



Emerging Drug Trends Symposium

November 9, 2023



7:30am – 9:00am	Registration & Breakfast
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MORNING PLENARY SESSIONS

<p>9:00am – 9:30am</p> <p>Main Ballroom</p>	<p>Welcome & Opening Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latika Davis-Jones, PhD, MPH, MSW; Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs • Jeremiah A. Daley; Executive Director; Liberty Mid-Atlantic High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area • Muneeza Iqbal, MPH; Deputy Secretary for Health Resources and Services & Chief Business Analytics Officer, Pennsylvania Department of Health • Dale Adair, MD; Medical Director; Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Pennsylvania Department of Human Services
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<p>9:30am – 10:50am</p> <p>Main Ballroom</p>	<p>Update On Drugs and Their Impact</p> <p><i>Federal Drug Response Priorities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Ashburn, MD, MPH; Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care; Director, Pain Medicine; Penn Pain Medicine Center; Senior Policy Analyst, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President <p><i>Impact on Pennsylvania’s Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erin Takemoto, MPH, PhD; Epidemiologist, Office of Drug Surveillance and Misuse Prevention, Pennsylvania Department of Health <p><i>Trends in drug seizure and interdiction data</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamar Wallace, MS; Public Health Analyst, Overdose Response Strategy / Liberty Mid-Atlantic High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area • Van Jackson; Drug Intelligence Officer, Liberty Mid-Atlantic High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area
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10:50am – 11:00am	Break
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<p>11:00am – 12:00pm</p> <p>Main Ballroom</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: How can Pennsylvania improve its response to drug use and overdose trends in BIPOC communities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominique McQuade; Community Assessment & Engagement Specialist, Division of Substance Use Prevention & Harm Reduction, Philadelphia Department of Public Health • Laurie Johnson-Wade; Executive Director, Lost Dreams Awakening • Roland Lamb, MA; Behavioral Health Consultant; Pennsylvania Statewide Tobacco-Free Recovery Initiative
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<p>12:00pm – 1:00pm</p>	<p>Networking Lunch</p>
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AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

<p>1:00pm – 2:15pm</p>	
<p>Room A/B</p>	<p>Xylazine: Partnerships to manage complications of xylazine use and linkage to treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Gomberg, DNP, RN; Consultant to Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services
<p><i>Xylazine is spreading into Pennsylvania’s drug supply and with it comes new challenges for providers across systems of care: slower responses to overdose reversal, wound care, and changes to withdrawal and MOUD induction protocol. Developing a local strategy to respond to xylazine benefits from collaboration between health care, SUD treatment providers, and behavioral health MCOs. This model from Philadelphia will describe how they built these partnerships to ensure people who use xylazine have access to the level of care they need and that transition between different levels of care is coordinated in a way that maximizes retention in care.</i></p>	
<p>Room C</p>	<p>Vending machines and other strategies for scaling up harm reduction supply distribution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samantha Koch; Director of Policy & Planning, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) • Jordan Lewis, PhD; Senior Advisor, Office of the Executive Director; Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) • Mike Krafick, CRS, CRSS; Recovery HUB Director, Armstrong, Indiana, Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission • Alice Zhang, MD, MPH; Family Medicine Physician, Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, Penn State College of Medicine
<p><i>Expanding access to tools like naloxone and drug testing strips is an important part of Pennsylvania’s strategy to reduce overdose fatalities. Reducing overdoses means getting these tools into the hands of people who need them most – people who use drugs. Join this panel of presenters to hear how your organization can order supplies for your community, strategies to improve distribution to people at highest risk of an overdose and find out how some communities are using innovative strategies like vending machines to make these tools more accessible.</i></p>	

Strategies to Reach BIPOC Communities Where They're At

Room D

- **Karen Mallah, PhD**; Senior Director of Quality, Community Care Behavioral Health
- **Dominique McQuade**; Community Assessment & Engagement Specialist, Division of Substance Use Prevention & Harm Reduction, Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- **Shana Williams, MHS**; Director, Nizah Morris Home (a program of Resources for Human Development)

To build off the morning plenary sessions, this breakout will describe proactive models of outreach and service delivery that are designed to meet the needs of BIPOC communities. A variety of settings and approaches are represented on this panel:

- Using overdose data by zip code to conduct targeted street outreach, bringing harm reduction tools to Black and Latino communities in North Philadelphia
- Training small business owners to deliver health messaging and resources in settings like barber shops and beauty salons, and
- A recovery house that addresses the intersectional needs of trans and non-binary people of color in recovery.

Ups and Downs of Peer Navigation in an Era of Drug Volatility

Room E

- **David Malloy, MSW**; Executive Director of Mobile Services, Merakey Parkside Recovery
- **Kelli Murray-Garant, CPRS**; Recovery Care Coordinator and Community Outreach Specialist; CORE Program, Penn Presbyterian Medical Center
- **Shasta Wilkinson, CRS**; CRS Supervisor, Armstrong-Indiana-Clarion Drug and Alcohol Commission

Peers play a critical, frontline role in outreach and linkage to care activities. As people with their own lived experience, they often have the knowledge and skills to build trust with people who are using drugs and support them in access to SUD treatment and other services. Being on the frontline, peers doing outreach and care navigation are also among the first to observe changes in local drug markets. In this panel discussion, frontline workers will describe what changes they are seeing and describe how it is affecting their work. As people who have accessed SUD services and helped others access these services, they offer an important perspective on what's working and what could be improved to better address the latest trends in a volatile drug market.

2:15pm –
2:30pm

Break

2:30pm –3:45pm

Room A/B

Beyond Test Strips: Community Based Drug Checking to Monitor a Changing Drug Supply

- **Chris Moraff**; PA Groundhogs
- **Ashish Thakrar, MD**; PA Groundhogs

PA Groundhogs was recently launched to offer free, street-to-lab drug checking services in an effort to anticipate overdose spikes before they happen and warn people who use drugs of high potency or adulterated supply. The new drug checking initiative employs mass spectrometry technology. With the data they collect, they will develop regional profiles of the Commonwealth's illicit drug supply, identify hotspots, and proactively warn Pennsylvanians who use drugs about strong batches, new synthetic drugs, and dangerous adulterants. Come learn more about this new project and meet the team making it happen.

Public Health & SUD: The importance of integrating health and SUD services

Room C

- **Monisola Malomo, DVM, MPH;** Epidemiologist, HIV Surveillance & Epidemiology, Bureau of Epidemiology, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- **Kyle Fait-Planning;** Community Liaison and Special Projects Coordinator, Division of HIV Disease, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- **Calli Laskowski, MPH,** CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellow, Pennsylvania Department of Health
- **Lauren Orkis, PhD;** Viral Hepatitis Epidemiologist, Infectious Disease Division, Pennsylvania Department of Health

*The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define **syndemics** as “a clustering of two or more social or health conditions within a population—such as viral hepatitis, HIV, and substance use disorder. Social and structural factors create conditions that lead these health conditions to cluster, or co-occur, within populations.” Integrating SUD and health services addresses syndemics by making care more convenient for people who use drugs. A panel of experts from the Department of Health will share data to show how health issues overlap with substance use and offer strategies for SUD providers to integrate health services and vice versa.*

Improving Access to MOUD in an Era of Drug Volatility

Room D

- **Michael Lynch, MD; MD, FACMT;** UPMC Health Plan Quality and Substance Use Disorder Services Medical Director; Director, UPMC Medical Toxicology Telemedicine Bridge Clinic; Associate Professor, Division of Medical Toxicology, Department of Emergency Medicine, Divisions of Adolescent and Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
- **Angela Colistra, PhD, LPC, CAADC, CCS;** Director of Behavioral Sciences, Associate Medical Director of Community and Practice-Based Research; Lehigh Valley Health Network Department of Family Medicine; Assistant Professor, University of South Florida School of Medicine; Aligned Coaching & Consulting LLC
- **Emma Schanzenback, MD;** Chief Family Medicine Resident, Lehigh Valley Health Network, Department of Family Medicine, Valley Health Partners, Family Health Center
- **Sophia Harbove, LPC, CAADC, NCC, CCTP;** EAP Counselor, Preferred EAP

Medication for opioid use disorder – or MOUD – offers an opportunity to expand access to SUD treatment by making it available in health care settings. This panel will discuss some of the challenges and opportunities of MOUD expansion including how a volatile and toxic drug supply impacts MOUD induction process and how to establish a training program to encourage medical providers to incorporate SUD care into their medical practice.

Strategies for Providing Women-Centered Care

Room E

- **Ilana Hull, MD;** UPMC Magee
- **Leslie Slagel, PhD, LPC;** Chief Operating Officer, POWER
- **Maria Kolcharno, MSW, LSW;** Director of Addiction Services, The Wright Center for Community Health
- **Marcella Bicksler;** Health MOMS Lead Case Manager, The Wright Center for Community Health

Women-centered SUD services create spaces where women feel safe accessing care but where they can also get other, specialized women’s health services. For women of reproductive age, having these targeted services can be essential for making both SUD and reproductive health, and pre-natal care more accessible. The panelists will speak to services along the SUD treatment spectrum, from outreach to treatment and recovery.

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

**3:50pm –
4:30pm**

Main
Ballroom

Closing Panel/Town Hall

- **Carla Sofronski and Guest;** Pennsylvania Harm Reduction Network
- **Kelly Primus;** Deputy Secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs

To close out the day, Carla Sofronski from the PA Harm Reduction network will be joined by someone who has experienced xylazine use. Their testimony will serve as a closing reminder of why our work is essential and how critical it is that services keep up with changes in the drug supply. Symposium participants will then be invited to share their key takeaways for the day and share feedback on the event. Finally, DDAP's Deputy Secretary will close the day with some final remarks.