

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION; PANEL; SUBSTANCE USE

On June 12, 2018, the Clatsop Advisory Council held a Community Panel discussing substance use in Clatsop County. The event took place in Seaside, OR. Panelists included; Kim Krause, Administrator for Bridges to Pathways, Alan Evans, CEO of Helping Hands Outreach and Reentry, Corrie Falluer, recent high school graduate, and Dr. Lisa Huddleston, Emergency Department Medical Doctor and Medical Director Seaside Providence.

The panelists were asked four questions each, and then the floor was opened to the community members present for their questions. The four questions were as follows: 1) From your perspective, what is the most immediate need when addressing substance use in our community? 2) What are some examples of strengths and/or initiatives you have observed or are aware of [revolving around substance use care or education]? 3) What is your perception of an ideal future for substance use in Clatsop County across all ages? 4) In your opinion, what could be done better in regards to coordinating care for those struggling with substance abuse and/or addiction? What are the barriers you see to this?

The panelists each brought interesting perspectives and concerns around the topic of Substance Use. From resources available such as crisis response and detox, to the inclusion of trauma-informed practices when working with those who struggle with substance use, to the need for more thorough education of our youth starting at a younger age. Between those serving on the panel and the community members present, many resources were shared among attendees and great conversations were had.

About 30 members of the community were in attendance, identifying themselves as representing various sectors including local social service agencies, concerned community members, government officials, education and more. Following the panel and discussion, attendees were sent an electronic survey to answer short questions about the event itself and the topic discussed. This has provided the opportunity to analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats from the perspective of the community members that were there. All the survey respondents to this point agreed that they would be interested in attending another community conversation of this kind.

The Clatsop Advisory Council will develop a third quarter topic at the July Advisory Council meeting.