

COLORADO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Colorado Municipal League

1144 Sherman St., Denver (South of the Capitol)

Chair – Attorney General Cynthia Coffman

Vice –Chairs:

- *Treatment* – Marc Condojani, Director, Community Treatment & Recovery Programs, Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Dept. of Human Services
- *Prevention* – José Esquibel, Director, Office of Community Engagement, Colorado Dept. of Law/Colorado Office of the Attorney General
- *Law Enforcement* – Chief Rick Brandt, Evans Police Department

Attendees: *Adam Zarrin, Amy Kingery, Ashley Chase, Cynthia H. Coffman, Dana Smith, Jenny Wood, José Esquibel, Julia L. Roguski, Lindsey Myers, Liz Hickman, Lorendia Schmidt, Marc Condojani, Melissa Gallardo, Miles De Young, Peggy Heil, Rick Brandt, Ron Rakowsky, Robert Valuck, Jennifer Anderson, Renie Dugwyler, Jade Woodward*

Guests: *Denise Vineconi, Qing Li, Eileen Forlenzo, Jack Reed, Tami Clark, Keven Jones, Ron Holmes, Lynn Riener, Allie Moor, Samuel Warren, Karam Ahmad, Becky Bui, Sharon Liu, Kathy Doh, Whit Oyler, Judith Miller, Warren Buchanan, Franklin Erickson, Shawn Carpenter, Mike Orrill, Daniel Vigil, Mary Steiner, Adrian Pascual, Rebecca Atkinson, Peter Rumbach, Kyle Gustafson, Alex Caldwell, Gina Olberding, Ariel Britt, Sara Cardora, Jessica Eaddy, Melissa Reiss, Henny Lasley, Meredith Davis, Kacy Crawford*

I. Welcome

Attorney General Coffman called for a few moments of silence for the family in honor of Sheriff Deputy Health Gumm of Adam’s County who was killed in the line of duty and whose funeral is today.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved.

III. Announcements from Task Force Members

Mary Steiner, Colorado Springs: The community needs assessment completed by El Paso County Coalition for Prevention, Addiction Education, and Recovery included an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, a community readiness assessment, and a cost benefit analysis. The final report will be released to the public on February 15th, during a presentation called [*Facing the Opioid Crisis in El Paso County.*](#)

Melissa Gallardo, Colorado Department of Corrections/Adult Parole: Thank you for Colorado Naloxone For Life trainings. There were 10 parole officers were trained as trainers in Narcan administration. 350 Narcan kits are being distributed to probation/parole officers. The department is brainstorming how to provide to offenders with Narcan when released from custody.

Mark Condojani, Colorado Department of Human Services/Office of Behavioral Health: OBH is overseeing a number of initiatives related to the current funding for responding to the opioid crisis:

- Awards were announced and contracts are in place for the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.
- There is opportunity within the Consortium's Heroin Work Group to build community learning collaborative around LEAD.
- Colorado received \$7.8 million from the federal State Target Response to the Opioid Crisis grant (CARES Act funding). In addition to expanding access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), the funds are being used to purchase 7,000 Narcan kits for distribution to treatment facilities to be given to clients with an opioid use disorder.
- There are now over 235 new prescribers that offer MAT support throughout the state.

Dr. Qing Li: Prenatal Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Expansion Pilot Program. Dr. Li reported that she submitted a research grant to study utilization of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment in Colorado with pregnant women. In 2016, CARA authorized the inclusion of services for pregnant women under family-based substance abuse grants. Pregnant women are a priority population with regard to the opioid crisis and other substance use disorders. The goals of a proposed SBIRT Expansion Pilot Program include: 1) Compile existing SBIRT data, explore new data sources 2) Promptly identify substance exposed pregnancy and newborns for prompt service; and 3) Increasing MAT access among pregnant women.

Adam Zarrin, Governor's Office: The Governor's office is preparing to release a statewide strategic plan about shifting the burden of behavioral health needs away from jails and corrections to behavioral health services. This plan will focus on achieving sustainable systems and strategies that reduce incarceration and justice involvement by supporting positive behavioral health outcomes, promoting public safety, optimizing taxpayer dollars, and improving lives. The strategy outlined in the plan will be intended to provide guidance for future legislation, budgetary decisions, and policy for the current and future administrations. Please contact Adam at adam.zarrin@state.co.us for more information.

Lindsey Meyers, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: Prescriber reports based on data from the Colorado Prescription Drug monitoring program are set to go out to prescribers at the end of February. These reports will be issued quarterly.

Ashley Chase, Office of the Child's Representative: Parental substance abuse is a factor in rising neglect cases, especially in several counties. There has been a 5% decrease in neglect cases from last year, with El Paso, Adams, and Denver Counties having the higher numbers of cases in the Front Range. In rural areas of the state neglect cases are up 10-12% in Weld and Alamosa counties. The Drug Courts that are set up in those areas need one or more substance abuse providers to work with the parents through the courts.

Judith Miller: Soaring Hope Recovery was recently approved to be a provider for TriCare Insurance for veterans and is already serving four veterans with a substance abuse disorder along with The Low Energy Neurofeedback (LENS) treatment. LENS has been introduced as a treatment source to the Ft. Carson Wounded Veteran Center. The treatment has been successful in relieving traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) and post-traumatic stress (PTS). Medications for TBIs or PTS work for symptoms but can have negative side effects. TBIs and PTS may also present a strong correlation to family neglect cases. El Paso County ranks highest among Colorado Counties for Dependency & Neglect cases. With LENS, it is hoped that we can cut the veteran suicide rate as well as heal the families and prevent further Dependency & Neglect cases.

Melissa Reiss, CBS Community Partnerships: CBS is partnering with Shatterproof, a nonprofit organization that addresses the stigma of addiction, on hosting a 5k run/walk in Denver this July with the theme of Rise Up Against Addiction. CBS is looking for Colorado partners to provide additional resources and assistance in co-sponsoring the event. The Rise Up Against Addiction 5K Walk/Run event series has been expanded this year to 11 cities across the country, including Denver. More information on this event can be found at <https://www.shatterproof5k.org/>

Colorado Naloxone for Life: The Colorado Office of the Attorney General funded another round of bulk purchase of 2000 Narcan kits for distribution to law enforcement based on demand. To date, 151 law enforcement agencies carry Naloxone/Narcan and in 2017 there were 320 overdose reversals reported through OpiRescue app. In January of this year, there were 15 reversals reported.

The AG's Office is planning to host a Colorado Law Enforcement Opioid Response Summit sometime after the end of the legislation session. The summit will be for leaders of state law enforcement associations, Colorado Municipal League leadership, Colorado Counties, Inc., leadership, public health and substance abuse service association leaders, Colorado District Attorneys Council, regional federal law enforcement leaders, US Attorney's Office, and more.

The proposed purpose of the summit is threefold:

1. What are law enforcement professionals encountering in their communities with regard to the opioid crisis?
2. What support does law enforcement in Colorado need for dealing with the opioid crisis, from interdiction to harm reduction activities?
3. Identify 2-4 strategies that state-level collaboration across discipline could assist Colorado law enforcement agencies in responding to the opioid crisis.

AG Coffman asked that the Task Force consider this a priority for this year.

Responses to Summit Support:

- Good opportunity to work with Consortium's Heroin Work Group and to incorporate priorities from that Work Group as part of the Summit.
- Denise Vincioni mentioned that Arapahoe County created a MOU between Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office and local treatment providers that has resulted in a very thorough process for delivery of the three FDA medications that patients are currently receiving at their respective programs. It includes regulatory issues and topics that are necessary to address such as storage, delivery, disposal of all the medications, who is going to deliver, and how that

information will be communicated in the most efficient way so that patients are dosed as soon as possible.

- It is critical to get different leadership at the table. The other disciplines will provide a different perspective that public safety may not always be seeing. There are various ways to look at responding to the opioid crisis in our state.
- One question to consider at the Summit is, what are law enforcement professionals seeing in regard to children of parents who are abusing opioids or other drugs?

The Task Force agreed to make this a priority item for 2018. Vice Chair Esquibel and Vice Chair Brandt will follow up with the law enforcement representatives on the Task Force for an initial discussion about the Summit and report back at the May Task Force meeting.

IV. Legislative Update

Jennifer Anderson, Director of Legislative Affairs, Colorado Attorney General's Office

Five of the six bills from the Interim Study Committee on Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders have not yet been calendared. A summary of the six bills was passed out during the meeting and is available [here](#). One of the bills, SB18-022, regarding clinical prescribing, is scheduled to be heard in committee on February 8th.

A House bill was introduced to reauthorize the Task Force for a period of ten years. The current statute is set to repeal at the end of June of this year. Thank you for AG Coffman and Rep. Daneya Esgar and for taking a lead on this.

V. Data Committee: Alcohol Policy Brief

Kacy Crawford, Alcohol Epidemiologist, Colorado Department of Public

The Colorado State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) provided an overview of their recently released alcohol policy brief, *Reduce Excessive Drinking to Build Healthier Communities*.

The SEOW is a network of state agencies and data experts from across the state. The group examines the patterns, context, and impact of substance use to develop and deliver comprehensive substance use data resources for the public.

The brief characterizes excessive drinking across the state and offers four evidence-based policies to reduce excessive drinking at the state and community level: limiting alcohol outlet density, limiting days and hours of alcohol sales, strengthening commercial host (dram shop) liability laws, and increasing alcohol taxes.

Key points shared in the brief are:

- One in five adults in Colorado drinks alcohol excessively.
- Excessive drinking can cause injuries, violence and chronic disease.
- Excessive drinking cost Colorado \$5 billion in 2010, with almost half the cost paid by taxpayers. This is similar to the cost of providing 150,000 students in Colorado with four years of college tuition.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdhs-boards-committees-collaboration/colorado-state-epidemiological-outcomes-workgroup>

The Alcohol Policy Workgroup is working to continually assess gaps in expertise and representation to further our data products. Just as a reminder, our goal as researchers and data experts is to educate partners on the evidence-based around specific alcohol policies, not advocate for specific policies to change.

Here are a few ways that folks could help support the Alcohol Policy Workgroup's data products:

- Request brief, written updates for distribution to the Task Force members and guests via email/newsletter.
- Ask the workgroup to present their data/research at a future meeting or conference.
- Serve as a subject matter expert to review data products and provide feedback, as needed.

If anyone has any questions about the Alcohol Policy Workgroup, they can email kacy.crawford@state.co.us

VI. Impact on Children of Caregiver Substance Use Recommendations

Jade Woodard, Executive Director, Illuminate Colorado

Stakeholders have drafted a set of recommendations for the Task Force that will be presented at the May Task Force meeting. For a preview, see the [handout](#) shared with the title, “*Impact on Children of Caregivers Substance Use: Recommendations for Policy and Practice.*”

A [PowerPoint](#) slide deck was shown to the Task Force and will be posted on the Task Force web page. Here are some highlights regarding data about caregiver substance use in Colorado:

Of the respondents to the 2016 Colorado Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System who indicated they had a child under age 14 in their home in the State of Colorado—

- 27.4% of caregivers reported having on average three or more alcoholic drinks per day in the past 30 days.
- 97% of caregivers reported using pain relievers for a different reason than the specific pain for which it was prescribed.
- 8.3% of caregivers reported having marijuana or a marijuana product in or around their home right now.
- 15.8% of caregivers with marijuana in their home reported not keeping marijuana in childproof containers or packaging.

Next Steps

- Final Recommendations will be vetted and finalized for the Task Force.

- Final Report is expected to be ready in late February.
- A presentation is planned to the Colorado Children's Caucus at the State Legislature on April 9, 2018.

VI. Statewide Needs Assessment of Prevention for Substance Abuse

*Alexandra Caldwell, Associate Director of Program Development and Analysis
Colorado Health Institute*

The slides for the [presentation](#) are posted on the Task Force web page.

Staff of the Colorado Health Institute (CHI) shared the results of the Statewide Needs Assessment on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse (SNAPS) they conducted in 2017 on behalf of the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). They shared opportunities for the Office of Behavioral Health and other statewide funders to address needs in substance abuse prevention at the local community and state levels. They also asked the group for input on people and organizations to involve in 2018 statewide substance abuse prevention strategic planning as part of the next steps of this work.

Responses from Task Force members and guests to the presentation:

- There is concern about the increase in vaping as a substance abuse trend and there is a need to revamp youth substance use survey questions to include vaping behavior.
- There is increase interest in prevention statewide.
- It will be important to consider what prevention strategies look like for different age groups. There is a need to begin prevention efforts with younger age kids..
- Also, a two-generation approach is an important aspect for strategic prevention work.
- The strategic planning should include faith-based community/engagement. This group is an underutilized resource.

VII. Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee

Jade Woodard, Executive Director, Illuminate Colorado

The SEN Steering Committee extended an invitation to for Task Force members and any interested guests to join one of the 2018-2020 SEN Work Groups. You can find the 2018-2020 SEN Steering Committee priorities and new Work Group structure [here](#)

- Each Work Group will develop and later implement a work plan for addressing the priority area identified by the Steering Committee.
- Each Work Group will advise the SEN Steering Committee about key aspects of the priority area, provide a community perspective on key considerations, work towards consensus among members on the desired goals, outcomes, content, and ongoing work included in the work plan, and implement the work plan after the SEN Steering Committee approves it.
- Work Groups meet monthly for 1-2 hours, and all meetings will have a virtual meeting option.

- Work Groups will be forming and conducting their first meetings between now and the end of March. To indicate your interest in joining one or more of the SEN Work Groups, please fill out [this form](#).

VIII. Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Rob Valuck, Ph.D., University of Colorado, Skaggs School of Pharmacy

- The consortium is adding staffing with recent funding for 2.5 years to double outreach and support our consortium work.
- There is new Recovery Work Group that was formed and there are funds earmarked to assist the efforts of this work group.
- Consortium staff is working with staff of the Office of Behavioral Health to complete the Colorado Opioid Response Community Toolkit that is designed to assist local community collaborative efforts.
- 600 people attended the Dreamland in Denver event with author Sam Quiñones as the headline speaker. \$34k was raised to help advance the work of the Consortium and partners.
- The Consortium's 2017 [Annual Report](#) was released and is available on the Consortium's web site.
- The Consortium Work Groups are working on their priorities for 2018 and there are funds to help advance those priorities.
- A news release about the AmeriCorps partnership is forthcoming. Lin Browning of the central Colorado Area Health Education Center is heading up the project in coordination with other regional Area health education Centers. The project is in process of hiring more AmeriCorps members to assist local communities in responding to the opioid crisis.

XI. Task Force Priorities for 2018

- Alcohol Policy Action
- Assisting with Statewide Prevention Strategic Planning, with an emphasis on prevention programs directed at youth and schools
- Action on Impact of Caregiver Substance Use Recommendations
- Law Enforcement Opioid Response Summit

XII. Adjournment