

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall composition is clean and modern, with the text centered on a white background.

A Matter of Public Health: “Safer Supply” Workshop

Prairie Chiu - Community Action Initiative

- ▶ We would like acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the unceded territory of The Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the x^wməθkwəy'əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səl'ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.

Objective:

- ▶ To encourage participants to consider their personal and professional roles in reducing barriers to “safer supply.”

Barriers to “safer supply”

- ▶ Limited access to, or lack of availability of, “safer supply” programs (e.g. injectable opioids)
- ▶ Lack of public support for decriminalization or legalization of controlled drugs
- ▶ Drug laws and drug policies motivated by racism and/or classism
- ▶ Social, structural and self stigma related to substance use
- ▶ Dominance of medical/disorder model of substance use and lack of support from professional colleges

Barriers to “safer supply”

- ▶ Fear that legalization will result in increased use
- ▶ Prohibition-based drug laws and drug policies framework
- ▶ Lucrative illegal drug market that competes with regulated substances (e.g. price, potency)
- ▶ Lack of equity for those most affected to be part of decision-making processes
- ▶ Programming offered is stigmatizing, patronizing, punitive, restrictive, invasive, non-inclusive, or inequitable
- ▶ Law enforcement approaches that compromise use of or access to harm reduction and health services

Our time together:

- ▶ Count off in groups of 5-6
- ▶ Discuss Part 1 - Personal Reflections questions for 20 mins
- ▶ Discuss Part 2 - Professional Reflections questions for 20 mins
- ▶ Wellness Break and Networking
- ▶ Feedback Session

GO!

Part 1 - Personal reflections (20 mins):

1. Role playing as a teacher/parent/nurse/doctor/mental health therapist/neighbor of a clinic/ business owner/NIMBY community member/policy maker, what are the concerns you have about “safer supply”?
2. In what ways would “safer supply” benefit the greater society? How might you present a counterargument to the objection/concern that you just heard from a public health perspective or another perspective?
3. What are some additional barriers to “safer supply” that Indigenous Peoples and people of colour might face?

Part 2 - Professional reflections (20 mins):

1. Where is your organization/agency situated within the complex adaptive system of drug policy? What role could it play within the larger “safer supply” movement (e.g. drawing attention to the benefits of “safer supply”)?
2. How might supportive systems (e.g. treatment) around the system that delivers “safer supply” adapt or shift to align with it and better serve the needs of people who use drugs (PWUD)?
3. Can you envision ways to create equity for Indigenous Peoples and people of colour within the “safer supply” movement?

Bonus question:

1. How can PWUD be engaged in your organization/agency’s work?

Personal Role - Feedback session prompts:

- ▶ What was it like to hear the perspectives of the different roles, or to play your role?
- ▶ Did your thinking shift?
- ▶ What thoughts or feelings came up for you personally?

Professional Role - Feedback session prompts:

- ▶ What are some areas of organizational/agency strength or potential that you discovered while answering these questions?
- ▶ Do you see your organization/agency's role differently than when you started?
- ▶ Who might be a new partner or stakeholder that would be important to engage going forward?
- ▶ What might be some next steps for you or your organization/agency?