

COLORADO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

**November 8, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Rita Bass Auditorium
Rita Bass Trauma and EMS Education Institute
190 West 6th Avenue Denver 80204**

Minutes

Announcements

Marc Condojani announced that the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) is funding several organizations for recovery services: Phoenix Multi-Sport; Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Young People in Recovery; Colorado Mental Wellness Network, and Empowerment Program. Also, OBH will be releasing an RFP for expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment in six counties along the I-25 corridor.

Lindsey Kato announced that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment received supplement federal funding and some of this funding will be used for provider education on opioids.

Cynthia Kowert of the Colorado Department of Law announced that Naloxone training won't be added to the Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Academy, but POST will promote Naloxone trainings via newsletters and the POST web site.

Lisa Noble shared that she attended a Workforce Development Training for prevention providers last month. There is a need to figure out how to bring prevention professionals together on a regular basis, perhaps via Webinars. José Esquibel mentioned that perhaps a few prevention leaders would be willing to have a conversation to brainstorm options for convening prevention professionals.

Susan Payne, Executive Director of Safe2Tell, announced the opening for an outreach and training educator with Safe2Tell.

Reactivating a Data Committee

Becky Helfand, Office of Behavioral Health/Colorado Department of Human Services and Daniel Vigil, Marijuana Health Monitoring and Research Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Funding was received by the Office of Behavioral Health for a five year grant to enhance community-based substance abuse prevention systems and services. One focus area is the reestablishment of the State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup, (SEOW), consisting of representatives of various state agencies and non-government agencies that collect and/or report on substance abuse data from a variety of fields.

Task Force members were provided the SEOW Charter that identifies the charge and function of the SEOW and membership responsibilities.

Under a previous federal grant, a previous SEOW served as the data Committee for the Task Force. The current grant offers the same opportunity. Rather than establish a separate Data Committee, it is best to work with an existing group toward mutually reinforcing activities.

Following discussion among Task Force members and guests, Task Force members unanimously approved the SEOW serving at the Data Committee for the Task Force.

Substance Exposed Newborn Committee

Jade Woodard, Executive Director, Illuminate Colorado

Jade showed a video segment that Illuminate Colorado prepared and contributed as part of the National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome for FASD Awareness month. The Colorado segment is found on You Tube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7UL23bawpk>

The longer national video, which includes the Colorado segment, can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clPGHFiiUq8>

The SEN Committee is moving forward with implementing some of the recommendations from the SEN paper and recommendations to improve practices for substance use screening of pregnant women in health care settings. A recent convening brought together representatives of eight community hospitals of five health care systems across the state to form a Colorado Hospital Learning Collaborative. Other partners in this collaborative include The Kemp Center, SBIRT Colorado, and Project ECHO to assist with training and practice support through the learning collaborative. This effort is supported by a grant from the Children's Justice Act through the Colorado Department of Human Services.

The goals of the Learning Collaborative is to increase consistency in implementation of best practice approaches in identification of and response to newborns prenatally exposed to substances at time of birth across Colorado.

The first session of the Learning Collaborative using ECHO is scheduled for December 2, 2016 and is set to meet every first Wednesday of the month through September 2017.

See the handout about the SEN Hospital learning Collaborative for more details.

Policy Ad-hoc Committee

Jennifer Anderson, Director of Legislative Affairs, Colorado Office of the Attorney General

The Policy Ad-hoc committee held two meetings to explore possible legislative recommendations. Legislative efforts of other states were reviewed related to the following areas:

- Awareness programs for prescription drug abuse prevention
- Educating prescribers and dispenser of prescription drugs
- Driver's education
- Limits of prescription length and amount
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) policies, including enhanced prescriber requirement for checking the PDMP
- Opiate-related treatment procedures
- Abuse deterrent opioid analgesics
- Police and first responder training
- Parental opioid abuse and impact on children

Upon review, it was determine that some work was already occurring in several areas. For example, the Colorado Department of Revenue was in the process of updating the driver's license education module and members of the Policy Ad-hoc committee reviewed the module and offered input to include information on addiction.

It was determined that there were no specific policy recommendations for the annual report to the legislature, but that the Policy Ad-hoc committee wants to explore two recommendations for 2017:

- Expanding access to Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Expansion of School-based Substance Abuse Treatment

These two recommendations will be further developed, including a plan to convene stakeholders in regard expansion of school-based substance abuse treatment.

The Policy Ad-hoc committee will remain in place to assist with review of substance abuse related legislation in the upcoming 2017 legislative session.

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse

José Esquibel, Vice Chair for Prevention

Safe Disposal

The Safe Disposal Work group of the Consortium is working with the Public Awareness Work Group on finalizing the media launch for the Colorado Medication Take Back Program. The campaign name is Take Meds Back and is linked with Take Meds Seriously. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) received funds to establish permanent prescription drug take back site across the state. The goal is to have at least one permanent site in each county in Colorado. Staff of CDPHE is enlisting participants. The official media launch is planned for January.

Provider Education

CDPHE received a grant award from the Center for Disease Control to fund ten counties determined as high burden regarding prescription drug overdose. The funding can be used for opioid prescriber education and ranges from \$10,000 to \$60,000 per contract year depending on the county and the burden. The contracts will run from January 1, 2017 to August 31, 2019 with local public health agencies. There will be a connection with Consortium, specifically the provider education work group. This effort will include coordination with the Area Health Education Centers in six regions of the state to align local efforts and efforts of the Provider Education Work Group.

Heroin Response Work Group

The Heroin Response Work Group completed a survey of 713 clients of nine methadone clinics in the Denver-Metro area, one inpatient treatment center, and other clients in Grand Junction. This is the largest number of respondents in treatment for opioid addiction in our state, and probably among the largest in the nation. Analysis of the survey responses is currently being conducted and will be summarized in the report on the assessment of the heroin problem, which will be released in January, 2017.

Also, the Heroin Response Work Group is collecting ideas for strategies to address the growing heroin problem in the state —anything from public awareness campaigns, events, legislation, prevention activities, and law enforcement ideas. Ideas should be sent to Tom Gorman (co-chair of Heroin Response Work Group at tgorman@rmhidta.org).

Regional Prevention Services and Colorado Prevention Specialist Certification

Ailala Kay, Project Director, OMNI

Regional Prevention Services

ONMI Institute's Regional Prevention Services is contracted with the Office of Behavioral Health/Colorado Department of Human Services (OBH) to provide training, consultation, and technical assistance support to Colorado agencies, communities, and coalitions working on prevention efforts with children, youth, and families, especially substance abuse prevention. This includes all OBH prevention funded grantees as well as non-OBH funded community groups that contribute to prevention efforts locally and statewide.

Regional Prevention Consultants (RPCs) reside and work across Colorado to provide locally accessible, customized services to all six OBH regions for prevention efforts.

The Regional Prevention Systems seeks to ensure that services are informed by local knowledge, expertise, and cultural understanding of the area.

Colorado Prevention Specialist Certification

The Colorado Prevention Certification Board offers a process for prevention professions to obtain credentialing as a Colorado Prevention Specialist II as set by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC & RC).

Certification provides the following benefits:

- Improves the ways prevention work is done in Colorado communities.
- Requires continuing education in current prevention practices.
- Expands the base of qualified prevention professionals.
- Gives prevention professionals the recognition they deserve through credentialing that is reciprocal nationally.

Certification requires two years of documented prevention experience, including verification of 120 hours of supervision and 100 hours of prevention specific education, 50 hours of which must be substance abuse prevention and 6 hours must be specific to prevention ethics.

More information is available at copreventionworks.org or by e-mailing COPACCert@gmail.com.

Annual Report to the Legislature

José Esquibel, Vice Chair for Prevention

The Annual report is due by January 1, 2017 to the judiciary committee of the House and the Senate of the Colorado General Assembly.

Any suggestions on the format of the report is welcome.

Attorney general Coffman asked that some stories or quotes from communities be included in the report to describe how the work of the Task Force is of value. This would also help break up the narrative content for the reader.

Task Force members and guests were asked to submit any stories and/or quotes to be consider for inclusion in the report.

Review of 2016 Task Force Priorities

In February, Task Force members identified these three priorities for 2016:

- Prevention
- Policy and Practice Recommendations
- Task Force Communication

Prevention

In speaking with several leaders of local community prevention coalitions while traveling across the state, Chair Coffman learned about some excellent community efforts. Many prevention programs lack adequate funding and there is no state coordination to help advocate for prevention programming and funding. It was good to see that dollars were allocated by the General Assembly to fund the Communities that Care model in more than 40 counties, but there is a need to ensure that this effort involves and builds on existing community prevention efforts duplicating efforts that already exist.

In the following year, there needs to be an effort to create a system of connection among community-based prevention efforts across the state. This could be something like establishing a prevention learning community.

Vice Chair Esquibel will follow up with Jenny Wood, the director of Director of Community Prevention and Early Intervention Programs, and will report back at the February meeting.

Policy and Practices

In February, the Task Force agreed on the priority of increasing access to Naloxone, based on the work of the Naloxone Work Group of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and the alarming data analyzed by the Colorado Health Institute showing rise in the statewide rate of drug overdose deaths. This resulted in funding from the Office of the Attorney General to purchase 2500 dual-pack Narcan rescue kits that were distributed to law enforcement personnel and first responders in 17 counties with the highest rates of drug overdose deaths. The funding also provided regional training and helped to upgrade the OpiRescue app to document the administration of Narcan and overdose reversals.

The Task Force also examined the gaps and barriers to expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). Members of the Treatment Work Group of the Consortium provided recommendation for expanding access to MAT.

Magistrate Jamie Vigils of El Paso County reached out to the Task Force and the Consortium for assistance in addressing opioid addiction of individuals she works with in her Family Drug Court. Members of the Consortiums Treatment Work group were enlisted to assist in training for partners of her court to better understand ways to link her clients to treatment, MAT in particular. Once result was the draft of a guidance document for her court.

Communications

There is still a need to produce the minutes of the Task Force meetings within 30 days of each meeting. Vice Chair Esquibel also suggested having a quarterly e-newsletter share updated, developments, and items relevant to the work of the Task Force.

Closing Remarks

Judge Dan Kaup announced that he is retiring and that this is his last meeting. He has been a member of the Task Force since 2009 when it was the State Methamphetamine Task Force and has been impressed with the work done by the Task Force over the years. He emphasized that this is both challenging and important work that needs to continue.

Task Force Meetings in 2017

The 2017 meetings will be held at the Colorado Municipal League on:

- February 3rd
- May 5th
- August 4th
- November 3rd