

Coalition Charter

OD Free Marin

Purpose Statement

OD Free Marin is a community-driven overdose prevention coalition dedicated to saving lives and improving health outcomes in Marin County. Aligned with the California Department of Public Health's priorities, our coalition unites diverse partners across sectors to create innovative, accessible, and effective solutions that reduce overdose risks, increase equity in care, and promote overall wellbeing.

Goal Statement

OD Free Marin's goal is to end drug overdoses in Marin County and ensure equitable access to prevention, intervention, treatment, and care for all who need it.

Vision Statement

OD Free Marin envisions a Marin County free from drug overdoses where everyone has equitable access to care and support.

Mission Statement

The mission of OD Free Marin is to reverse the epidemic of drug overdoses in Marin County, working in collaboration with the community at large and innovating across sectors.

Commitment to Reducing Disparities & Inequities Statement

OD Free Marin is committed to addressing disparities in overdose prevention and care. We recognize that communities of color, individuals who are unhoused, those with lower socioeconomic status, and those facing mental health or substance use challenges are disproportionately affected. In response, we prioritize equity and inclusivity, working to ensure Marin-based services, resources, and interventions are accessible to those most at risk for overdose in our community.

Guiding Principles

- View all overdoses as preventable and seek to understand and address the factors that are driving this crisis in Marin County.
- Recognize this is a complex problem and develop approaches in partnership with impacted communities and those who serve them.
- Gather and utilize Marin County-wide relevant data on substance use and overdoses, Analyze data by race/ethnicity, age, neighborhood, gender identity, and other pertinent demographics
- Employ evidence-based strategies and measure the effect of our initiatives to continually refine our response.
- With an equity lens, continue to expand Coalition partnerships and goals to meet health equity challenges and opportunities.
- Promote and increase coordination and alignment of substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support strategies across all sectors.
- Provide balanced and evidence-based education about the drivers of overdose and build skills across all stakeholders to address those factors-considering cultural and community norms.
- Recognize the importance of terminology in discussing substance use issues, using person-first and non-stigmatizing language throughout the Coalition's work.
- Recognize and embrace the partnership between Health & Human Services (H&HS) and the Marin County community/partners, with H&HS serving as the backbone organization, providing coordination, operational support, and oversight to ensure ODFM goals are clearly defined, action plans are implemented, and metrics are tracked.
- Build on the success of RxSafe Marin (previous name) and apply lessons gained in achieving collective impact.

Strategies

OD Free Marin employs a collective-impact approach to strengthen the entire continuum of care for preventing and treating substance use and overdose in Marin County. Our work spans from prevention education to supporting long-term recovery, all aimed at ending overdoses and improving equitable health outcomes. Our strategies are aligned with the California Department of Public Health's priorities, data-driven, and evidence-based. Key initiatives include:

Prevention

- Expanding naloxone training and distribution
- Promoting safe prescribing and drug disposal practices
- Supporting prevention efforts in schools, community organizations, and county services
- Enhancing overdose outbreak detection and response

Treatment

- Raising awareness of alternative chronic pain management
- Promoting medication-assisted treatment for opioid and substance use disorders
- Expanding equitable access to treatment and referrals
- Intervening early with individuals at high risk for overdose

Education

- Increasing overdose prevention education in schools
- Expanding public awareness of the overdose crisis and response strategies
- Reducing stigma around addiction, treatment, and recovery
- Promoting harm reduction resources and approaches

Participants and Partner Statement

Participation in OD Free Marin’s overdose prevention coalition is open to all individuals and organizations in Marin County that support our mission to reduce drug overdoses and promote health equity. The coalition thrives on a diverse, inclusive network of partners from multiple sectors working together to address the complex overdose epidemic.

Sector Representation

In FY 2023-2024, coalition membership was supported by a wide range of sectors, including:

- Parents/Guardians
- Youth/Students
- Media
- Schools/Academia
- Youth Serving Organizations
- Law Enforcement/Justice Systems
- Volunteers/Civic/Non-profits
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Healthcare
- Local Government
- Harm Reduction & Substance Use Providers
- People with Lived Experience
- Others

Key Partners, *example*

- **Healthcare Providers:** Medical experts contribute to prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts.
 - *MarinHealth* – Provides medical guidance and support.
 - *Kaiser Permanente* – Offers patient care related to substance use prevention and intervention.
- **Community Organizations:** Offer services, outreach, and local insights.
 - *Marin Healthy Youth Partnerships* – Focuses on parent education and youth prevention.
 - *Youth Transforming Justice* – Engages youth in substance misuse education and advocacy.
 - *Marin 9 to 25* – Develops youth leadership through public health and behavioral health initiatives.
- **Local Government:** Essential for coordination and oversight.
 - *Public Health Division* – Supports strategies, data analysis, and outreach.
 - *Behavioral Health and Recovery Services* – Provides addiction and mental health services.
 - *Marin County Board of Supervisors* – Provides governance and strategic support.
- **Educational Institutions:** Drive awareness and prevention, particularly among youth.
 - *Marin County Office of Education* – Coordinates substance use prevention education in schools.
- **Media:** Design and promote educational campaigns.
 - *Marin Independent Journal* – Promotes campaigns across media platforms.
 - *Good Stuff Partners* – Creates campaign materials.
- **Community Members:** Bring local perspectives, support outreach, and participate in decision-making. Members with and without lived experience contribute to the Steering Committee and Action Teams, offering valuable insight for the coalition’s efforts.

By leveraging the collective expertise and resources of these diverse partners, OD Free Marin strengthens the community-wide effort to prevent overdose and enhance health equity across Marin County.

Organizational Structure ([*Operating Agreements*](#)):

OD Free Marin operates with a clear, collaborative structure that includes a Steering Committee, Budget Committee, and Action Teams, all led through a co-leadership model of a Marin Health & Human Services (HHS) staff member and a community-based coalition member. These leadership roles are voted on for a two-year term, and each committee and team meets at least quarterly.

- Steering Committee (Section V. Page 2)
- Steering Committee Co-Chairs (Section VI. Page 3)
- Action Teams (Section VII. Page 3)
- Action Team Co-Leads (Section VIII. Page 4)
- Budget Committee (Section IX. Page 5)

- Staff Coordinators (Section XI. Page 6)
- Board of Supervisors (Section XI. Page 8)

Steering Committee: Provides strategic direction, supports alignment with funding goals, fosters collaboration, and ensures consistent messaging. It helps Action Teams achieve SMART goals and reviews budgets. The Steering Committee meets bi-monthly.

Budget Committee: Manages coalition finances, allocates funds as approved to support strategic goals, and reviews spending. Composed of Steering Committee members and co-chairs of the Action Teams, the committee meets quarterly and routinely shares meeting notes and budget updates with the Steering Committee.

Action Teams: Focus on specific overdose prevention areas, each working towards SMART goals which they respectively developed. They coordinate initiatives, hold regular meetings, and report on progress and challenges to the Steering Committee. Current Action Teams include:

- Education and Outreach
- Youth
- Intervention, Treatment, and Recovery
- Justice System

Marin HHS Staff Coordinator(s): Serve as the backbone of the coalition, managing daily operations, supporting Action Teams, and ensuring communication between committees. Responsibilities include organizing meetings, managing budgets, coordinating events, and overseeing volunteers.

This structure ensures a collaborative, efficient approach to addressing overdose prevention in Marin County.

Governance Structure

The governance structure of OD Free Marin is outlined in the [Organizational Structure & Operating Agreements document](#). The Steering Committee assumes responsibility for the guidance of OD Free Marin. Decisions are made by majority vote of the Steering Committee to actively support the coalition's goals, with input from Action Team leaders and key stakeholders, as needed. For urgent matters, exceptions to standard voting procedures may be made to ensure timely action.

Conflicts within the coalition are addressed by the Steering Committee, which collaborates to resolve issues using established guidelines and mediation strategies to maintain cohesion and alignment with the coalition's mission.

The Operating Agreements include **Codes of Conduct** and **Conflict of Interest** policies, which are shared with all members and reviewed annually.

Evaluation & Accountability

The coalition’s effectiveness is tracked through data collection, analysis, and regular reporting, ensuring transparency and accountability in our progress toward achieving OD Free Marin's goals. This approach allows for adjustments as needed to improve outcomes.

- **Performance Metrics:** We track community engagement (partners involved), naloxone training and distribution, website traffic, media campaign reach, social media growth, event attendance, stigma reduction, public attitudes, and overdose-related data (via RBA or other frameworks).
- **Regular Reporting:** Progress is shared through verbal updates, data visualizations (charts, graphs, infographics) at Steering Committee and Action Team meetings, newsletters, social media, press releases, reports to the Board of Supervisors, and on our website.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** We gather input through regular meetings, open discussions, community presentations, surveys, post-event evaluations, website feedback forms, annual forums, and focus groups, ensuring continuous community engagement and improvement.

Commitment to Collaboration

OD Free Marin is committed to uniting diverse stakeholders—healthcare providers, community organizations, government agencies, and residents—to collectively address the overdose crisis. Through open communication and shared responsibility, we foster innovative, equitable solutions to create a healthier, overdose-free Marin County.

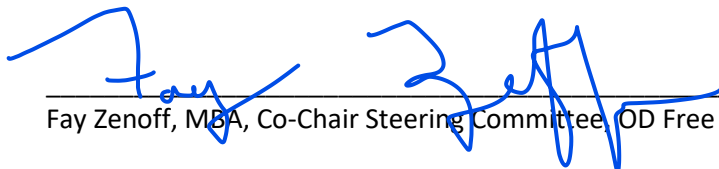
The statements outlined in this charter have been reviewed, approved, and adopted by the OD Free Marin Steering Committee on December 19, 2024, as the guiding framework for the coalition.

Signed by:




Nancy Vernon, MA, Co-Chair Steering Committee, OD Free Marin

date 12-23-24



Fay Zenoff, MBA, Co-Chair Steering Committee, OD Free Marin

date 12-23-24



Kathy Koblick, MPH, Public Health Division Director,
County of Marin Department of Health & Human Services

date 12/23/24

This document was edited with support from ChatGPT. The content was collated, drafted, and/or fact checked by Fay Zenoff, MBA, Senior Department Analyst, Marin County Health & Human Services Department, Public Health division. Sources are provided as they appear.