

Breakout Room Discussions

BREAKOUT ROOM: OERC Reflections

How can the OERC further support your CATs to lead community-based, multi-sectoral collaboration throughout BC?

- Have we been asked this question before? Feels similar to questions we have been asked often, and the answer consistently seems to be that the coordinators need more support in getting folks together more regularly/frequently.
- It would be great if there were more informal opportunities for peers to meet across communities.
- More public access washrooms that don't require a purchase to access.
- Work with municipalities to increase CAT access to regional leaders and have input on how the cities are "dealing with the problem".
- More clarity of how this input is being used/actioned. Clearer definitions of accountability between organizations, municipalities, province, and federally.
- More funding, separate CAT and honoraria funding.
- Direction for addressing necessary systems level change.

- A lot of newbies learning what we do.
- Making connection of overdose and brain injury.
- Education in youth is so important.
- How important that preventing and overdose has been focused on but also we need to focus support after an overdose and what people need.
- Stigma attached to overdose is huge and addressing it.

- Who is the OERC?
- With training – conflict resolution, professional communication skills, addressing proper use of language, First Aid training.
- Nasal Naloxone training and access (what is available, how to use, how it differs, how to access) - increases confidence and ease of OD response.
- Organizations say they're going to do work, but don't deliver on it. Need for more accountability for funding given.
- Sustainable funding for Peer groups and programs.
- Support in advocating for increased access to OAT and Safe Supply.
- Sustainable funding for Indigenous organizations and programs.

- By having more collaborative meetings, such as these.
- Sharing Challenges, successes, how we can collaborate to achieve goals.
- In-person gatherings and knowledge exchanges. More hands-on learning and exchanging of knowledge.

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- Encouraging and supporting the spread of knowledge to all sectors (families, school age children, trades workers, small business owners etc).
- More PEERS involvement – recognizing that lived experience is invaluable knowledge!
- Reviewing the struggles of those who are homeless and how that amplifies the struggle with substance use.

- Local health authority should be more engaged with the CATs so communities don't fall through the cracks.
- CATs want to be involved in the decision-making processes not just informed about them (ongoing relationships).

- Guidance & resources to help get peers involved – peers not clear on what's being asked of them. Difficulty creating trusting relationships.
- Health authorities providing more top-down support.
- Health authorities could have more education campaigns.