

Key learnings from the Kootenays

If there's one duo who really got dialogue from the get-go, it's Jen Driscoll and Alison Ko of the East Kootenay Harm Reduction Collaborative.

They started with the idea of asking people in their community two key questions: "What is it like to be you?" and "How would you like to be understood?" The group has (6) 12-00-11 4-4) 0 (o) (4) (o) (0) others—were coming forward to offer help.

The momentum continues to build, and people throughout the East Kootenays want to come together to talk more about the opioid crisis and its effects on their communities. This is why the group has applied for Phase II funding, in addition to funding received from other sources.

become the highlight of my career."

Examples of dialogue formats that worked well in the Kootenays:

In Fernie, the commuknow each other.

In Invermere, attendees were led down "a trail of photos" before sitting down to talk.

In Golden, 100 people were brought together in a U-shaped room for unifying exercises before embarking on conversation, sparked by the photographs, and marked by compassion and empathy.

In Cranbrook, a crowd of 100 mingled in the lower part of a theatre and art gallery, or went upstairs to the silent area featuring a remembrance table.

Each venue featured a reflection area where participants could write about how they think and feel about the opioid crisis, and what, if anything, they might be interested in doing to help their community.