for feedback and questions:
 - Alexis: alexis.schmierer@hca.wa.gov
 - Dr. Jaymie Vandagriff, Project Lead: Jaymie.vandagriff@hca.wa.gov
- ROI isn't factored in, because it is rarely available for community-based programs.
 - Jolynn sent a link to work one of her consultants did on this: [ROI information](#).

4. Workgroup spotlight

Margaret Shield, Briseida Chavez

- WA Breathes – commercial tobacco prevention
- Please refer to PowerPoint.
- It started as a coalition and recently applied as a non-profit.
- There are multiple ways to participate, including workgroups.
- They hold Change Learning Circles during leg session.
- They launched a social media campaign and [Share Your Story](#) last year.
 - Facebook: [@WashingtonBreathes](#)
 - Instagram: [wa_breathes](#)
 - LinkedIn: [Washington Breathes page](#)
 - YouTube: [@wabreathes](#)
- [Policy statements](#) and fact sheets are available in multiple languages.
- One goal this year is to focus on financial sustainability.
- Q: Do you have youth ambassadors or young adults that help with your work?
 - A: We have a lot of adult leaders of youth, but currently not the youth themselves. It's partly a matter of staffing.
- Q: How should we respond to questions about JUUL Settlement Funds?
 - A: Recipients are finding each other and talking among themselves, but there are no known instructions or recommendations. None of the money went to tobacco or nicotine cessation.
- Q: How can we support WA Breathes?
 - A: Participate in meetings, lead a committee, review documents, help with grant writing... There are many options.
- Due to restrictions about meeting with legislators, they are currently focused on educating members and reaching out where they can.
- SPE Co-Chairs suggested we should reach out to the AG's office to see about getting an update on JUUL at an upcoming SPE meeting.

5. Workgroup updates

Workgroup Leads

Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention

Brittany Smith

- Last meeting – presented
 - MH promotion integration efforts led by Billy Reamer.
 - Theory of Change for MH.
 - Presentation from Seattle Children's on gun safety and gun locks.
 - A couple CBOs contacted us afterward to get involved in the program.

Opioid Prevention

Codie Garza

- Next meeting: tomorrow from 3-4.
 - Presenter for DH and WSHA on their program for prescribing opioids. A lot of that work is connected to our HCA prevention work.

Problem Gambling Prevention

Jeremy Whitaker

- Meets bi-monthly.
- Send an email if you're interested in attending or joining the workgroup.

- Work done:
 - Updating SUD professional WAC on what kids learn in school. Last updated 1998.
 - Sent a joint press release on Problem Gambling Month.
 - A couple of Focus On campaign messages will be released soon.
 - A community-based prevention RFP is coming soon that integrates problem gambling with tobacco.
 - Statewide media will be released in the next few months.
 - Apps under development include one treatment based and another to lock out 200+ gambling sites from your phone

WHY Coalition

Isaac Wulff on behalf of Kristen Haley

- They heard from the LCB at their January meeting.
- Their February meeting included:
 - Guest speakers from WA Breathes. This also set the stage for future collaboration between the two groups.
 - .05 BAC legislation.
- Special thanks to Julie Peterson, who's been giving leg updates at each meeting.

Young Adult Workgroup

Rachel Oliver

- Meetings are held quarterly (June, September, December, March) on 1st Mondays. The last included:
 - Conversation on 2025 legislative session (active bills that are relevant to YA, dead bills, trends, etc.).
 - Cheri Levenson from DOH facilitated follow-up discussion on SHB 2320 from 2024 leg session.
 - Related to retail worker training: "What is the most important thing that you wish your local cannabis shop knew about high-potency THC?"
- Coming up: Jennifer Duckworth will be presenting at the next SPE meeting on the YA EBP project.

6. Final thoughts and adjournment

Allen Christensen

- Allen thanked attendees for the rich conversations and sharing of their work.
- He encouraged members to stay connected between meetings. Isaac Wulff can help with follow-up: isaac.wulff@hca.wa.gov.
- It would be helpful to find a way or means to have a Who's Who for the newer folks.
- Our North Star remains prevention and one's success is a success for us all.
- Allen closed the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Upcoming Schedule

Month	Workgroup Presentation	Other Topics
May	Young Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Legislative Session – Wrap Up, Budget, etc. •Workgroup Plans/Summaries
July	TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •SPE Structure Discussion •SPE Strategic Plan Update – Needs Assessment
September	MH Promotion & Suicide Prevention	<i>Please suggest ideas for September and beyond!</i>

Please **submit ideas** or **suggestions** for meeting presentations to isaac.wulff@hca.wa.gov.

Your support and collaboration are appreciated.