

## Dr. Peter SUAP HUB Project

Year 2 To-date & Moving Forward

Reporting period: October 2023 to March 2024

### Context

#### Project Objective:

- Create and share harm reduction knowledge products and learning opportunities to increase capacity to provide trauma-informed, stigma-free, and accessible harm reduction.
- Reduce stigma (internal, societal, structural) towards drug use by amplifying the voices of People Who Use Drugs (PWUD) and building their capacity through meaningful opportunities for leadership.
- Ensure connectivity between PWUD, frontline organizations, business community, and policymakers to facilitate more powerful, healthy, and supported conversations that provide more efficient and effective solution-oriented pathways.

#### Project Activities:

- **Community of Practice (CoP) calls** with service providers, PWUD, researchers, policymakers, businesses, and community members
- **Virtual and in-person incubator working groups** to identify solutions to key policy and practice gaps.
- **Drug Hub online magazine and training mentorship program** to promote leadership and employment opportunities among PWUD
- **Trainings** shaped and led by PWUD for a range of audiences.
- **Corporate Canada** and the Overdose Crisis Influencer strategy to engage the business community in solutions for the overdose crisis.

### 3 Successes and 3 Learning Experiences

#### Successes:

- **Mobilizing drug user groups.** Leveraging existing relationships to build solidarity and act as a support network to PWUD. Working with several new organizations to grow the HUB list serves to expand knowledge translation.
- **Project reach.** 350+ people accessing knowledge dissemination sessions (CoP calls, workshops); 450+ people accessing knowledge products (conference posters, training videos). Social media growth of 100 followers on Instagram and undetectable likes and shares.
- **Participatory models of decision-making.** Through activities like The Drug Hub and the Mentorship Project (curriculum building led by LLE consultants and PWUD).

#### Learning Experiences:

- **Capacity of HR sector.** Burnout, trauma, grief, and loss within the sector amidst toxic drug supply and structural abandonment of PWUD provide a barrier to doing good work.
- **Improving payment standards.** To ensure folks are paid promptly. We succeeded in implementing Interact e-transfers to address gaps and provide LLE consultants contracts.
- **Shift in the political landscape.** Working to convene national HR organizations to map our work and strategize amidst hostile local, regional, and national political landscape.

### Notable Events to Date



- Posted two thought-provoking articles to The Drug Hub Virtual Magazine: "The Museum of Past Lives Lived" and "Criminalization of Illicit Substances: A Structure to Maintain Inequality".
- Expanded the online UPHNS-Hub repository with diverse news resources and integrated the PowerPoint presentation titled "Trauma- and Violence-Informed Care in Virtual Harm Reduction Communities," showcased at the Public Health Association of BC Conference on November 21, 2023.
- Establish working connections with new PWLLE through the Drug Hub Committee and the Mentorship project -which will expand the knowledge of PWLLE.
- Devised an innovative social media strategy aimed at enhancing engagement with content viewers, fostering a more effective interaction, and accelerating the dissemination of knowledge within the target audience.
- Facilitated two Drug Hub Committee meetings and recruited two additional Drug Hub Committee members.

### On the Horizon

- Undergoing final edits for another blog submission, leveraging it as a cornerstone to develop a frequently requested resource tool focused on psychosis, catering to the informational needs of our audience.
- Actively crafting the inaugural integrated content submission, a collaborative effort orchestrated by the Drug Hub Committee members, aiming for a cohesive and comprehensive resource. Which will act as a foundational resource for future blog posts and Cop calls.
- Cop call planned for January 30<sup>th</sup> to address the needs of the unhoused population.
  - With two additional calls planned for February and March of 2024.
  - February COP call "**Escaping the Maze: Findings and Strategies from the Supporting Peer Work (SPW) Research Project**" - webinar and interactive workshop will provide you with the opportunity to learn from the experiences of people who do frontline work in their own communities and make meaningful commitments to social and structural change.
- Order additional Drug Hub magazines to meet increased demands.
- CEO/ED Leadership Summit on February 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Upcoming incubators:
  - WGDG report launch March 4<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - BC safe supply gathering February 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
  - Quebec Drug User Group: AQPSUP February 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Mentorship Program

- Hosting weekly meetings with mentors to develop a program curriculum and to support mentors in their role.
- Hosting bi-weekly meetings with mentees to support their learning journey.
- Addition of two program support staff (PWLLE) new staff are providing additional support to mentors, mentees, and curriculum development.
- As of Jan, 5<sup>th</sup> three of the four modules of the mentorship curriculum have been shared with mentees.
- The fourth and final module is currently being reviewed and will be shared with mentees in mid-January.
- The mentorship program curriculum is currently being adapted to be shared as a self-directed learning resource to be shared on the HUB website.
- Additional mentorship has been provided for mentees to being an independent contractor.



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- Program staff have integrated recommendations from mentees to improve accessibility and for all participants.