

ANKORS Mobile Outreach Report for AGM 2022/23

ANKORS Mobile Outreach Program serves the harm reduction and support needs of the West Kootenay population of people struggling with homelessness and substance use. It travels approximately 2,000 kms per month, meeting people wherever they are at, in the communities of Nakusp, Meadow Creek, Kaslo, Nelson, Castlegar, Salmo, Trail, Grand Forks, and Greenwood.

Over the year, Mobile Outreach connected with 154 individual service users, and made 315 home visits. It also distributed 31,279 clean needles and retrieved 21,545 used ones. The total number of inhalation supplies distributed was 11,190. Additionally, 157 health supports were provided, 122 psycho/social supports, and 103 referrals for testing for HIV and other blood borne infections. Overall, these numbers are lower than in previous years. This due to losing several secondary harm reduction supply distributors across the region, as well as me needing to take a medical stress leave during the second quarter of 2022.

The greatest challenge the program faced was having so many clients pass away due to fatal overdose during 2022/23. It was extremely difficult to work in an environment where so much loss of life and suffering was taking place.

A great success for the program was in acquiring funding to purchase a new Ford Transit van to conduct outreach. The van will allow the program to expand into a mobile overdose prevention site, FTIR drug checking, and medical area where the outreach nurse for Interior Health outreach will conduct testing for blood borne infections, wound care, and health assessments.