

Ostrich Bay interview cont.

Ostrich Bay became the third largest exchange in Washington State and was the first program in the state to offer naloxone—the life-saving medicine that's administered in the case of opioid overdose, also known by the brand name Narcan—and provides syringes on a needs-based distribution model instead of the typical one-for-one.

Today, Ostrich Bay is run by Amanda Moon, hired by the People's Harm Reduction Alliance in early January 2022. OB's and PHRA's shared philosophy: no one knows what drug users need more than drug users. Everyone deserves autonomy — the right to choose what is best for themselves. Everyone deserves compassion and respect as fellow human beings.

Q: Rad, and exactly what kind of harm reduction services do you provide?

A: We provide an array of services — all 100% free! We distribute a wide range of supplies that aid in lowering the risks (prevent death, even) that can come with engaging in "risky behaviors." We provide naloxone, fentanyl test strips, syringes, safer-use kits — like snorting and booty bump kits — as well as nicotine replacements, condoms, Plan B (aka "morning after"), over-the-counter medicines.... We also have relationships with other organizations that we refer participants to if they're looking for resources that Ostrich Bay isn't able to provide — low-barrier suboxone treatment, reproductive care, Hep C testing and treatment.

Q: Next, I know there are a lot of preconceived notions about the "types" of people you serve. Can you share a bit about the community that use your services?

A: Drug users and drug user health is the cornerstone of our philosophy, but that doesn't mean assuming everyone utilizing our services are active users. Our participants are wonderful, diverse, and all over the socio-economic spectrum. A majority actively using are some of the most vulnerable people in our communities—people experiencing the trauma and difficulties that come with society's stigmatization of things like drug use, poverty, mental illness, and being unhoused... We also get a lot of folks who see the reality that, whether they agree or not, *people use drugs*. They want their loved ones who use to be safe, so they make sure to keep their first aid kits stocked with naloxone next to their band-aids. We see everyone's intrinsic worth as human beings, everyone deserves dignity and respect—which is reflected back at us with the love and support given by the community we serve.

Q: What are some obstacles and struggles the harm reduction movement more broadly is facing as a result of prejudice and ignorance?

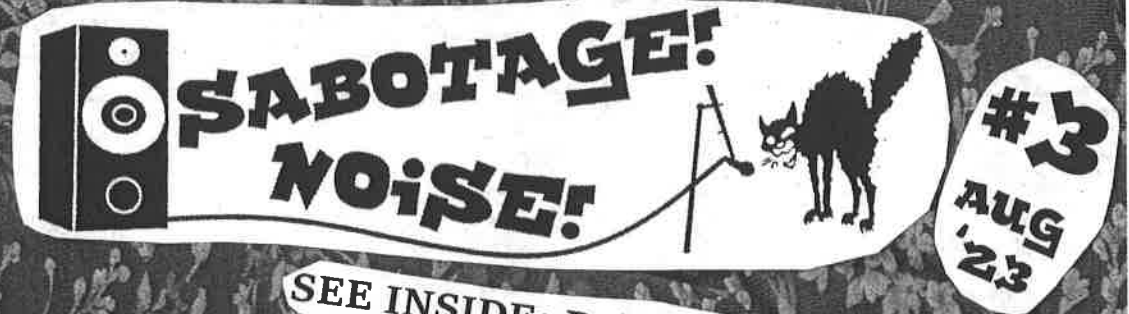
A: Oh man, where to even begin... Policy, for one. Laws that are put in place by bureaucracy hurt the people we serve by teaching society to equate drug use with criminality. The moralization of drug use, brought to us by the War on (People Who Use) Drugs, and the misinformation that's spread about it creates an apathetic society. Stigma isolates, and that's dangerous for everyone. The U.S. has basically had an entire century of history to look back at and learn that prohibition and heavy policing does NOT fix anything... It actually does the opposite and makes it worse.

Q: What can folks do to support Ostrich Bay Exchange?

A: Tell your friends about us! Sign up to volunteer help assemble kits! If you've been thinking about starting your own syringe service program (SSP)—DO IT!! Ostrich Bay's the only program in Kitsap where anyone can easily receive naloxone, fentanyl test strips, safer use supplies... It's not fair to our community.

Q: How can folks who need your services get in touch?

A: It's super easy! Just text Amanda at our delivery line — (253) 470-6534! No personal information is required, they only need to know: 1. Where in Kitsap County you'd like to meet up and 2. What you'd like to have delivered (if you're not sure what to order and want to see the whole list of supplies we offer, just ask!) Delivery days are Tuesdays (North Kitsap + Bremerton), Thursdays (South Kitsap + Bremerton), and Saturdays (Bremerton only). The schedule/route is created the morning-of, so please contact them before the day of your delivery so that they can be sure to get you what you need!



SEE INSIDE: Rad Benefit Shows + More
From All 'Round the Sound

Ostrich Bay Exchange Q&A on Harm Reduction in Kitsap County

Ostrich Bay Exchange has been hitting the streets for harm reduction in Bremerton and Kitsap County for over 25 years. Sabotage Noise presents an interview with Ostrich Bay:

Q: Jumping right in, who's Ostrich Bay Exchange, how long have y'all been doing your thing?

A: Ostrich Bay Exchange was started by Monte Levine and his partner, Marc Derenzy, in November 1997 when someone donated 1,000 syringes to the Health Department. They were not ideal for intravenous drug users, so Monte took them into Seattle to exchange them at a syringe exchange program. By 2000, over 300,000 syringes were being given out!

For World AIDS Day that year, we planned a demonstration at the gazebo park (which is no longer there) in downtown Bremerton — next to the old cop shop and city hall that have since been demolished. The health officer at that time was... not supportive of syringe services, to say the least.

We needed a name, one that stood out and had a personal connection to the community— Ostrich Bay Exchange! At the time of OBE's founding, Kitsap Public Health was located in West Bremerton near the Navy Housing, and overlooked the inlet there known as Ostrich Bay. This decision was inspired by Point Defiance AIDS Project in Tacoma — run by Dave Purchase, credited with starting syringe exchange in the United States.

As volunteers, Monte and Marc provided syringe exchange services in Kitsap until 2016, when People's Harm Reduction Alliance (a radical nonprofit organization based out of Seattle/King County) brought it under their wing. The exchange changed from a fixed site (where the supplies are now kept) to a mobile delivery service to every corner of the county. **Cont. on back**

HARM REDUCTION HOTWIRE

DID YOU KNOW?

Small blood vessels in the nose can break when snorting substances, especially stimulants as they're more dehydrating. So sharing tools (like a rolled up dollar bill) can spread Hepatitis C! Ask your local harm reduction org about safer snorting kits!



FOOD SHOWS + BENEFITS

Tacoma

The Gravel Pit

@gravelpittacoma

August 26 Starts Noon - Pit Fest ft. Malevolent Nights/Guillotine Gambit/Bend the Wurm/Robbers Roost/ Art de la Rue/Class A Misdemeanor/Welfare Hotel **

BREMERTON

The Charleston (333 N Callow Ave)

Sept 8 - Benefit show for Ostrich Bay
Nov 11 - Benefit show for Kitsap FNB** Exchange**

SEATTLE

Left Bank Books (92 Pike St)

@leftbankbookscollective

Every 1st Thursday 7:30-11pm - Open Mic (Aug 3, Sept 7) ~~
Aug 19 7-9pm - Benefit Show for Queer Satanic ft. Molotov Juicebox/
Dead Sonics/Hurry Up Snuffkin **

Casa del Xolo

@casadelxolo

(3418 Fremont Ave N, in Lazy Cow Bakery)
Aug 6 7:30pm - DARK THING/Captain Preacher/Ranger Road **

Pipsqueak Gallery @pipsqueak.seattle (173 16th Ave)

Every 1st Sunday 3-5pm - Prisoner Letter Writing ~~
August 13 12-5pm - Fashion4Reparations Mutual Aid Clothing and Bake Sale **
August 14 6:30-9pm - Smoke preparedness workshop ~~
August 27 9-11am - Pepper Spray Training Class ~~

Vera Project @veraproject (305 Harrison St.)

Aug 17 7pm - Benefit show for youth-led CZ Radio ft. Liv Victorino/Kylie Rowland/Lucia Flores-Wiseman **
Aug 26-27 11-5- @SeattleAnarchistBookFair returns! ~~

The Real Bloc' Party - Capitol Hill near Cal An'

August 5th - Benefit Bloc Party for Cap Hill Mutual Aid Groups ft. Sister Wife Sex Strike/T.i.T/John D. Reveler/Free Tampons/Florida Man/desmadrina.SOUNDSYSTEM/Roshi and the Raindogs/Negligence **

WANT TO LIST YOUR COOL SHOW OR BENEFIT EVENT FOR
MUTUAL AID - LABOR SOLIDARITY - PRISONER SUPPORT -
GENERAL ANARCHY?

CONTACT SABOTAGE NOISE PRODUCTIONS!

EMAIL: sabotagenoiseproductions@proton.me

@sabotagenoiseproductions

KEY

** = NOT A FLOP

~~ - Free

SABOTAGE NOISE PRODUCTIONS

Kitsap County-Based Mutual Aid Benefit Show Booking