

Social Work & Responding to the Overdose Crisis

A Free, Live Webinar Learning Collaborative Series



Part 1: Harm Reduction 101

By the end of this course participants will be able to: describe the overdose crisis in the United States at a high-level, define harm reduction and recognize harm reduction strategies, and identify similarities between harm reduction principles and social work code of ethics.

Speakers:

Emma Fabian, *MSW - University of Buffalo*

Bethany Medley, *MSW, PhD Candidate - Columbia University*

Wednesday,
December 8
1 - 2 PM EST
zoom

Part 2: Criminal Justice & The Overdose Crisis

By the end of this course, participants will be able to: describe how collaboration between social work and criminal justice has changed over time, particularly in relation to drug use, and describe harms/benefits related to social workers collaborating with criminal justice partners.

Speakers:

Greer Hamilton, *MSW, PhD Candidate - Boston University*

Sophia Sarantakos, *MSW, PhD - University of Denver*

Sarah Anyanwu, *MSW - Billerica House of Corrections*

Alanna Mullholland, *MSW - Vancouver Coastal Health*

Thursday,
December 9
1 - 2 PM EST
zoom

Please Register [HERE](#) for both or either session
by Tuesday, December 7th



Who: All social workers (macro, clinical, students, etc.) welcome!

CEU Accreditation* for this session is pending.

Please see registration form for more details.

*CE credits will not be available to those who hold credentials in New York, New Jersey, or West Virginia

Questions?

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A Learning Collaborative Series

Speaker Bios and Agenda:

Part 1: Overview of the Overdose Crisis, Harm Reduction 101 Presentation & Breakout Rooms

Bethany Medley, MSW, Ph.D Candidate: Prior to entering the doctoral program at Columbia School of Social Work (CSSW), Bethany was an adjunct lecturer for CSSW courses on harm reduction policy, programming, and practice interventions and remains actively involved in the Harm Reduction Caucus at CSSW. Her previous experience in drug-user health initiatives include facilitating Training of Trainers (ToT) overdose prevention education with naloxone, increasing community-based buprenorphine access, developing anti-stigma campaigns, and promoting best practices for pregnant people who use drugs.

Emma Fabian, MSW: Emma Fabian currently serves as the associate vice president of Harm Reduction at Evergreen Health in Western New York. Evergreen provides a continuum of services for people who use drugs ranging from syringe exchange and overdose prevention, to counseling and medication for opioid use disorder, to primary and specialty medical care. Emma has been with Evergreen for nearly seven years and helped create the organization's Drug User Health Coalition, a consumer feedback and advocacy group composed of people with lived experience. She is also a part-time instructor at the University of Buffalo's School of Social Work.

Part 2: Panel Discussion: Perspectives on Social Work and Criminal Justice with Q&A

Greer Hamilton, MSW, Ph.D. Candidate: Greer (she/her/hers) is a third year PhD candidate at Boston University School of Social Work. Her work broadly focuses on the intersection of racial equity, affective urbanism, community development, and community engaged research. Her current independent research focuses on racialized urban spaces and municipal drug strategies. She is the recipient of a supplement award through HEALing Communities Study, Massachusetts focused on understanding how municipal policies impact the implementation of evidence-based harm reduction strategies to address the opioid crisis. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute of Drug Addiction, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also serves as an instructor for Boston University School of Social Work and University at Buffalo School of Social Work.

Sophia Sarantakos, MSW, PhD: Prior to entering academia, Dr. Sarantakos (she/they) was a social work practitioner for ten years. During that time, they developed and directed the first jail diversion program in the state of Louisiana, housed in the New Orleans public defender's office. This work included advocating for people with drug-related charges—who were interested in treatment—to receive it in lieu of incarceration. Dr. Sarantakos' current research focuses on contributing to the advancement of community-based approaches to harm and need, as well as exploring the future of social change work.

Alanna Mulholland, MSW, RSW: Alanna Mulholland is the Team Lead with the Overdose Outreach Team operating out of Vancouver, Canada and surrounding Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) regions. She completed an Addiction Social Work Fellowship with the BC Centre on Substance Use in 2020/2021. She has worked with people with complex mental health and substance use issues with VCH since 2016, and in community settings since 2007. She is currently working with youth experiencing street entrenchment to research their experiences of British Columbia's risk mitigation (safer supply) guidelines in the context of an overdose epidemic and Covid-19.

Sarah Anyanwu, MSW, LICSW: Currently a Medication Assisted Treatment Clinician at the Billerica House of Corrections (Billerica, MA), Sarah previously completed two years volunteering with AmeriCorps and worked with juveniles on probation in an effort to prevent recidivism within the community's young at-risk population. Following that experience, Sarah went on to practice as a family therapist at the Sheppard Pratt Center for Eating Disorders (Towson, MD). She worked in a substance abuse program in Nashua, NH as an individual therapist for two years, and she has also worked as a Mental health Clinician at the Essex County Correctional Facility.

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