

Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force

February 7, 2014

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Colorado Municipal League

1144 Sherman St, Denver, CO

FINAL

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Chair – Attorney General John Suthers

Vice –Chairs:

- *Treatment* – Marc Condojani, Director, Community Treatment & Recovery Programs, Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Dept. of Human Services
- *Prevention* – José Esquibel, Director, Interagency Prevention Systems for Children and Youth, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Colorado Dept. of Human Services
- *Law Enforcement* – Lori Moriarty, Retired Commander, Thornton Police Department, North Metro Drug Task Force; Vice President, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (National DEC)

Attendees: John Suthers, José Esquibel, Marc Condojani, Lori Moriarty, Jade Woodward, Dan Rubinstein, Wendy Buxton-Andrade, Julia Roguski, Kelly Perez, Elizabeth Hickman, Melissa Gallardo, Michael F. Root, Colleen Brisnehan, Shannon Breitzman, Ken Summers, Val Kalnins, Dan Kaup, Jack Storti, Jessica Johnston, Craig Simpson, Stan Paprocki, Greg Daniels, Tiffany Flores, and Terri Connell.

Guests: Jim Gerhardt, Kevin Ford, Nachshon Zohari, , Luna Volenec, Paul Scudo, Laura Chren, Jason Thomas, Julie Madden, James Henning, Judith Miller, Robert Valuck, Brie Reimann, Kent MacLennan, Jonathan Judge, Nicola Erb, Maj. Holger M. Peters, Steven Clayborn, Greg Fabisiak, Laurie Lovedale, Aaron Miller, Frank Cornelia, Karen Moreau, Karen Teel.

Introductions: Attorney General Suthers called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and attendees introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the November 1, 2013 meeting were approved by motion as submitted.

Announcements from Task Force Members:

The next National Prescription Drug Take Back event is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10:00am-2:00pm and is being coordinated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. For more information and to receive materials to promote the Take Back event, contact Helen Kaupang, Diversion Group Supervisor, Drug Enforcement Administration, Denver Division Office: helen.p.kaupang@usdoj.gov.

Definition of Drug Endangered Child:

The Task Force reviewed revisions to the proposed definition of Drug Endangered Children and discussed alternative wording for one part of Title 18. In addition, there is comparable language being proposed for Title 19. It was determined that the proposal language for both Title 18 and Title 19 be run as part of the same bill.

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Vice Chair Lori Moriarty will coordinate with Jade Woodard, Executive Director of Colorado Alliance for Drug-Endangered Children, and the revised language will be sent to the members of the DEC Definition Ad Hoc Committee of the Task Force for their review.

It is anticipated that the DEC Definition legislation will run as with late bill status.

Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Committee/Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention:

The Co-Chairs are Robert Valuck and Helen Kaupang. Rob Valuck presented on the structure of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, which serves as a committee of the Task Force and consists of six Work Groups (see the attached PDF of the Power Point Presentation):

1. Prescriber and Provider Education
2. Prescription Drug Monitoring
3. Treatment
4. Safe Disposal
5. Public Awareness
6. Data and Analysis

Task Force members are invited to participate in one or more Work Groups or to have representation from their respective agency/organization. Guests of the Task Force are also invited to participate.

To participate in a Work Group or for more information, contact Rob Valuck:

robert.valuck@ucdenver.edu

Heroin Use Messaging for Parents of Teens:

The seizures of heroin have increased dramatically in the past year. Of particular concern is the use of heroin by youth. Task Force member Melissa Gallardo invited Task force members and any interested guests to work with her and Nicola Erb of Rise Above Colorado on informational messages for parents of teens.

Those who expressed an interest in working with Melissa and Nicola include, Jim Gerhardt, Jacki Storti, Julia Madden Rodriguez.

To participate in this work group or for more information, contact Melissa at

melissa.gallardo@state.co.us

Data Committee:

There is an interest in reconvening the Task Force Data Committee to look at a variety of data issues. One main issue is in regard to the collection of data on drug-endangered children as required by legislation passed last year. It is important to ensure that the type of data collected is aligned with the data collected as part of DECSYS.

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In addition to Keven Wong of the Rocky Mountain HIDTA, the following individuals expressed interest in participating on the Data Committee: Jade Woodard, Nicola Erb, Jim Gerhardt, Jessica Johnston, Stan Paprocki, Aaron Miller, Melissa Gallardo, Nachshon Zohari.

Vice Chair José Esquibel will coordinate with Stan Paprocki on convening the Data Committee as part of the State Epidemiology and Outcomes Work Group, as has been done in the past.

To participate in the Data Committee contact José Esquibel: j.esquibel@state.co.us

Colorado Household Medication Take Back:

Greg Fabisiak, Environmental Integration Coordinator with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, presented on the Colorado Household Medication Take Back Program.

Disposal of prescription drugs and household medications is one of the focus areas of the Colorado Consortium to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse and is working to expand the efforts being implemented by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment through the Colorado Household Medication Take Back Program, which is funding a few sites across the state to collect prescription drugs and household medications.

A recent grant allowed for expansion to more law enforcement sites in Durango, Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins, Walsenberg, Canyon City, and Mesa County.

Also several pharmacies are collecting non-controlled medications with nine locations in the Denver metro area and two in Summit County.

Additional funding is needed to sustain these Take Back efforts and to possibly expand to additional sites.

See the attached PDF of Greg's presentation for more information. Also, Greg can be contacted at greg.fabisiak@state.co.us

Rise Above Colorado:

Kent MacLennan, Jonathan Judge, and Nicola Erb presented on the recent expansion of The Colorado Meth Project to focus on other relevant and emerging drug use trends among teens in Colorado. See the attached PDF of the presentation.

[Rise Above Colorado](#) will maintain focus on methamphetamine use and abuse along with a new prescription drug initiative and general drug prevention resources in collaboration with The Partnership at Drugfree.org, a national non-profit organization working to help families solve the problem of teen substance abuse.

Utilizing best practices for public awareness and community outreach, Rise Above Colorado will work with community partners to shape teens' attitudes and perceptions about drugs through proactive education programs, with an ultimate goal of reducing usage patterns.

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Nicola Erb is the Rise Above Community Outreach Manager and will be working with partners on looking at current data from various source to determine geographic areas of focus. Rise Above Colorado is partnering with the Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children on replicating the model used in the Rural Law Enforcement Meth Initiative that used data to identify trends and a communities of need and to help make connections at the local level to available resources.

There is the idea of forming a State Action Team in the same manner as was formed for the Rural Law Enforcement Meth Initiative, which was successful in aligning efforts and leveraging resources to help local communities.

There is an open invitation to Task Force members and other interested people to participate in the work to organize the community outreach of Rise Above Colorado.

Relevant Legislation to Track:

SB14-129: Concerning Changes to Criminal Provisions Related to Marijuana

- The bill adds consumption and possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana paraphernalia to the crime of underage possession or consumption of alcohol with specified fines for the first, second and third offenses.
- The bill changes the open marijuana container crime to require that prosecution prove that the container has a broken seal, that the contents were partially removed, and that there is evidence that marijuana was consumed in the vehicle. Current law only requires proof of one of those 3 elements.
- The bill creates the Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Fund with dollars primarily allocated from the fines collected from underage possession offenses.

HB14-1037: Concerning Enforcement of Laws Against Designer Drugs

- It is unlawful to distribute, dispense, manufacture, or sell any product that is labeled as incense or any other trademark if the product contains any amount of any synthetic cannabinoid. A violation is a deceptive trade practice, and the violator shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$500,000 for each violation.
- A person shall forfeit and pay to the general fund of the state a civil penalty of not less than \$25,000 and not more than \$500,000 for each violation if the person distributes, dispenses, or sells the product to a minor under the age of 18 and the person is at least 18 years of age and at least 2 years older than the minor.
- On or before September 1, 2014, the director of the Colorado bureau of investigation (bureau) shall establish a division within the bureau to address the enforcement of laws prohibiting the possession and distribution of synthetic cannabinoids, cathinones, and other designer drugs.

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HB14-1122: Concerning Provisions to Keep Legal Marijuana from Underage Persons

- Under current law, medical marijuana-infused products must be sold in either child-proof packaging or in packaging warning "medicinal product - keep out of reach of children". The bill removes the option of selling the products in the packaging with the warning. The bill makes an exception to the child-proof packaging if the purchaser has a doctor's note explaining he or she has a condition that makes opening the child-proof packaging difficult, which is consistent with laws regarding prescribed medications.
- The bill gives a retail marijuana store the ability to confiscate a fraudulent identification and detain and question the person who provided the fraudulent identification. The bill makes selling marijuana to a person under 21 years of age at a retail marijuana store a class 1 misdemeanor and creates the various licensing penalties for selling to an underage person.

HB14-1207: Concerning the Creation of the Household Medication Take-Back program

- The bill requires the executive director of the department of public health and environment (department) to establish a household medication take-back program (program) to collect and dispose of unused household medications. The program allows individuals to dispose of unused household medications at approved collection sites, and for carriers to transport unused household medications from approved collection sites to disposal locations.
- The bill specifies that collection sites, carriers, and disposal locations that act in good faith are not subject to liability for incidents arising from the collection, transport, or disposal of household medications.
- The bill creates the household medication take-back cash fund for the implementation of the program.

HB14-1209: Concerning Creation of the Marijuana Diversion Prevention Grant Program

- The bill permits the general assembly to appropriate surplus funds in the marijuana cash fund to the marijuana diversion prevention grant program.
- The bill creates the marijuana diversion prevention grant program (grant program) that is administered by the state controller. The grant program will provide grants to the state patrol and other state law enforcement agencies that share a border with Colorado to prevent diversion of retail marijuana from Colorado and apprehend those attempting to divert retail marijuana from Colorado. The grant program includes a grant review committee consisting shall award grants based on need and effectiveness. The Colorado state patrol must receive priority in receiving grants.

Proposed House Bill: Modify Prescription Drug Abuse Monitoring Program

- The bill makes modifications to the electronic prescription drug abuse program for the purpose of increasing utilization by prescribers.

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The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Friday, August 1, 2014, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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