

## PACIFIC COAST COLLABORATIVE



### STATEMENT of COOPERATION on RESPONDING to the OVERDOSE CRISIS

#### PREAMBLE

*IN RECOGNITION OF THE LONG-STANDING SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, THE STATE OF OREGON, AND THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, WE JOINTLY ADVANCE THIS STATEMENT OF COOPERATION.*

The jurisdictions are committed to ending the stigma and discrimination associated with addiction and substance use disorders, and, to that end, to identifying and defining areas of future cooperation that will enable an effective and compassionate response to the overdose crisis.

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- We enjoy a long-standing, positive relationship and a history of productive and effective collaboration between the four jurisdictions.
- We believe that people with substance use disorders deserve to receive the treatment and support they need to help them return to healthy living within their communities.
- We share in a desire to address substance use disorders by treating them as a medical condition rather than a choice.
- We are committed to improving substance use disorder treatment services in all four jurisdictions.
- We recognize that stigma and discrimination often result in barriers to effective treatment and support for people struggling with substance use disorders.
- We recognize that innovation and collaboration are driving forces behind improving mental health and substance use disorders treatment services.

- We share a goal of helping people with substance use disorders to stabilize their illness and move forward with rehabilitation and recovery.
- We understand that there are communities and individuals in each jurisdiction who are disproportionately affected by the overdose crisis and that specialized strategies are needed to provide them with effective support.
- We value joint action and collaboration in overdose and substance use disorder research, education, prevention, treatment and recovery.
- We see the potential to create seamless systems for mental health and substance use disorder services in all four jurisdictions.
- We believe that the response to the overdose crisis will be strengthened by improving communication between the jurisdictions by sharing information related to best practices and innovation.

### **WE HEREBY AGREE**

To enhance meaningful and results-driven innovation and collaboration in the following areas:

- Establish a forum for discussing priorities around overdose and substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, including strategies, innovations, best practices, lessons learned, policies and legislation.
- Discuss strategies for removing barriers related to stigma and discrimination encountered by people struggling with substance use disorders.
- Consistent with the need for effective criminal justice responses to the exploitation of vulnerable people, explore opportunities and best practices to channel people experiencing substance use disorders into treatment and out of the criminal justice system, where appropriate.
- Identify shared research interests.
- Discuss options for sharing data and trend-related information.
- Discuss strategies and options for helping people disproportionately affected by the overdose crisis.

### **Terms and Effect**

This SOC shall come into effect upon signature by the four parties and shall remain in force for a period of five years and can be renewed or amended with the consent of the signatories. Any party may decide to terminate the agreement by notifying the other parties with six months' written notice.

**Limitations**

The undersigned signatories agree that this SOC shall have no legal effect or impose a legally binding obligation on the Province of British Columbia, the State of Washington, the State of Oregon, or the State of California, or any of their political subdivisions. The signatories also agree that nothing in this SOC, or any efforts undertaken as a result of this SOC, shall create an entitlement. None of the parties shall be responsible for the actions of third parties who may participate in the activities outlined in this SOC.

**Signed**



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**KATE BROWN**  
**GOVERNOR OF OREGON**



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**JAY INSLEE**  
**GOVERNOR OF WASHINGTON STATE**



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**EDMUND G. BROWN JR.**  
**GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA**



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**JOHN HORGAN**  
**PREMIER OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**