

Meeting Agenda

Ward 2 Neighborhood Planning Assembly (NPA)

March 12, 2026 | 6:30-8:30pm | All are welcome



Join in person:

ONE Community Center, 20 Allen Street

Join remotely:

<https://zoom.us/j/93179389982>

O.N.E. Community Dinner

5:30-6:30pm | Free | Donations welcome

St. Patrick's Day Menu: Veggie Shepherd's Pie topped with Colcannon, soda bread, Slaw, and Irish Apple Cake

Music: Ana Ruesink & Luci Simmons

Facilitator: Grace Sherwood

Notetaker: Kason Hudman

6:30 pm Introduction

5 min Review and adopt/approve the agenda and previous minutes; introductions as time allows.

6:35 pm Public Forum (2 minutes max per person)

10 min Please state your full name, pronouns, street, and ward, and follow the NPA ground rules.

6:45 pm Top 5 Things Going On in Burlington

5 min Hear 5 quick things that are going on in Burlington, as selected and highlighted by the NPA steering committee.

6:50 pm NPA Meeting Structure Discussion

20 min Participate in a discussion with the steering committee about how we can make the NPA meeting best serve you (and the community!).

7:10 pm Burlington Window Dressers

15 min *Jody Woos*

Hear about Burlington Window Dressers can help you improve the windows in your home.

7:25 pm Listening Session - Overdose Prevention Center

30 min *Theresa Vezina - Special Assistant on OPC Implementation, City of Burlington*

Participate in a guided discussion on the Overdose Prevention Center, with focus on follow up from the community survey.

7:55 pm Door prize drawing + Adjourn!

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 9!

Scan the QR code ([or click here](#)) to: [Email us](#) • Go to [our website](#) • Watch meeting recordings on [CCTV's website](#) • Connect with us on [Instagram](#) • Request a time slot with the [request form](#) • Get to all links related to this meeting



Appendix to the Agenda

Ward 2 NPA Steering Committee

To contact the entire Ward 2 NPA Steering Committee, email ward2npa@googlegroups.com

| Name | Email | Joined | Term expiration |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Lauren Ebersol | lebersol27@gmail.com | 2023 | 2027 |
| Kason Hudson | kasonhudman@gmail.com | 2024 | 2028 |
| Charlie Giannoni | charliecpg@gmail.com | 2024 | 2028 |
| Marc Stannard | Marc.Stannard@outlook.com | 2024 | 2028 |
| Nora Aronds | noraaronds@yahoo.com | 2025 | 2029 |
| Grace Sherwood | Gsherwood703@gmail.com | 2025 | 2029 |

NPA Guiding Principles

- Operate through democratic principles and democratic procedures.
- Provide a safe and welcoming forum where residents can actively share their voices about issues that matter to them, and where they can learn from the voices of others.
- Cultivate involvement by a diverse spectrum of community members through active outreach and through eliminating barriers to participation.
- Operate in a manner that models respectful, inclusive, culturally, and economically aware practices.
- Be a fun, creative, and vital organization that provides value and benefit through the multitude of perspectives shared by those who participate.

Ward 2 NPA Ground Rules

- Meetings should have **clearly defined agenda and roles**.
- **Honor time limits:** A best effort must be made to start on time, follow the agenda, and finish on time.
- **Listen to others:** Make efforts to be an open-minded member of the group.
- **Respect the agenda and the process:** Try to remain focused on the issue at hand.
- **Share your opinion respectfully:** Speak out, but not over, others' comments.
- **Treat people how you would like to be treated:** Be respectful of everyone, including guests.

Elected officials representing Ward 2

Mayor

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Mayor Emma Mulvaney-Stanak | Progressive | mayor@BurlingtonVT.gov |
|----------------------------|-------------|------------------------|

City Councilors

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Central District (Wards 2 & 3) | Melo Grant | Progressive | megrant@burlingtonvt.gov | 802-310-0962 |
| Ward 2 | Gene Bergman | Progressive | gbergman@burlingtonvt.gov | 802-598-3602 |

School Board Members

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Central District (Wards 2 & 3) | Jean Waltz | jwaltz@bsdvt.org | 802-355-7856 |
| Ward 2 | Polly Vanderputten | pvanderputten@bsdvt.org | 802-578-8653 |

Vermont State House Representatives

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Chittenden-15 | Troy Headrick | Independent | theadrick@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 828-2228 |
| Chittenden-15 | Brian Cina | Progressive/Democrat | bcina@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 828-2228 |
| Chittenden-16 | Kate Logan | Progressive/Democrat | klogan@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 828-2228 |
| Chittenden-16 | Jill Krowinski | Democrat | jkrowinski@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 828-2228 |
| Chittenden-17 | Abigail Duke | Democrat | aduke@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 828-2228 |

Vermont State Senators

| | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Chittenden-Central | Tanya Vyhovsky | Progressive/Democrat | tvyhovsky@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 828-2228 |
| Chittenden-Central | Martine Gulick | Democrat | mgulick@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 828-2228 |
| Chittenden-Central | Philip Baruth | Democrat/Progressive | pbaruth@leg.state.vt.us | (802) 503-5266 |



Overdose Prevention Center



Introductions and Overview

- What is an Overdose Prevention Center (OPC)?
- What is the status of the OPC in Burlington?
- OPC Services Assessment
- Tonight's Listening Session



Tonight's Listening Session



Preliminary survey results



Evaluation next steps



Discussion with Residents



- What positive impact do you hope the OPC will bring to our community?
- What are your concerns or questions related to the OPC?
- What would you like to see for ongoing communication once the OPC opens?



Services Assessment

Overview

- The City of Burlington contracted with Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) to inform the Services Assessment report required by the OPC Guidelines.
- Purpose is to engage people with living experience and the wider Burlington professional and residential community to help inform the City and VCJR in the implement of the OPC.

Evaluation Activities to Date



In-person surveys with people with 49 people with living experience*



Online community survey completed with over 1500 responses*



Ongoing tracking of community engagement activities

*Preliminary findings only include quantitative data. Qualitative (open-ended) data will be shared in final report



Who did we hear from?



49 individuals
completed the in-person
PWLE Survey

All respondents used an illicit substance within the past 30 days

84% of respondents reported not having a stable place to live, with **80%** unsheltered

86% used drugs at least once per day

43% used drugs alone most of the time or always

47% had at least one overdose in the past year.



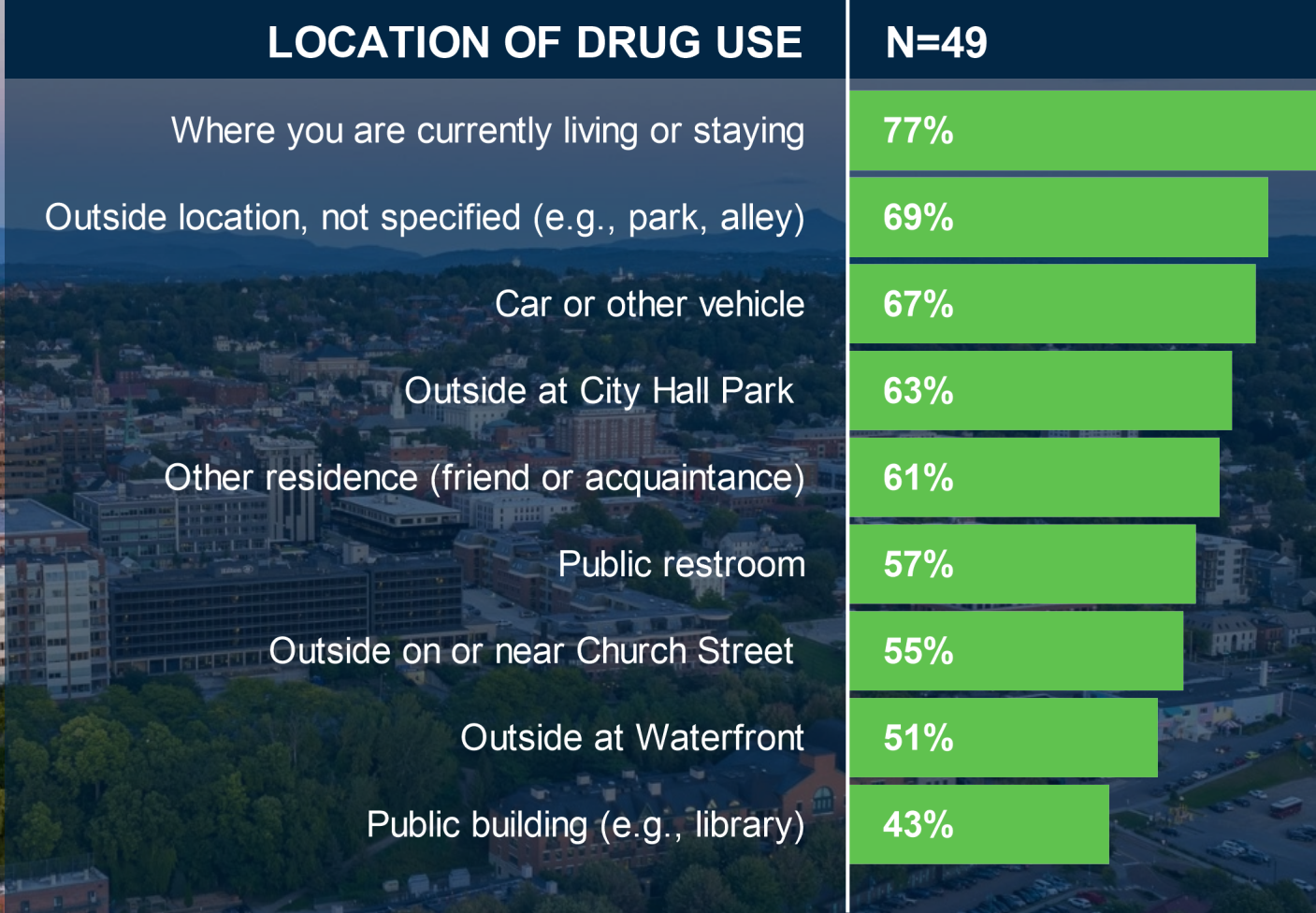
1505 respondents
completed the online
community survey

75% of survey respondents identified as Burlington residents, **45%** work in Burlington, and **2%** are Burlington business owners

8% identified as a person who used to use or currently uses non-prescription opioids or stimulants



Where are people using drugs in Burlington?



Utilization and Perception of the OPC



PWLE utilization of the OPC

Of the 49 respondents, **92%** responded that they would consider using the OPC once it opens, with **73%** responding that they would use the OPC always or most of the time.

Community Perception of the OPC

On scale of 1 (least helpful) to 10 (most helpful), the most selected answer was **10**, the median answer was **7** and the average answer was **6.3**

Respondents' Preferred OPC Location

PWLE survey: How likely would you be to use an OPC at various locations?

Community survey: Where should an OPC be located in Burlington to be most effective?

- **Downtown Burlington** was the most selected response on both PWLE and community surveys
- The **ONE** and **Riverside/Intervale** area were a the 2nd and 3rd choices on both surveys



Location Factors *(from community survey)*

When asked which are important factors when considering the vicinity of the OPC:

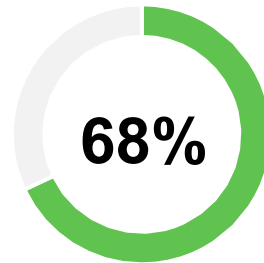
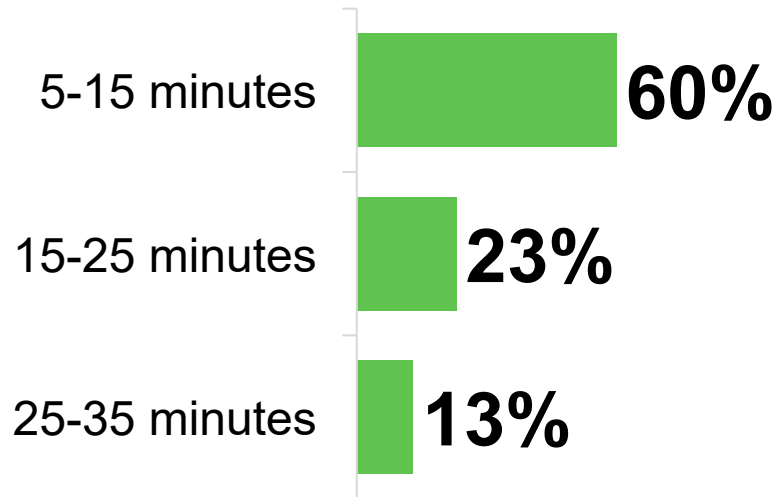
Accessibility for potential clients was the most common response (52%), followed by proximity to **schools/playgrounds** (40%), other **support services** (40%), and **transportation** (38%)



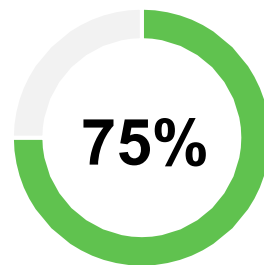
Access to the OPC (PWLE survey)



Time PWLE are willing to travel to access an OPC:



68% of PWLE responded that they would be likely or very likely use a **free shuttle** if it were offered between downtown and the location of the OPC



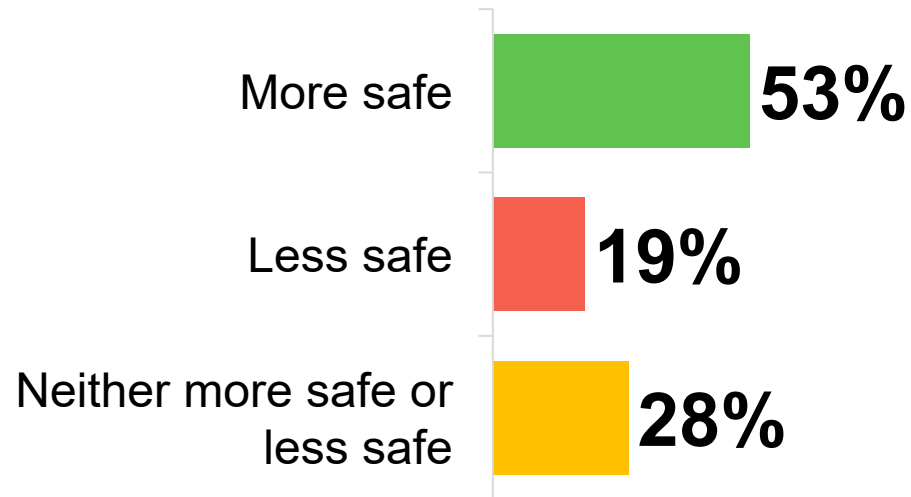
75% of PWLE responded that they would be likely or very likely to use the OPC if it was a **mobile van** that traveled around Burlington.



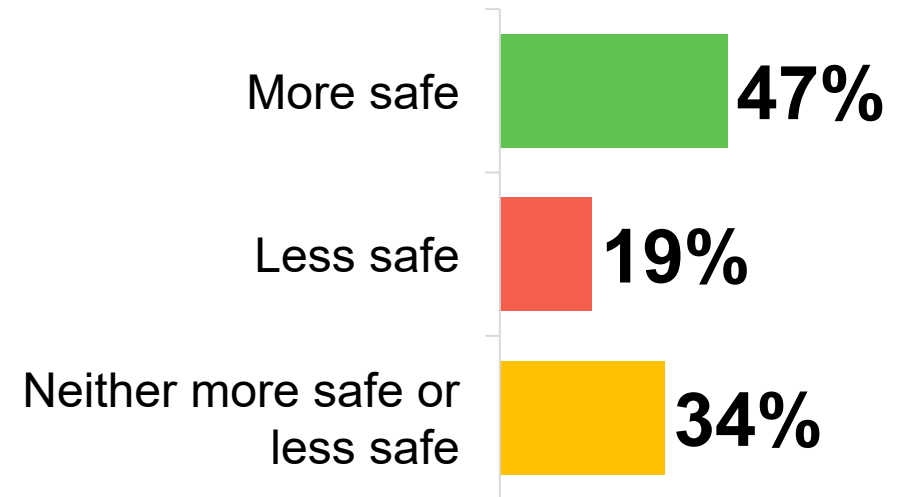
Security and Safety at the OPC (PWLE Survey)



How would a security guard inside the OPC make you feel?



How would a security guard outside the OPC make you feel?



Public Health Outcomes

Community survey respondents ranked the order of importance of seven identified public health outcomes (in order of most importance to least)

1. Prevent overdoses and save lives
2. Reduce the number of people using drugs outdoors and in public spaces
3. Help connect people to drug treatment and health and social services
4. Less burden on emergency rooms, police, fire, & EMS by reducing overdose-related calls
5. Reduce crime in the area surrounding the overdose prevention center
6. Reduce number of syringes or other litter related to drug use discarded in public
7. Reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission due to syringe sharing



Services and Supports

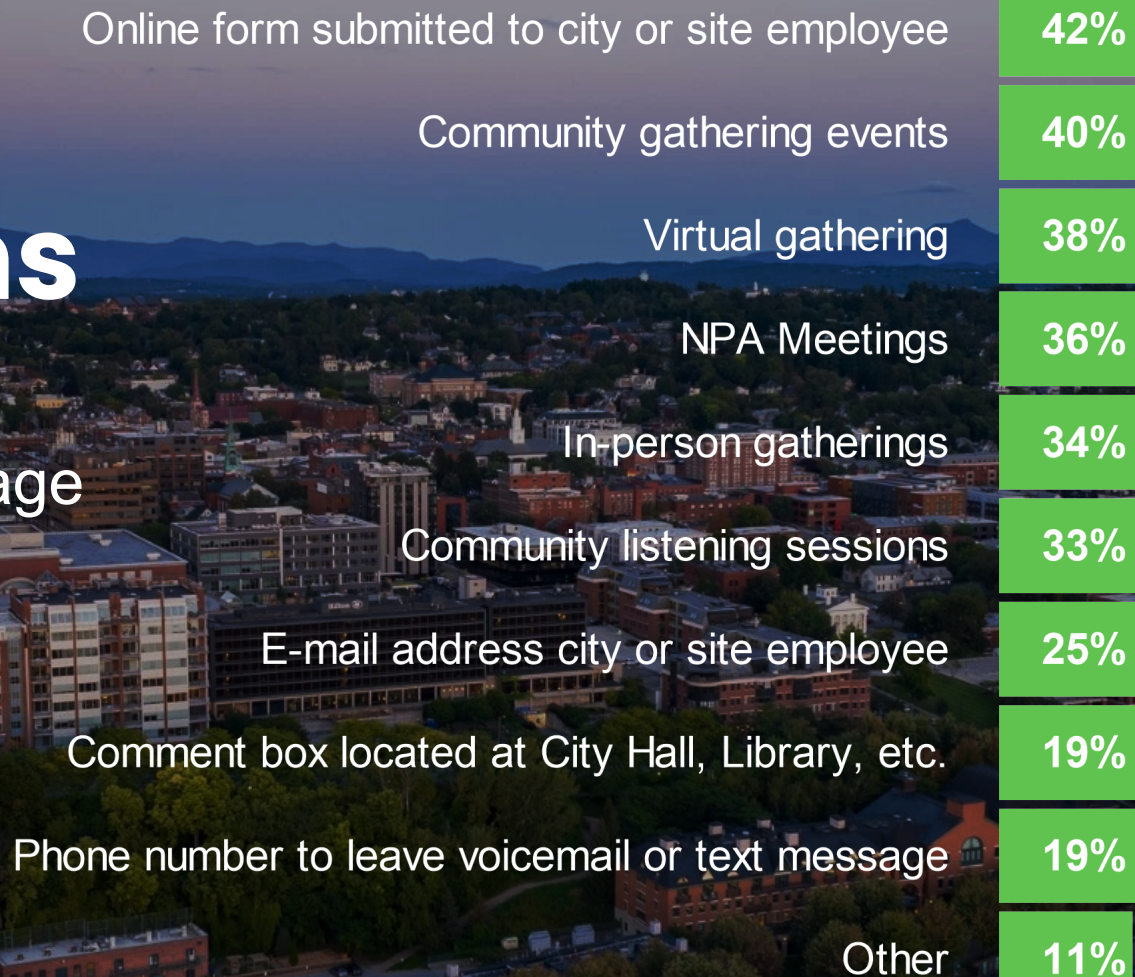
- The majority of **PWLE respondents** reported that proposed OPC services such as medical care, STI testing, bathrooms and showers, peer support, drug checking, on-site buprenorphine, mental health and drug treatment referrals, and support with basic needs are important or very important
- **Community survey respondents** ranked possible OPC services: Referrals to drug treatment, Mental health services or referrals, on-site buprenorphine treatment, bathrooms, and peer support were noted among the most important services to offer at the OPC



Ongoing Community Conversations

Community survey:

How would you want to engage in community conversations around the OPC?



Next Steps

- Continued engagement at NPA meetings, focus groups, attendance at community meetings, and interviews with people with living experience
- Final report with findings to inform the Services Assessment in April
- Hiring OPC Project Manager
- Link to [Annual Progress Report](#)



For More Information



Link to [Annual Progress Report](#)

Theresa Vezina

Special Assistant on OPC Implementation

tvezina@burlingtonvt.gov

802-735-8358



Discussion Questions

- What positive impact do you hope the OPC will bring to our community?
- What are your concerns or questions related to the OPC?
- What would you like to see for ongoing communication once the OPC opens?

