

# COLORADO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

**MEETING AGENDA**  
**November 2, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
**Colorado Municipal League**  
**1144 Sherman St., Denver**

**Conference Call Number**

Local: 720-508-6015 Toll free: 1-888-239-0071  
Passcode: 184 979 26#

## **I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Coffman convened the Task Force meeting at 10:00 a.m.. The meeting began with introduction of Task Force members and guests.

## **II. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Liz Hickman motioned the approval of the August 8, 2018 minutes. Julia Roguski provide the second to the motion. All members voted in favor to accept the minutes with the addition of Liz Hickman as a participant by phone.

## **III. Announcements from Task Force Members**

This is Attorney General Cynthia Coffman's last Task Force meeting as Chair and Attorney General. She expressed her impressions of the outstanding work of the Task Force and its committees to advancing both best practices and policy approaches to addressing substance abuse in our state, especially the response to the opioid crisis.

Task Force members expressed their appreciation for Attorney General Coffman's leadership and it was mentioned that she was recognized with the Lori Moriarty Leadership Award this past fall.

On behalf of the Task Force, Vice Chair Esquibel presented Attorney General Coffman with a plaque recognizing her for her contribution to the success of the Task Force.

*Marc Condojani:* The Office of Behavioral Health has been managing the opioid crisis response grant. One aspect of the grant is the purchase and outfitting 6 mobile health units that will travel to various rural to provide medication assisted treatment (MAT) with a cross-discipline team of treatment, medical and recovery support professionals. This includes using public health data to identify areas with lack of MAT and with high opioid prescription rates and high overdose rates. Another area of the grant funding will go to assisting with Naloxone distribution in partnership with the Attorney General's Colorado Naloxone for Life Initiative, which will also include a syringe access piece.

*Jenny Wood:* Work is being done to finalize the statewide prevention strategic plan. This is an effort looking at a statewide approach to improving prevention through evidence-based practices for workforce development, and improving coordination of prevention funding and other resources. This will directly influence the next request for proposals from the Office of behavioral Health, as well as other state funders of substance abuse prevention efforts.

*Jade Woodard:* Illuminate Colorado received several new grants to expand work related to the impact of parental substance abuse on children, including a federal grant from the Office of Victims of Crime, funding from the Colorado Health Foundation, funding from the COPIC Medical Foundation, and a three-year grant from the Colorado Office of the Attorney General to support the work of the SEN Steering Committee.

*Melissa Gallardo:* The Colorado Department of Corrections is piloting a new program at the Denver Women's Facility addressing the treatments needs of women with their children.

*Rob Valuck:* There were over 250 participants at the Annual Consortium Meeting. The Consortium recently received funding for several projects, primarily with funds from the Office of Behavioral Health and from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

The Consortium now has several new program managers to assist the work groups and local community coalitions that are responding to the opioid crisis: Tyler Payne, Jennifer Place, Jamie Feld, and Lindsey Kato (on a contract basis), one more manager to be hired for southeast Colorado.

Also, Governor Polis has included the work of the Consortium in his recommended budget.

*Lindsey Meyer:* CDPHE received a funding through SB18-022 to help reduce opioid prescription drug abuse. Also, the department just finished a project looking at death certificates to determine if cause of death was overdose and by which drug.

#### IV. Legislative Updates and Recommendations

*José Esquibel and Rob Valuck*

Thank you to the members and partners of the Task Force and the consortium for participating in testimony before the legislative Study Committee on Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders.

Priorities from several work groups of the Consortium were included in the draft bills of the Study Committee and the recommendations of the recent Colorado Law Enforcement Opioid response Summit were presented to the Study Committee.

Of the five bills that were passed out of the study Committee, only two were passed by the Legislative Council: 1) Recovery bill 9 (crisis recovery fund, expanding housing programs for people with behavioral health issues); and 2) Criminal Justice bill (MAT funding, expansion of Law Enforcement assisted Diversion, and a charge to the Task Force to prepare strategies for criminal justice response to the opioid crisis).

Bill titles were registered for the three bills that did not pass and could be run by specific legislators during the upcoming session. These bills pertain to 1) Treatment (care coordination system, provider rates); 2) Harm Reduction (Naloxone Trust Fund and training for at risk populations), and 3) Prevention (funding for community coordinators and grant writers, and a pilot from Illuminate Colorado for a needs assessment project regarding pregnant and post-partum women and drug use)

Chair Coffman asked for a motion to accept the topic areas of the five bills, in the same way that this was done last year. Peggy Heil made the motion and Liz Hickman provided the second. There was unanimous approval. A statement of support will be included in the Task Force Annual Report to the legislature.

## V. Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee

*Jade Woodard, Co-Chair, Executive Director, Illuminate Colorado*

Jade provided an update on the work of the SEN Steering Committee, which is experiencing success with its new structure of six work groups: Colorado Hospital SEN Learning Collaborative; Data & Research Work Group; Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Identification Work Group; Plans of Safe Care Work Group; Policy Work Group; and Provider Education Work Group.

The SEN Steering Committee submitted the following policy recommendations for approval by the Task Force for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Task Force:

### Recommendation #1:

Update the Colorado Children’s Code to align with federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requirements related to Substance Exposed Newborns and remove the focus on drug testing at birth and tie in statute to Criminal Code Definitions of Scheduled Substances.

The Task Force approved the following recommended change to state statute:

C.R.S. § 19.1.103(1)(a): "Abuse" or "child abuse or neglect" means an act or omission in one of the following categories that threatens the health or welfare of a child:

(VII) Any case in which a ~~child tests positive at birth for either a schedule I controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-203, C.R.S., or a schedule II controlled substance, as defined in section 18-18-204, C.R.S., unless the child tests positive for a schedule II controlled substance as a result of the mother's lawful intake of such substance as prescribed~~ NEWBORN CHILD IS BORN AFFECTED BY ALCOHOL OR DRUG EXPOSURE AND FACTORS ARE PRESENT THAT THREATEN THE NEWBORN CHILD' S HEALTH OR WELFARE

This policy change would align Colorado with the following Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act requirements that states must have in place:

106(b)(2)(B)(ii) “Policies and procedures (including appropriate referrals to child protection service systems and for other appropriate services) to address the needs of infants born and **identified** as affected by substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, including a requirement that health care providers involved in the delivery or care of such infants **notify** the child protective services system of the occurrence of such condition of such infants, except that such notification shall not be construed to –

- (I) establish a definition under Federal law of what constitutes child abuse or neglect; or
- (II) require prosecution for any illegal action;

Additional policy considerations related to the above recommendations include:

- Direct the State Board of Human Services to promulgate rule related to mandatory reporting, criteria for assessment, and criteria for substantiation to reflect change in statute. Rulemaking process must include a stakeholder process that gathers input from maternal child health advocates and affected families.
- Direct the Colorado Department of Human Services to update the existing mandatory reporter training with changes to the Colorado Children’s Code.

Recommendation #2:

Improve access and utilization of perinatal medical care and substance use disorder treatment by:

- Piloting co-location of obstetric and Medication Assisted Treatment/Substance Use Disorders treatment facilities to provide more holistic care to pregnant women with substance use disorders.
- Piloting practice transformation grants for obstetric practices to increase behavioral health integration using the model developed and tested by the State Innovation Model Practice Transformation Project.

Additional considerations include:

- Increase Access to and Support Continuation of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in jails, specifically for pregnant or postpartum women.

MAT is necessary to prevent acute withdrawal that can be detrimental to maternal-fetal health—particularly for pregnant women who are adhering to a program. Jail and/or incarceration can interrupt a pregnant woman’s adherence to a program, putting both her health and her fetus’s health at risk.

- Support expansion of Special Connections eligibility and provider network.

After discussion of the recommendations, Chair Coffman asked for a motion to approve the policy recommendations for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Task Force.

Liz Hickman made the motion for Recommendation #1 and Julia Roguski provided the second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Peggy Heil made the motion for Recommendation #2 and Julia Roguski provided the second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

#### V. Youth Substance Abuse Prevention:

Rise Above Colorado Youth Survey Results

*Stazi Snelling, Youth Partner*

*Kent MacLennan, Executive Director*

The results of the 2018 Rise Above Colorado Youth Survey are being compiled for release in December or January. This survey has been conducted every other year since 2009.

Preliminary results were shared with the Task Force and highlights of the findings show the following:

- Marijuana use among youth in Colorado is declining
- Perception of risk about prescribed opioids is high.
- Family discussions about alcohol and marijuana have increased
- Youth overestimate substance use among their peers

The full results will be available by the February 2019 meeting of the Task Force.

## IX. Initial Discussion on 2018 Task Force Priorities: Open Discussion

- Data presentations are useful and important, especially regional and county level data. Let's consider a data presentation at each meeting.
- Recovery resources need to be made more well known. This is something the Recovery Work Group the Consortium may be able to consider and report back to the Task Force. Perhaps have a recovery inventory presentation at a Task Force meeting.
- What about public awareness? There are several campaigns, but not everyone on the Task Force, let alone the public, is aware of them. Could we do more to coordinate and promote the campaigns through our various networks?
- What about resources for parents, or educational materials with accurate information that parents can utilize to have conversations with their children? There is the Speak Now campaign operated by the Office of Behavioral Health that provides information to help parents speak with their children. What can we do as a Task Force to spread this information through our networks?
- The impact of alcohol abuse needs to continue to be a subject area to discuss with policymakers at the local level and the state level.
- Because data shows that alcohol continues to be a problem area across various fields, and we probably have people in our criminal justice and corrections systems who have suffered fetal alcohol syndrome, maybe there is something we can provide to corrections facilities to better deal with those people and educate those folks. A study by Adams County Court study showed that after one year of giving different treatment to people who were identified as having fetal alcohol syndrome, there were positive outcomes for those individuals.

## IX. Closing Comments and Adjournment

The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2019. The location is still to be determined, but will most likely be at the Colorado Municipal league.

Subsequent meetings will be set for the first Fridays in May, August and November