

Social Science & Policy Rapporteur

Peter Higgs

 @higgspg

With thanks to

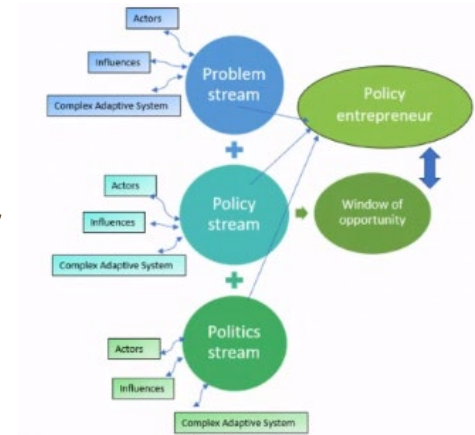
Ms Ella Yoannidis
La Trobe University



Policy and Social Science 'Take Aways'

@AlisonRitter1

- all sorts of behind the scenes work required to change the policing and enforcement voice
- values like compassion and justice can be the key to the communication required
- requires '**policy entrepreneurs**' - everyone has a role to play - there is no position description



@DrSarahWakeman

- Ongoing public health crisis due to *inadequate* care, policy and treatment
- Presented insights from qualitative research showing how staff worked with 'radical kindness;' ensured people stayed in treatment highlights importance of 'structural competency'
- Compassion saves lives



#MarianneJauncey @weareuniting

- We all need to understand that we need to do more than just provide equipment then turn people away
- Beholden on us all to find a role and fight the good fight – have conversations in order to do better
- Health services are expensive so we should not be adding to the narrative that reinforces stigma / unworthiness of people who use drugs to access health care

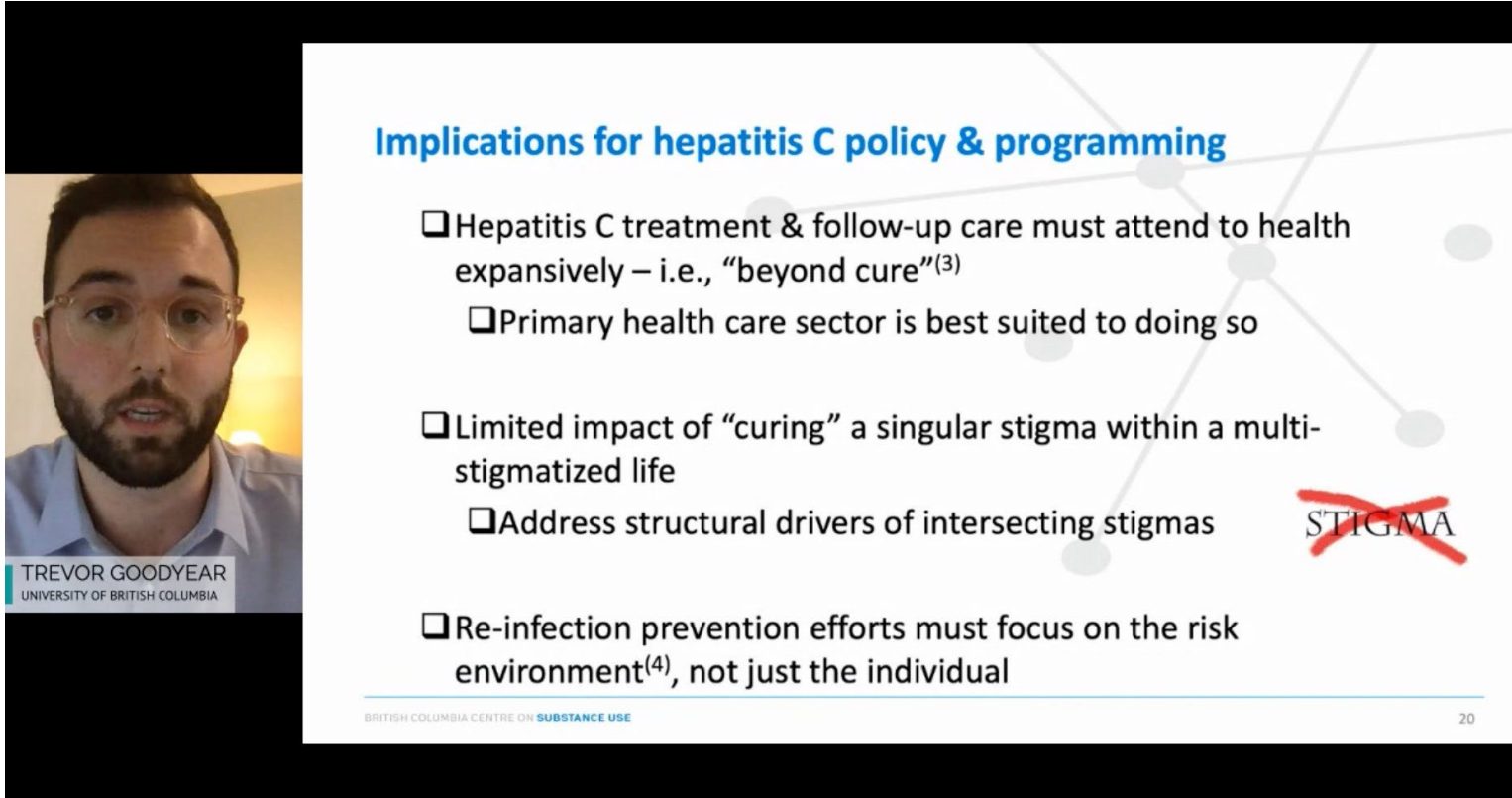


"It's only ever a small group of people who can change the world, and that small group of people is us"

DR. MARIANNE JAUNCEY, UNITED
MEDICALLY SUPERVISED INJECTING
CENTRE (MSIC), AUSTRALIA
INHSU 2021

@goodyear_trevor *Exploring Expectations & Lived Experiences of Hep C Post-Treatment Trajectories Among People Who Inject Drugs*

- Using a health equity and health justice framework for their analysis to remind us that care must go beyond DAAs to incorporate the multifaceted stigma environments that people who use drugs are living in



Implications for hepatitis C policy & programming

- ☐ Hepatitis C treatment & follow-up care must attend to health expansively – i.e., “beyond cure”⁽³⁾
 - ☐ Primary health care sector is best suited to doing so
- ☐ Limited impact of “curing” a singular stigma within a multi-stigmatized life
 - ☐ Address structural drivers of intersecting stigmas
- ☐ Re-infection prevention efforts must focus on the risk environment⁽⁴⁾, not just the individual

~~STIGMA~~

TREVOR GOODYEAR
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BRITISH COLUMBIA CENTRE ON SUBSTANCE USE

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Policy and Social Science ‘Take Aways’

- **Policy making and research** are not value neutral
- **Proper and respectful peer involvement** was evidenced from across the sessions as well as in the wonderful on-demand content
 - ***“We don’t need a crisis we can do this in the everyday”***
Chris Gough CAMHA

We have higher level of trust in nurses and other medical providers ... because they too participated in the training ... we began to trust nurses more. There was no such trust before.
(Kazakhstan)

‘Since taking RTHD, I have more time to work and I can spend more time with my kids. As I do not have to go to the MMT center every day, I am not being noticed as a drug addict who needs to take daily methadone doses at the center. I became more confident.’

Patient H5822

‘I think current RTHD clients can explain the benefits of taking RTHD to those who take daily methadone. Moreover, health staff from Methadone clinic should allow more clients to go on RTHD.’

Patient H0946

Drug Users Are Suing the Canadian Government Over the War on Drugs

The lawsuit says forcing people to buy drugs from a poisoned drug supply is unconstitutional. It is calling for decriminalization of using and dealing drugs.



[@CarrieFowlie](#)

[@matthew__bonn](#)

- **Civil society** is diverse, experimental and messy and it is inherent to a democratic society
- **Civil society can** transform the state and ensure it keeps its promises
- **Civil society** successfully advocated unrestricted access to hepatitis C cure medications in Australia
- 50% drug deaths globally are from hepatitis C yet the Australian National Drug Strategy only substantively mentions hepatitis C in the criminal justice section of the document

- It is an opportune time to take advantage of the interest and innovations happening in vaccine development
- ***The Vaccine is Prevention (VIP) study*** (NEJM, Feb 2021) not accidentally named as being involved in a trial with an experimental drug is a **BIG DEAL**
- Sophisticated outreach plan developed by experienced outreach workers – included an aggressive retention plan to meet people where they are at
- Kind of like ‘**herding birds**’
- Huge Challenges – loss to follow up because of incarceration death and moving –
 - *The elimination of an infectious disease requires both an effective vaccine and an effective vaccination strategy* (Liang et al, NEJM 2021)



On Demand Sessions

- Effects of intimacy & relationships on injection behaviors among young people who inject drugs – **Elizabeth Goodbody (CUNY) and colleagues**
- **23 qualitative interviews with young people in a ‘Staying Safe’ harm reduction intervention**
 - *Intimacy can be protective as well as ‘risky’*
 - *Beliefs that Injection and sexual fidelity overlap*
- Juan Fernandez Ochoa - International Drug Policy Consortium [@IDPCnet](#)
 - *Not all decriminalisation is created equal*
- Findings a little grim because even where there are countries that have elements of decriminalisation most retain some punitive components so the gold standard of ‘no punishment for drug related activities’ remains to be fully implemented

Marie Dos Santos and colleagues Marseille, France

- ***Voicing people who inject drugs in the debate on SIS (photo voice project)***
 - Data from three cities in France which found that ‘advocacy for recognizing social, health and political rights for people who inject drugs is difficult to be heard by politicians, when it is only based on numbers from public health research or sociological framings’
- ***Introducing the voices of people with lived experience is an innovative way to improve the efficiency of advocacy for strengthening harm reduction policies***

A: The only public toilets in Marseille and they're closed!

B: So that's a place to shoot up. You can get on the roof, we climb on top to shoot up. You can't do it inside, so you do it on the top.

A: But it's also the fact that there are no public toilets in Marseille, so for people who are on the street, it's really hard, they're forced to piss in the street. There are people who really have no choice.

(photo analysis workshop)



The role of social determinants esp. housing

- **Thomson and colleagues (PO18): People First: Addressing homelessness, drug-related harms & HIV** emphasises harm reduction over abstinence and also describes how government policies can increase access to housing and improve health outcomes
 - *People and their health and social needs must be the centre of policy and program design*
- **Romero and colleagues (PO40) Non-Clinical service provision of HIV & Hep C dried blood spot testing in community settings** highlights expansion to unstable housing/homeless and pharmacy settings and suggests that not all methods of treatment can be reached by people living rough

@DrSarahWakeman



Medication



Psychosocial
interventions



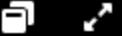
Recovery
supports



Harm
reduction

Where our future efforts are required

@matthew__bonn



SAFE SUPPLY

DECRIMINALIZATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WHAT WE NEED NOW!

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

*TESTING TREATMENT
FOR HIV/HCV*

ACCESS TO OPS/SCS

DEFUNDING THE POLICE

CRACKDOWN Podcast Listen Party and Panel Discussion: The War Against Feeling Alright – Decriminalizing Pleasure



Date: Tuesday 2 November / Wednesday 3 November

Time: 6:00-7:30am AEDT (3 Nov); 9:00-10:30pm CEST (2 Nov); 8:00-9:30pm BST (2 Nov); 12:00-1:30pm PDT (2 Nov); 3:00-4:30pm EDT (2 Nov)

Format: Panel Discussion

Overview: CRACKDOWN is a Canadian podcast about drugs, drug policy and the drug war led by drug user activists and supported by research. This session will include clips from the podcast interspersed with a discussion on the pleasure behind using substances and looking at drug use from a human rights vs. public health or criminal justice perspective.

Facilitated by: Garth Mullins, CRACKDOWN Podcast

Panellists: Judy Chang, INPUD, Angela McBride, South African Network of People Who Use Drugs (SANPUD), Matthew Bonn, Canadian Association of People Who Use Drugs (CAPUD), Simon Ward, Harm Reduction Victoria, Louise Vincent, Urban Survivors Union

Decriminalisation of Drug Use: An Interactive Design Considerations



Date: Thursday 4 November / Friday 5 November

Time: 6:00-7:30am AEDT (5 Nov); 9:00-10:30pm CEST (4 Nov); 8:00-9:30pm BST (4 Nov); 12:00-1:30pm PDT (4 Nov); 3:00-4:30pm EDT (4 Nov)

Format: Interactive workshop and discussion

Overview: Governments around the world are considering the decriminalisation of drug use, yet there is no consensus on what this might look like. This workshop will explore all the design choices including eligibility, threshold quantities, mandatory treatment, which drugs, and so on. Participants will include policy makers(s), consumer(s), legal expert(s)

and researcher(s).

Facilitated by: Alison Ritter, Drug Policy Modelling Program (DPMP), UNSW

Register Online