

National Safer Supply Community of Practice Newsletter
August 2021

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED:

Join the advisory council – First meeting: Thursday August 19th at 2 pm EST

- We are establishing an advisory council to help guide development of the National Safer Supply Community of Practice.
- Who are we looking for? YOU!
 - Anyone currently involved in safer supply work or who are working to have safer supply in your community. Current or former people who use/d drugs; clinical team members: prescribers, RNs; Community health workers, harm reduction workers, and other wrap around providers; Program Coordinators and managers; Pharmacists; Researchers; Advocates and activists; Policy folks
- What to expect:
 - A monthly meeting for the first three months (August, September, and October) and then every three months via Zoom
 - Opportunities to participate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the CoP
 - Opportunities to inform the organization of the National Safer Supply Conference 2022
- How to join: Email Rebecca at rebecca@lihc.on.ca or safersupplyon@gmail.com

Provide mentorship to people new to safer supply

- **Do you have experience prescribing safer supply? WE NEED YOU**
 - Support new prescribers to start offering safer supply. This is critical to expanding access to safer supply
 - We are creating different ways to provide mentorship and the CoP will support you.
 - We will be establishing a Consultation Hot Line (compensated). Email Rebecca at rebecca@lihc.on.ca or safersupplyon@gmail.com if you are interested in participating. Many hands make light work 😊
- **Do you have experience designing a safer supply program? WE NEED YOU**
 - Program managers, coordinators, and program staff: we need your experience to support new programs to quickly get off the ground

Share your skills

- We'd like to create opportunities for skills sharing. Let us know if you would like to offer a workshop or present to the membership.

Share your successes

- Share your success stories, your reports, and safer supply resources that you develop with the NSS-CoP membership through:
 - Our meetings
 - Our newsletter
 - Our resource library (currently housed on [Google Drive](#))
 - The [NSS-CoP Google Group / listserv](#)

Key Meeting Themes

Meeting minutes can be found in the [meeting notes and resources folder](#) on the [NSS Google Drive](#)

July 8th

- Tips and tricks for new prescribers
- Youth & SS
- Alcohol & SS
- Clients who drive
- Titration & backbone discussion

July 15th

- Client scenario, high tolerance
- Medication for stimulant SS
- Nurses & medical directives
- Max tablet dosing & bowel regimen

July 22nd

- Managing case loads with complex clients
- Appointment scheduling
- Client death
- Audits
- Grief resources

July 29th

- Encampment clearing
- Outreach & SS
- Wait lists & telling people no
- Client behaviour challenge
- Hospital continuity of care

Research

We encourage CoP members to email safersupplyon@gmail.com with submissions to include. Content examples: community led projects, peer reviewed articles, grey literature, government publications, etc.

- [Changes in substance supply and use characteristics among PWUD during COVID-19 global pandemic: a national qualitative assessment in Canada](#)
- [A qualitative study on overdose response in the era of COVID-19 and beyond: how to spot someone so they never have to use alone](#)
- [A descriptive comparison of substance use services in recovery and isolation sites for people experiencing homelessness during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Boston and Toronto](#)
- [Emergency department-administered, high-dose buprenorphine may enhance opioid use disorder treatment outcomes](#)
- [Pathways to Drug Liberalization: Racial Justice, Public Health, and Human Rights](#)

- [The potential impacts of community drug checking within the overdose crisis: qualitative study exploring the perspective of prospective service users](#)

Featured Resources

- In July, the Urgent Public Health Needs Site CoP's The Drug Hub focused on emotional harm reduction. See Doug Johnson's post "[Even just by listening, harm reduction workers can improve mental health among people who use drugs](#)", Corey Ranger's post "[Enduring Prolonged Grief](#)" and Scott Elliot's post "[36.4 degrees Celsius](#)"
- Yvette Perrault and Chris Leonard's presentation: [Intentional Processing as part of Self Care and Collective Care in a CoP](#)

News

- [Ontario to spend \\$32 million more on addiction services yearly](#)
- [Government of Canada supports safer supply project for people with opioid use disorder in Kitchener-Waterloo](#)
- [B.C. to offer Canada's first, permanent safe drug supply in response to overdose crisis](#)
- [Building on 6th Avenue chosen for Whitehorse safe consumption site](#)
- [The mobile medical clinic has helped over 500 people in London, Ont](#)
- [Urgent need in Alberta to address potent drug supply, overdose crisis: health experts](#)

Upcoming Events

SoS Interdisciplinary Hot Topic Meetings

International Overdose Awareness Day is on August 31st. To acknowledge this day, we'd like to highlight the work that is underway to address the grief and trauma carried by the many people engaged in frontline harm reduction work. To begin, our August Hot Topic meeting will feature the **Toronto Worker Wellness Network**, a collaboration of multiple community-based organizations who provide care to people who use drugs. **Join Juno Zavitz and Nicola Bangham from Breakaway Community Services** to hear about the process and model underway in Toronto.

Date: Thursday, August 26th at 12 noon EST

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94953695446?pwd=TDJKNKG51SIByZDhKdUlYcVlSaXJ4Zz09>

In the fall, we are pleased to have **Corey Ranger** coming to speak about **emotional harm reduction**. Corey works with the SAFER team at AVI Health and Community Services in Victoria. The Urgent Public Health Needs Site Community of Practice – The Drug Hub features a post by Corey about emotional harm reduction (see the link above in featured resources). The date is to be determined. Stay tuned!