



**Coast to Cascades Community Wellness Network (CCCWN)  
Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition  
Meeting Summary  
Held virtually – Microsoft Teams  
March 9, 2026  
10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.**

**Participants:** Rubi Arizmendi, Stephanie Dreiling, Gaby Esquivel, Marcia Harnden, Albany Police Chief, Andy Hertel, Ian Howarth, Lalori Lager, Marie Laper, Lonnie Martinez, Nike Neuenheim, Thien Nguyen, Jesse Noble, James Page, Tanya Pritt, Catherine Rupkus, Traci Sackett, Justin Thomas, Blue Valentine, Emily Zeno Yeast, and Shelley Hazelton

**Welcome/Introductions:**

Nike Neuenheim welcomed everyone to the meeting and led introductions.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The committee reviewed the minutes from the February 9, 2026, meeting of the Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition. **Jesse Noble moved to approve of the meeting minutes as presented, with Traci Sackett seconding. Members present unanimously approved the motion.**

**Presentation: New Mobile Clinic-Benton County for Pregnant/Postpartum Individuals with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and/or Mental Illness:**

Emily Zeno Yeast, CNM, Midwife, Samaritan Obstetrics, Gynecology, Midwifery-Corvallis, shared about the new SamCare Prenatal/Postpartum Mobile Clinic. She shared her background information as well.

- The new SamCare Prenatal/Postpartum Mobil Clinic for Benton County will be opening on April 6, 2026.
  - a. They will be using the SamCare mobile van.
  - b. The clinic will be open every Monday from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at Monarch on 4<sup>th</sup> (520 NW 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis, OR).
  - c. The project is funded by Samaritan Health Services (SHS), InterCommunity Health Network (IHN)/Coordinated Care Organization (CCO), and Pastega Family Foundation.
- Shared information on, “Underlying cause of death among pregnancy-related deaths.”
  - a. Mental health conditions including substance use disorder – 38.1%.  
50% of deaths due to mental health conditions were directly attributed to substance use disorder.

- b. Amniotic fluid embolism – 14.3%.
- c. Infection – 14.3%.
- d. Hemorrhage – 19.5%.
- e. Other conditions unique to pregnancy – 9.5%. Other conditions unique to pregnancy include eclampsia and hyperemesis.
- f. Other – 9.5%. Others include cardiovascular conditions and cerebrovascular accidents.
- **Prevalence of SUD among perinatal Samaritan patients:**
  - a. Patients delivering within a one-year period (July 31, 2022 – August 1, 2023) - 1,729 patients.
  - b. ICD-10 code for substance use and/or positive UTOX for substances other than THC, one year prior to delivery through 3 months postpartum - 109 patients (6%)
- Shared a chart graph – Perinatal SUD by hospital, number of delivery patients – One year – July 31, 2022 – August 1, 2023).
- Where is Nurture Oregon – There are five counties that receive funding, and their perspective Nurture Oregon sites include:
  - a. Benton County– Reconnections Counseling at Monarch and 4<sup>th</sup> – Corvallis.
  - b. Deschutes County – Best Care Treatment Services.
  - c. Jackson County – Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley.
  - d. Lincoln County – Reconnections Counseling.
  - e. Umatilla County – Oregon Washington Health Network.
- Nurture Oregon is state supported and provides prenatal, postpartum, and substance use support for those that are pregnant and their families, emphasizing peer support and stigma-free care.
  - a. Mission and Vision - To keep families healthy and unified by providing quality, integrated care. Nurture Oregon envisions a state where pregnant people who use substances receive safe, supportive, stigma-free care.
- Reconnections Counseling serves as the lead organization for Nurture Oregon in Lincoln and Benton Counties and provides counseling, recovery, and behavioral health services.
- **Shared Nurture Oregon core program elements:**
  - a. Clinicians who provide prenatal and postpartum care.
  - b. Pediatric care for infants.
  - c. SUD treatment, including access to MOUD (medications for opioid use disorder).
  - d. Peer recovery support.
  - e. Community outreach to engage families.
  - f. Case management team.
  - g. Trauma-informed mental health counseling and services
  - h. Other services: doula support, housing support, home visiting nurse
  - i. Partnership in developing Plans of Care.
- Shared the moving toward integration model – Currently only Jackson County provides co-location of care: the model’s gold standard.
- Child Welfare involvement – 66% of Nurture Oregon participants went home from the hospital with their child. Shared a graph showing Deschutes, Jackson, Lincoln, Malheur, and Umatilla counties – Most sites experience a decline over time in court interventions to remove Nurture Oregon infants from the participant in the first year of birth – 2021-2023.
- Health equity begins at birth.

- The clinic’s goal is to provide low-barrier prenatal and postpartum healthcare, integrated with behavioral health, doulas, peers, and substance use treatment, in an open-door clinic one day per week in Benton County.
- Shared pictures of the location/house on Monarch and 4<sup>th</sup>. The van will pull up in the alley. There is a food pantry, diaper closet, shower, baby/child clothing type store, kitchen, and group area with a washer and dryer. This mid-valley Nurture Oregon House is partially funded through Oregon Health Authority.
- With the mobile clinic, individuals are welcome to stop in for prenatal visits, postpartum care, parenting support, and peer support. Peer Support Specialists (funded by Oregon Health Authority) are available along with Doulas, recovery services (if desired), referral, and resources are available. Services offered will include drawings for labs, ultrasounds, vaccinations, contraception, and STI screenings. No appointments are needed, and visits are covered by most insurance plans, including IHN-CCO and Oregon Health Plan (OHP). If a client does not have insurance, staff can help them apply.
- The target population is pregnant women with SUD and mental health disorders, but any pregnant individual is welcome to engage in services.
- There will be an open house for community partners on March 16, 2026. Drop-in sessions: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (lunch provided) and 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. (light refreshments provided). During the open house, people can tour the mobile clinic, meet the interdisciplinary care team, learn how walk-in and postpartum services will operate, discuss referral processes, and discuss collaboration opportunities.
- **Contact information:**
  - a. Emily Zeno Yeast, CNM, Samaritan Obstetrics, Gynecology & Midwifery – Corvallis - [eyeast@samhealth.org](mailto:eyeast@samhealth.org) – cell – 510-367-5058 (please do not give number to patients)
  - b. Roslyn Burmood, CPM, THW Doula - [roslyn.burmood@reconnectionsounseling.com](mailto:roslyn.burmood@reconnectionsounseling.com)
  - c. Lalori Lager, MA, CADC II, Executive Director, Reconnections Counseling - [lalori.lager@reconnectionsounseling.com](mailto:lalori.lager@reconnectionsounseling.com)
- **Blue Valentine** – Are you open on the Mondays that are holidays?
  - a. **Emily Zeno Yeast** – Not sure, but it does seem like a reasonable request.
  - b. **Lalori Lager** – Other locations with Reconnections Counseling are open except for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Monarch on 4<sup>th</sup> in Corvallis could be open on a holiday if SHS is available with the van on that day.
  - c. **Blue Valentine** – It would be useful.
- **Blue Valentine** – Is there a window of time with contraception?
  - a. **Emily Zeno Yeast** – Up to one year and she can cover postpartum mood disorders. Can prescribe meds.
- **Emily Zeno Yeast** – Would love to have pediatric providers. Working at getting the current program off the ground first and hopefully can then work with Primary Care residents and Pediatricians.
- Will the van be used for additional services?
  - a. **Emily Zeno Yeast** - Will look at additional services where we can use the van as well.
- **Jesse Noble** – For Lincoln County in July, believes there will be wound care available through the harm reduction person that is currently going through schooling.

- **Lalori Lager** – Oregon Health Authority funded the Peer Support Specialist at Reconnections Counseling. The client does *not* have to be engaged with Reconnections Counseling to engage with services with the Peer Support Specialist.

**Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant – Project NEXT-Nurturing Empowerment, eXcellence, and Transformation for Youth:**

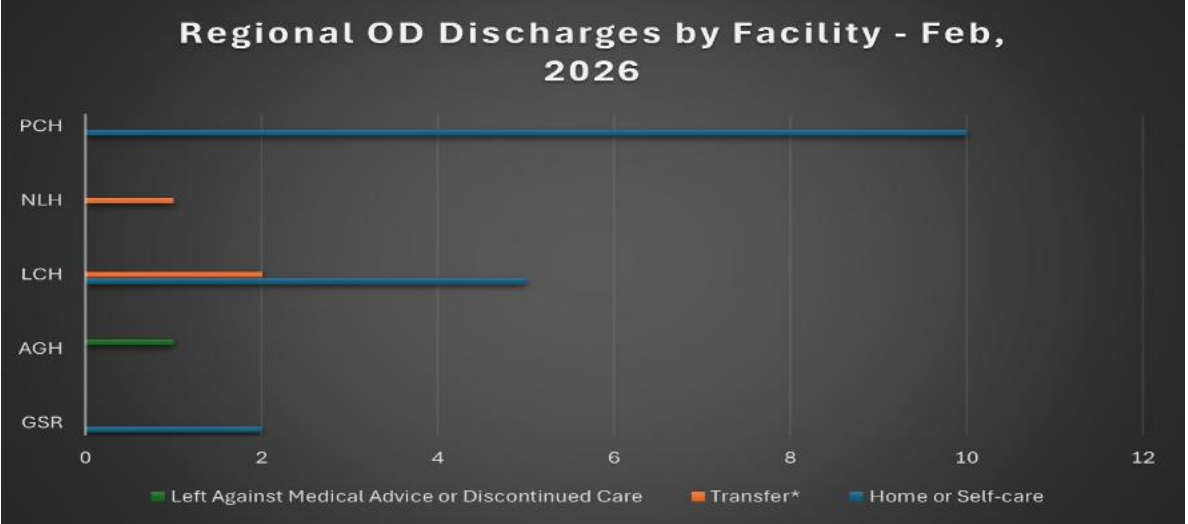
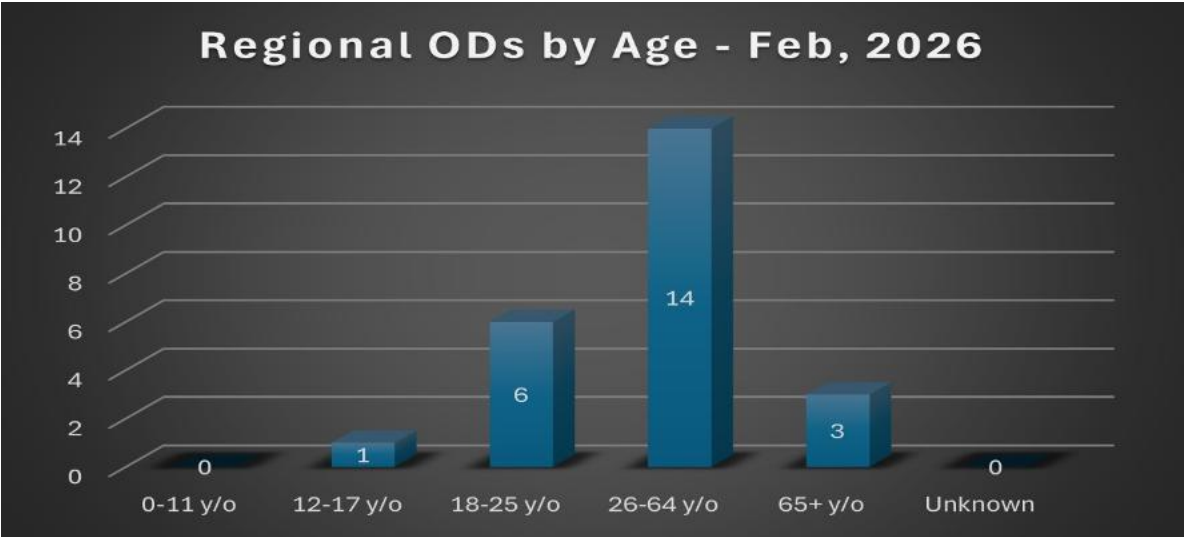
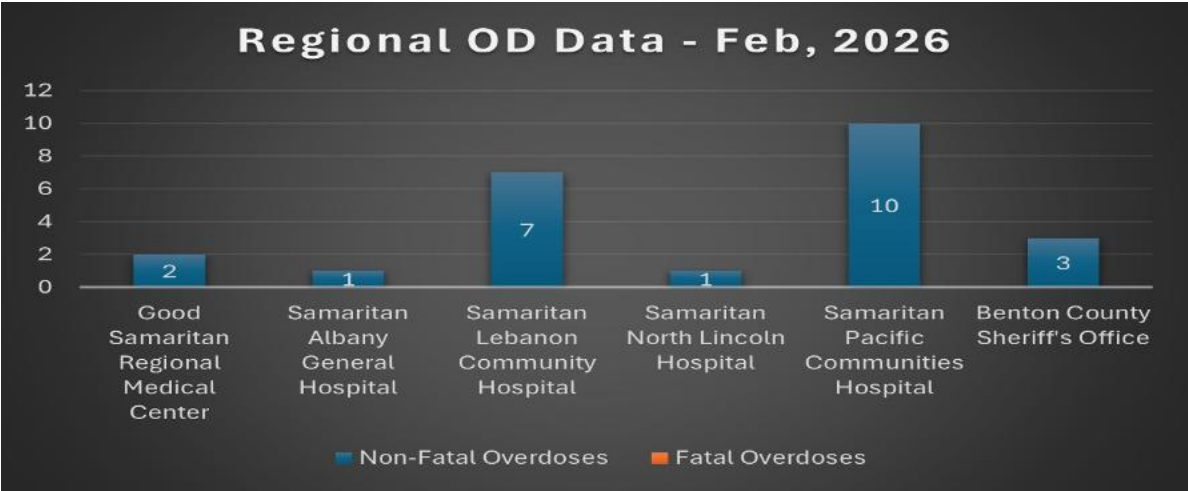
Nike Neuenheim reported on the HRSA Grant – Project NEXT.

- It is a four-year grant and began August 1, 2025, and will go through July 31, 2029.
- Project partners include Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital/Project Director, Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS)-Newport, Lincoln County Community Justice, and Lincoln County Health and Human Services. Jolynn Meza Wynkoop is the Project Director on the grant.
- Project NEXT will improve the behavioral health and well-being of youth and young adults in rural Lincoln County. Members will implement new and expand existing behavioral health services for youth and young adults (ages 12-24) with substance use disorder and/or untreated mental health conditions in Lincoln County.
- **Project updates:**
  - a. The Project Director met with the HRSA Outreach Grant Project officer and Technical Assistant on March 4, 2026, to review the upcoming conference, the deliverable schedule, and upcoming webinars. All HRSA Outreach Grantees will be invited to Atlanta, Georgia in September of 2026 to attend the Reverse Site Visit.
  - b. Met with Project NEXT partners February 23, 2026, to discuss the LifeSkills curriculum, which will either be implemented in Middle School or High School classrooms or selected schools in Fall 2026.
  - c. Met with partners on March 4, 2026, to discuss the Mental Health First Aid Training, which will be scheduled for April 28, 2026, at the Center for Health Education in Newport. There will be a date and location scheduled soon in Lincoln City.
  - d. Attended an outreach event at Oceanlake Elementary School on February 26, 2026, and interacted with families and youth distributed age-appropriate educational books and Sud education brochures.
- **Marie Laper** – Had good meetings and discussion regarding the grant. Moving the project forward and trying to determine the schools and best population to present to.

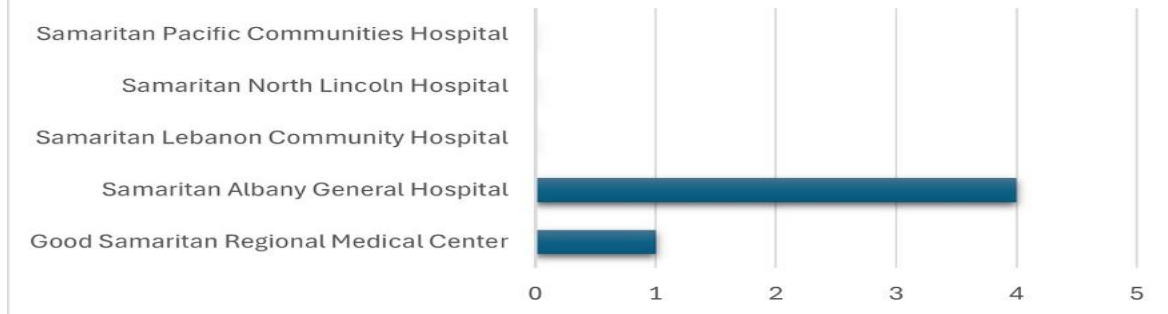
**Update – Regional Overdoses:**

Discussions followed around regional overdoses. Nike Neuenheim noted that Thien Nguyen will be taking over with gathering and presenting SHS overdose data.

- The Samaritan Health Services (SHS) Individual Overdose Report for Reporting Period: February 1, 2026, through February 28, 2026; year-to-date drug overdose encounter hospital data from January 2026 through February 2026; and SHS overdose data/Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS) report from 2022 to February 2026 was all distributed with the agenda packet prior to the meeting.
- Thien Nguyen shared the following graphs – Regional Overdose Data – February 2026; Regional Overdoses by Age – February 2026; Regional Overdose Discharges by Facility – February 2026; and Regional Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome Data – February 2026.



## Regional Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome / Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome Data - Feb, 2026



- **Benton County Sheriff's Office data – February 2026:**
  - a. There were 3 overdoses and none of them were fatal.
  - b. The primary suspected drug for two of these was Fentanyl and one over the counter.
- **Marcia Harnden – Albany Police Chief:**
  - a. For Linn County it has slowed down. There were 7 overdoses for the City of Albany and 10 county-wide with no deaths.
  - b. It peaked in 2023 with 126 calls for the City of Albany with 15 deaths and for the Linn County 251 calls and 37 deaths.
- **Jesse Noble:**
  - a. They issued a yellow alert for the week before last related to Fentanyl. They are seeing an increase in deaths due to long-term effects of stimulant use.
  - b. There was a recent large methamphetamine bust in California with a street value of \$40 million.

### Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRN) Update:

Coalition members provided Behavioral Health Resource Networks updates.

- **Thien Nguyen:**

- **Linn County:**

- a. Ariana White from Oregon Health Authority attended the February BHRN meeting for Linn County and addressed partner questions regarding the incoming budget reductions.
- b. Communities Helping All Negotiate Change Effectively (CHANCE) anticipates opening its new Lebanon office within the next month.
- c. Family Tree Relief Nursery continues to run training programs for Peer Support Specialists. They offer the training at cost for the community partners and have scholarships that may be awarded.
- d. Family Tree Relief Nursery celebrated the graduation of 16 students from their Peer Support Specialist training program. The next training course is scheduled for July and is currently full, with 25 people on the waitlist.
- e. Working with Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services (STARS) to host the Mid-Willamette Behavioral Health Meet & Greet on Friday, April 3, 2026.

The event will be held at Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. This event is geared toward those working in behavioral health and related fields.

**Lincoln County:**

- a. Currently, partners are not meeting monthly.
- b. The Situation Table discussion meeting for pre-crisis planning went well.
- **Tanya Pritt:**
  - a. Expressed appreciation to all the BHRN partners.
  - b. Thanks to Blue Valentine for helping them get Naloxone from the Clearing House.

**Partner Updates/Announcements/Additional Business:**

Partners provided updates and additional business.

- **Tanya Pritt:**
  - a. They continue to grow their new women’s residential unit. There are two open/available beds.
  - b. Around July 5<sup>th</sup> will have additional transitional living for women and kids.
- **Blue Valentine** – Benton County Harm Reduction has a second Naloxone large purple container for free Naloxone. Locations – 330 NW 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Corvallis, OR and the Barbara Ross building – 4185 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR.
- **Lonnie Martinez** – WorkSource and Oregon Coast Community College are collaborating on the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lincoln County Job Fair on March 13, 2026. It is open to job seekers from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. and will be at the Oregon Coast Community College campus -400 SE College Way, Newport, OR.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the Regional Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Coalition is scheduled for April 13, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

**Gratitude Moment:**

Nike Neuenheim noted that often with our different meetings we will end with a gratitude moment. Shared that she is grateful for the great weather today.

**Adjourn:**

With no further business to discuss, adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelley Hazelton  
Grants and Sponsored Programs

*(These meeting minutes are the true and accurate record of the meeting.)*