

# COLORADO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

## MEETING AGENDA

February 1, 2019

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Colorado Municipal League

1144 Sherman St., Denver

### I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Weiser called the meeting to order and had members and guest introduce themselves.

### II. Attorney General Phil Weiser and Addressing Substance Abuse Issues

Chair Weiser commented the good work of the Task Force and expressed his support. He also stressed that addressing the opioid crisis is a top priority for him and his administration. In particular he spoke about having met with the Alamosa County Sherriff and learned that the majority of individuals in the county jail had an opioid addiction, but treatment option were not available. Helping to bring together law enforcement professionals and professionals from the fields of substance use disorders treatment and recovery, is one area of focus.

### III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Liz Hickman made a motion to approve the minutes and Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade made the second. The minutes were approved unanimously

### III. Announcements from Task Force Members

Marc Condojani: The opioid grant work funded through the Office of Behavioral Health to expand access to medication assisted treatment (MAT) is going very well. Many individuals who want treatment are being served. More doctors have been approved for administering bupenorphine, representing one of the fastest growing number of doctors doing so among the states that have received the federal funding for this work.

Colorado's efforts in addressing the opioid crisis are highlighted in recent report. Areas for further attention were also included in the report. In that regard, insufficient access to MAT is and issues that still exist, but the Office of Behavioral Health is a new two-year grant to get six mobile treatment units up and running with multi-disciplinary teams working in several counties with high rates of overdose deaths.

Amy Kingery: The 1<sup>st</sup> Judicial District finalized a standing order for Narcan to be in courtrooms. There is an interest in expanding this across other judicial districts.

Chair Wisler: Another Narcan issue is the need to have Narcan in jails and a need for support services after individuals detox in jails.

Jade Woodard: Regarding access to childcare for parents who are seeking treatment there are two pilot proposals in the works

Colleen Brisnehan: Meth use is an issue in public housing and housing for the homeless. The high cost of contamination cleanup is placing a burden on public housing authorities, and on homeless housing programs and a lot of money is being spent on clean up.

AG Wieser: Use of meth by homeless individuals is an issue as well. Also, if an individual has an addiction, it is difficult to get into a shelter.

Vice Chair Esquibel: There is the potential to engage additional groups with regard to the impact of the opioid crisis – employers and faith communities

Rob Valuck: MAT update —Larimer County will have a care provisions in the jail surrounding FDA approved drugs for treating an opioid use disorder.

Kent MacLennan: Last week, Rise Above Colorado released the findings of a survey of youth substance use behaviors and attitudes. A summary of findings can be found on the Rise Above Colorado web site. One of the main protective factors is when youth have meaningful school work they are less likely to use drugs.

Vice Chair Esquibel: Sam Mamet, the Executive Director of the Colorado Municipal League, is retiring. Sam has allowed the Task Force to meet at CML since 2007. It's recommended that he receive some recognition in appreciation for his generous support of the Task Force.

Chair Weiser: Leslie Eaton is the Deputy Attorney General or Consumer Protection who is leading the state's litigation effort against Purdue Pharma, and eventually others. The funds received are intended to go to communities to help address the opioid crisis.

Leslie Eaton: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has added the family that owns Purdue Pharma to their lawsuit.

#### IV. Legislative Updates

Kurt Morrison is the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs in the Colorado Office of the Attorney General working closely with the legislature. He reviewed the status of the major bills related to addressing the opioid crisis and substance use disorders.

- HB19-109 addressing affordable housing for individuals recovering from substance use disorder
- SB19-008 consists of three bills of the Interim Study Committee on Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders that were not approved by legislative council
- SB19-001 is an expansion of MAT pilot program that was initially funded for Pueblo and Routt Counties. This is being led by Senate President Leroy Garcia.
  - Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade mentioned that County Commissioners were not aware: MAT expansion pilot. There is a need to improve communication.

Each of the above bills requires significant appropriations.

Rob Valuck: There a bill that would mandate prescribers to use electronic prescribing for controlled substance prescriptions.

Henny Lasley: There will be a sunset review of the state's marijuana legislation. Henny will provide a white paper about this.

Jade Woodard: Illuminate Colorado is working with partners on two bills related to the recommendations of the Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee. One of the bills is in regard to improving access to post-partum treatment programs for women with substance use disorders. Rep. Leslie Herod and Senate President Leroy Garcia are working on introducing this bill.

#### V. SBIRT Advisory Council

*Bethany Pace-Danley, SBIRT in Colorado  
Peer Assistance Services*

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment is an evidence-based approach implemented mainly in health care settings that can prevent or intervene with substance abuse.

In recent years, the Federal State Innovation Model (SIM) Grant funds have been utilized to increase training for health care practitioners across the state, both in person training and online. As a result, there are now a variety of SBIRT implementation efforts and with the SIM Grant coming to an end, there is an interest to form an SBIRT Advisory Council to continue coordinating and expanding SBIRT training and implementation efforts. A group of stakeholders met on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss potential areas of focus for the Council and the idea of possibly becoming a committee of the Task Force.

The SBIRT Advisory Council will hold another meeting to craft a proposal for consideration by the Task Force.

#### VI. Colorado Hospital Substance Exposed Newborns Learning Collaborative (25 mins)

*Vice Chair Esquibel*

*Jade Woodard, Executive Director of Illuminate Colorado and  
Co-Chair of the SEN Steering Committee*

*Dr. Susan Hwang, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Neonatologist Children's  
Hospital Colorado and University Hospital, Member of the Colorado Perinatal  
Care Quality Collaborative Executive Committee, and Member of the  
SEN Steering Committee*

*Jaime Cabrera, Executive Director of Colorado Perinatal Care Quality  
Collaborative and Member of the SEN Steering Committee*

The Colorado Hospital Substance Exposed Newborns (CHOSEN) Collaborative has been meeting for several years with participation by representatives of hospitals from across the state that are working to improve services to pregnant women who are abuse drugs or who have a substance use disorder. The focus on implementing formal quality improvement measures is generating promising results. One of the important practices is the implantation of Plans for Safe Care upon releases of a mother and her infant. Colorado is one of the only states working collaboratively to make this plan part of the hospital discharge procedure. Hospitals in the State of Washington are following Colorado efforts in this regard.

See the PDF of the presentation slides for additional details.

There is an interest by CHOSEN to have the State of Colorado apply for the federal funding initiative titled Maternal Opioid Misuse (MOM) Model. The Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing (HCPF) would need to be the applicant working with a non-profit delivery system. At this point it's not certain that HCPF will apply for the funding.

AG Weiser indicated he would have his staff follow up with HCPF staff to encourage the agency to apply for the funds.

VI. Data Committee: State Epidemiological & Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)

Vice Chair Condojani reported that the SEOW is now working on completing the Colorado epidemiological profiles, one on alcohol, one on marijuana and the third one on opioids. These should be available for dissemination by the next Task force meeting.

VII. Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Rob Valuck informed the Task Force that Consortium is working on Naloxone Public Awareness Campaign that will launch mid-year.

The Consortium now has additional staff that are assisting the work groups and helping local communities that are addressing the opioid crisis.

IX. 2019 Priorities

The following priority areas were gleaned from what has been presented and discussed today's meeting and the November meeting,

- Coordinating public awareness campaigns
- Workforce and Substance Abuse Initiative
- Addressing issues related to MAT deserts (lack of access)
- Issues related to meth contamination clean costs
- Statewide substance abuse prevention strategy

IX. Closing Comments and Adjournment

AG Weiser will be attending the upcoming Heroin Response Work group of the Consortium.

AG Weiser brought up the idea of issuing awards to organizations and individuals who are doing excellent work to respond to the opioid crisis and to mitigate the impact of the crisis.

Next meeting May 3, 2019, Colorado Municipal League, 10:00 am – 1:00pm.

The Task Force meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.