

FROM PILLS TO POLICY

Rewriting the Script on Addiction,
Access, and Public Health

Presented by:
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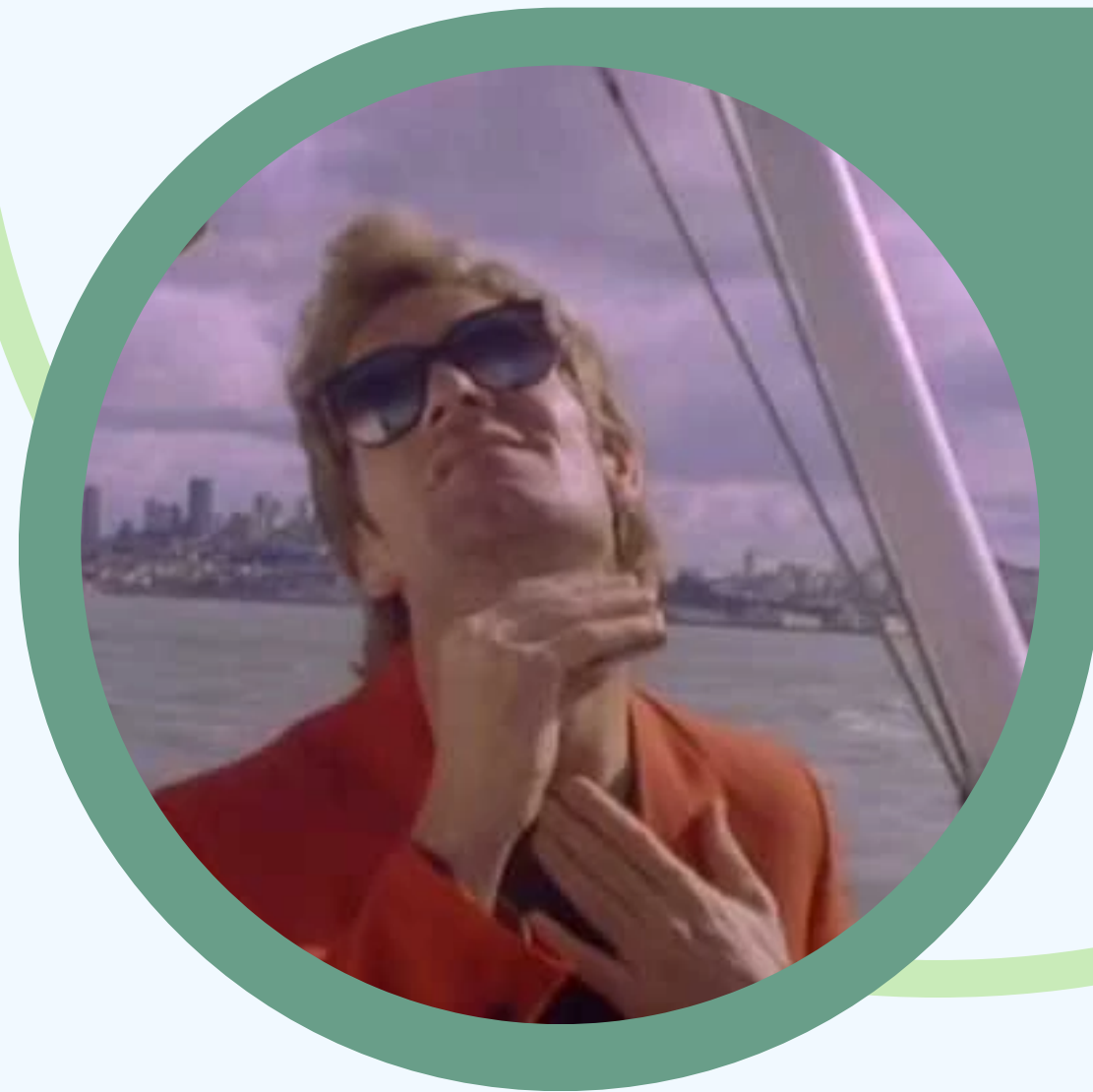
Event:
2025 District Five NABP/AACP
88th Annual Meeting

Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any affiliated institutions or organizations, including the Minnesota Board of Pharmacy, the University of Minnesota, or the Hue-MAN Partnership.

MIXED MESSAGES

My Public Health Origin Story



WHY I DO THIS WORK

A Tale of Two Families & My Start With Hue-MAN

Substance use disorder isn't one story, it's many.
Often, it's invisible until it's fatal.



**YOUNG MAN WHO UNKNOWNLY
INGESTED FENTANYL AND DIED**



**COUSIN STRUGGLING WITH
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**



**HEALTH EQUITY REQUIRES
CLEAR COMMUNICATION**

LOCAL LENS

Overdose and Inequity in Minneapolis

➤ 373 DEATHS

Overdose deaths in Hennepin County in 2023 (1)

➤ 94% FENTANYL

94% of those deaths involved fentanyl (1)

➤ 3-4X HIGHER RISK

Black Minnesotans are three to four times more likely to die from opioid overdose than white Minnesotans (3, 5)

➤ 9-15X HIGHER RISK

Native American Minnesotans 9-15 times more likely to die from opioid overdose than white Minnesotans (3,5)

➤ WOMEN - RISK GROWING

Women aged 30-64 one of fastest growing demographics for overdose death (5)

PHARMACISTS ARE TRUSTED...



TOP 5 MOST TRUSTED PROFESSIONS



90% OF AMERICANS LIVE NEAR A
PHARMACY



PHARMACIES ARE A FREQUENT
POINT OF CONTACT, OFTEN
MORE THAN PRIMARY CARE

...BUT DISAPPEARING



44% OF MINNESOTA
PHARAMCIES CLOSED SINCE
2013 (61% OF INDEPENDENTS)



436K+ MINNESOTANS LIVE IN
PHARMACY DESERTS



LACK PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING
AND SUPPORT

WHAT'S GETTING IN THE WAY?

➤ LEGAL SCOPE

Limited authority to prescribe or initiate public health interventions

➤ BIAS IN RX MONITORING

Risk of over-reliance on Rx history over patient context

➤ REIMBURSEMENT

No sustainable model for time spent on non-dispensing care

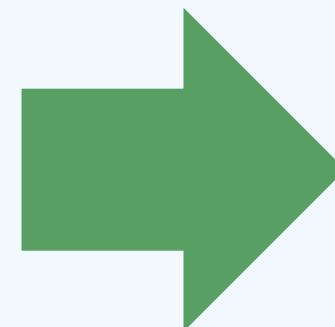
➤ STIGMA

Fear of judgement deters patients from honest conversations

➤ CONTINUING EDUCATION GAPS

Few opportunities for education on trauma-informed or community-based care

Poll: In your view what's getting in the way?



THE BRIXADI® PILOT

Elliott Park: A Community-Driven Alternative to “Just Narcan®”



AFFORDABILITY



ACCESS

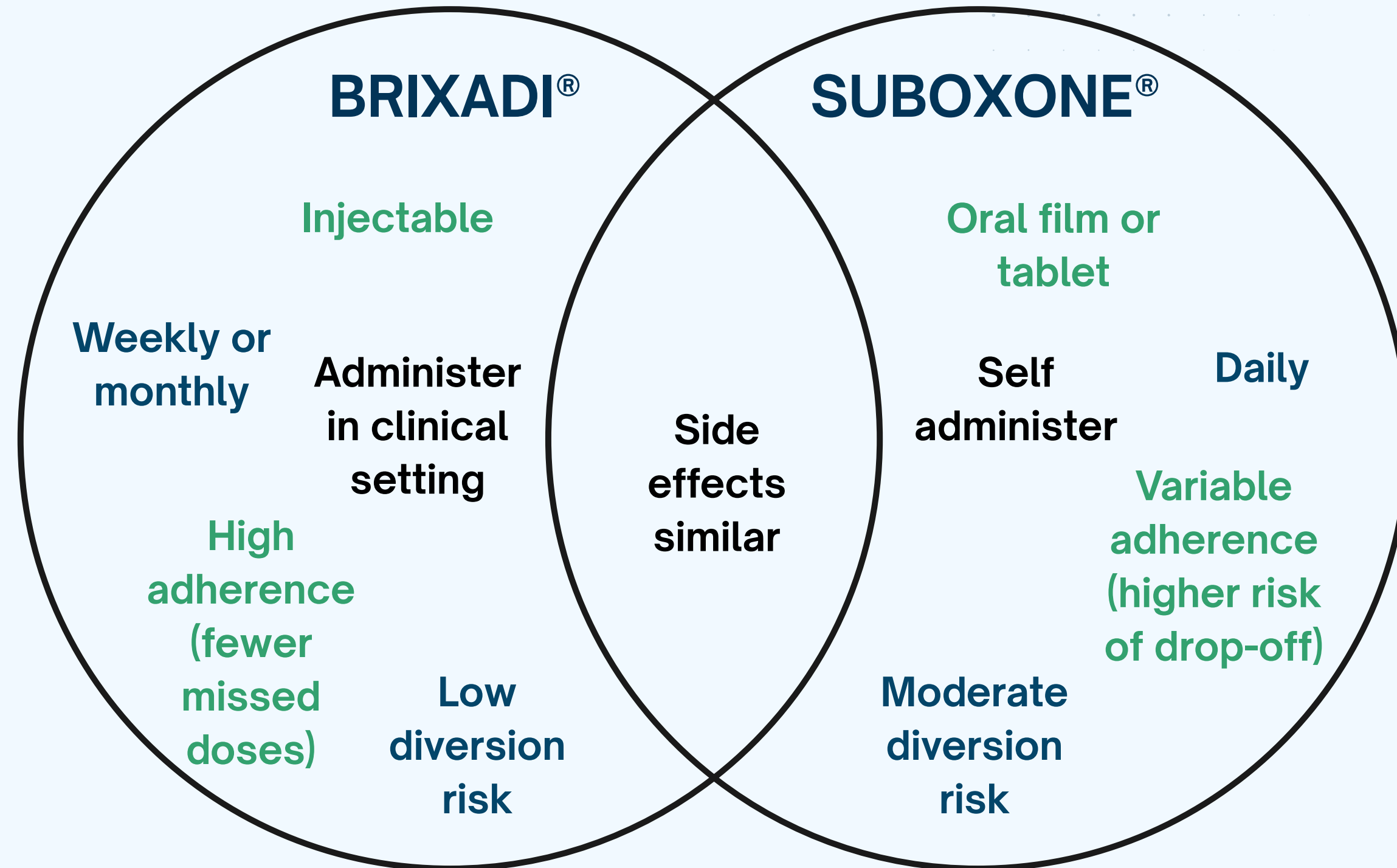


DIGNITY



BRIXADI® VS SUBOXONE®

A Weekly or
Monthly
Injection, and a
Lifeline



RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

What Happens When You Listen First

18 ENROLLED IN 6 WEEKS (NOW OVER 80)

~ 80% CAME BACK FOR SECOND DOSE

OUTCOME: FEWER ED VISITS, MORE STABILITY



THIS IS WHAT PUBLIC HEALTH LOOKS LIKE



DIGNITY

**WRAPAROUND
CARE**

**MEETING PEOPLE
WHERE THEY ARE**



HEALING BEGINS WITH TRUST

Hue-MAN Partnership build coalitions, listens carefully, and takes action to improve community health



LET'S CHANGE THE SYSTEM, NOT JUST THE SCRIPT

➤ EXPAND MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT

Allow pharmacist-initiated
bridge doses

➤ TRAUMA TRAINING

Require continuing education
in trauma-informed care and
cultural care

➤ NON-DRUG CARE

Reimburse alternatives
like acupuncture and
therapy

➤ PHARMACIST INCLUSION

Pharmacists should have a
seat at the table to inform
policy

THREE WAYS YOU CAN HELP



SHOW UP

Join overdose response teams, attend public health board meetings.



SPEAK UP

Testify on gaps in pharmacist care.



PARTNER UP

Connect with Hue-MAN and organizations doing this work

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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?

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Poll: In your view, what's the biggest barrier keeping pharmacists from playing a deeper role in public health?

