

Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force
May 5th, 2017
10:00 am – 1:00 pm
Colorado Municipal League
1144 Sherman St., Denver, CO

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 (Attorney General’s Office)
- *Law Enforcement* – Rick Brandy, Chief of Police, Evans Police Department

Attendees: Cynthia Coffman, Amy Kingery, Colleen Brisnehan, Ron Rakowsky, Adam Zarrin, Dorothy Macias, Greg Daniels, José Esquibel, Julia Roguski, Kathryn Wells, Lindsey Myers, Lorendia Schmidt, Marc Condojani, Melissa Gallardo, Dana Smith, Miles De Young, Peggy Heil, Rick Brandt, Rob Valuck, Jade Woodward, Renie Dugwyler

Guests: Justin Luke Riley, Mackenzie Burdic, Andrea Sivanich, Eric Pearson, Mary Steiner, Cynthia Kowert, Rebecca Helfand, Lindsey Kato, Gina Olberding, Diane Carlson, Henny Lasley, Helen Kaupang

Minutes approved

Welcome New Members

Senate Minority Leader designee, Senator Cheri Jahn.
Speaker of the House designee, Representative Daneya Esgar.
Colorado Drug Investigators Association representative, Ray Padilla

General Updates

Press Conference for Walgreen’s Medication Disposal Program:

On April 12th, Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman, Mayor Heidi Williams (Thornton), Mayor Ron Rakowsky (Greenwood Village), Mayor Joyce Jay (Wheat Ridge), and Mayor Pro-Tem Angela Lawson (Aurora) supported the launch of Walgreens’ permanent prescription medication disposal sites, which are now located across the Denver Metro area. There was very positive press describing how people can dispose of unused meds not only at

Walgreens but also at permanent collection sites of the Colorado Medication Take Back Program, which now has at least one collection site in 37 counties. Telemundo Denver provided extensive coverage to Spanish communities about the program. We know that permanent drop box locations work and it is very helpful to get unused meds, especially prescribed opioids, out of homes.

Office of Behavioral Health:

Vice Chair Condojani shared that the Office of Behavioral Health awarded funds to Denver Health to implement the Hub and Spoke model recovery support. It is important to have physicians connected with opioid training support. The plan is to start in Denver and expand along the Front Range aiming for 80% expansion for medication assisted treatment for people up to 300% of poverty level. There is also new federal funding that will expand Naloxone distribution for jails, treatment organizations, and harm reduction organizations. There will be an emphasis on a two-generation approach, bringing in family services to help them be more successful by focusing on individuals with kids at home. The funds will also help increase access to buprenorphine as part of medication assisted treatment. The overall goal is to tackle the opioid crisis in Colorado from a lot of angles. When the request for proposals is ready, there will be a press release highlighting the different channels and ways to get involved. The Office of Behavioral Health is also looking to grant funds to 6 recovery support services.

Chief Rick Brandt:

Chief Brandt and several others from Colorado attended a regional training in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, which is a police-led diversion program designed to connect people with substance use disorders and/or mental health needs with treatment services and associated support services rather than funneling them into the criminal justice system. See the Consortium update below for more details.

Drug Take Back:

The Denver office of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reported that the April DEA National Drug Take Back event involved 78 Colorado law enforcement agencies at 107 locations across the state. A total of 16,077 pounds of unused household medications was collected in Colorado.

The Colorado Take Meds Back Campaign re-launched with another round of media releases through the Colorado Broadcasters Association (TV and Radio) in May, informing the public about locations to return unused household medications. Video messaging and online social media messaging is forthcoming in the summer.

Amy Kingery, Colorado State Judicial:

Colorado State Judicial is conducting the Colorado Collaborative Justice Conference on May 31st – June 2nd. The conference will be attended by multi-disciplinary teams from the justice system and will provide a variety of training topics for the teams related to mental health, criminal justice, courts, diversion support, and will also include a track on the topic of medication-assisted treatment, as well as a session on alternatives to opioids for pain management and for drug courts. There will be about 900 criminal justice professionals participating in the conference.

Illuminate Colorado:

Jade Woodward reported that Illuminate Colorado was invited to submit a proposal to provide a training on Children and the Opioid Epidemic in Colorado.

Lindsey Myers, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment:

The state Shared Risk and Protective Factor Conference is set for June 6th- 8th in Breckenridge. Information is available at: <https://publichealthpractice.org/civicism/event/info?id=318>.

Local communities that have the grants from state agencies listed at the top of the web page will be given preference for conference registration.

Smart Colorado:

Smart Colorado was involved in key legislation this session related to marijuana. The organization strongly advocating for and assisting in securing much-needed funding for education, prevention, and research, placing new limits on pot advertising to kids, prohibiting certain marijuana edibles and providing awareness and education to parents on today's marijuana levels.

Legislative Update

Jenn Anderson, the director of Legislative Affairs in the Office of the Attorney General, reported that several bills passed this legislative session that are beneficial to responding to substance abuse prevention, intervention, and treatment. The report on the status of substance abuse-related legislations posted at: <https://coag.gov/SATF-agenda-minutes>.

Task Force Priorities Discussion

Medication-Assisted Treatment

There is a need to continue supporting the expansion of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT), especially as federal funds are coming into the state and with Task Force representation on the MAT Expansion Pilot project advisory group. The legislation to fund a MAT Expansion Pilot program proposes to work with nurse practitioners and physicians assistants in Pueblo and Routt Counties. The Task Force is expected to be represented on the advisory group of this project, which is being led by the University of Colorado College of Nursing.

There is a need to further advocate for expansion of MAT in jails. Task Force member Peggy Heil is working on a grant to provide funding to support the expansion the Denver jail-based opioid treatment model to the Alamosa County jail, which is dealing with large numbers of detainees with opioid addiction. See details below under the Consortium updates.

Impact of Substance Abuse on Children

There continues to be a need to attend to the impact of parental substance use disorders on children and youth. The Substance Exposed Newborns (SEN) Committee and Illuminate Colorado are helping to lead the effort. One area of focus for the Task Force is to support the expansion of the Special Connections program for parents of young children. Special Connections helps women have healthier pregnancies and healthier babies by providing case management, individual and group counseling, and health education during pregnancy and up to one year after delivery.

The SEN Hospital learning Collaborative continues to meet monthly and is helping to advance practices in health care settings for screening of pregnant women for substance use and for referral to treatment during prenatal care.

Underage Use of Marijuana

The Task Force continues to monitor data and trends with regard to underage use of marijuana and support the education of the public about the impact of adolescent marijuana use.

Recovery

An emerging area is the need to emphasize recovery support as our state increases access to treatment. The promotion of recovery ready communities was discussed later in this meeting.

**Data Committee
Becki Helfand, Co-Chair**

The State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) has chosen its first topic for a report. The report will focus on alcohol use in Colorado and trends in use, as well as include alcohol addiction treatment data and a policy analysis of national best practices and Colorado laws. There is subgroup working to pull and analyze the data. If interested in joining the SEOW, please let Becky know. The SEOW plans to present initial findings in August meeting. The plan is to produce a brief on alcohol use and recommended policies to further help reduce the impact of alcohol misuse and abuse.

Then, the SEOW will work small hot topic briefs in easy to digest data around alcohol, marijuana and opioid misuse.

**Recovery Ready Initiative
Justin Riley, Young People in Recovery**

Task Force members were informed about the Recovery Ready Colorado initiative that is being planned for a launch in September. The objectives of the Recovery Ready Colorado Townhall and social media campaign are to elevate the conversation about recovery, especially as the state increases access to substance use disorder treatment, and bring attention to existing and needed recovery resources for mental health and substance use disorders. The goals are to challenge stakeholders to build “recovery ready” communities to support people in recovery. An invitation was given to any interested Task Force member to participate in the planning for the launch. Staff of the Office of Community Engagement in the Colorado Attorney General’s Office is working with staff of Young People in Recovery on this effort.

Substance Exposed Newborns Committee

Jade Woodard and Kathi Wells

The Sen Hospital Learning Collaborative continues to meet with participants from across the state monthly via ECHO. The recent meeting featured Dr. Wang discussing pediatric toxicology.

Gabapentin has emerged as a concern among pregnant women.

**Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Rob Valuck**

Funding and Staff for the Consortium

With new funding, the Consortium is able to continue its work. The Consortium was awarded funds from the Office of Behavioral Health to support staff positions and to compile the Consortium's Toolkit to assist local community coalitions. The goal is to have the toolkit completed by August. Staff additions include Whit Oyler as a full time program manager. Gina Olberding is the new operations manager, and Michael Davidson will be supporting Consortium communications and the webpage content update. There will also be a staff person hired as a community outreach liaison that will travel out to support coalitions and connect groups to resources available through the Consortium.

Colorado Naloxone for Life

There have been 4200 downloads of the OpiRescue app with 19 law enforcement departments reporting. To date, 181 Narcan reversals were reported in the OpiRescue app since January. There is a need to encourage more law enforcement use of the app for reporting. The OpiRescue App is free and for everyone. Friends and family members can also use the app. This is in hope to create a support circle around understanding the symptoms of opioid overdose and to document the administration of Narcan and report overdose reversals.

A survey is being prepared to send out to those who were trained in the use of Narcan. This is part of the effort of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to evaluate the Colorado Naloxone for Life initiative.

Permanent Prescription Drug Take Back

The Colorado Medication Take Back Program continues to expand. There is a public awareness push that is planned and the next step is to develop a strategy for outreach to further expand collection boxes to those counties that do not yet have a permanent site location.

Heroin Response

The Heroin Response Work Group released the report titled 'heroin in Colorado: A preliminary Assessment (April 2017). The press on this report was well covered by media, starting with a press conference.

The next step of work is looking at ways assist with the connection between law enforcement and treatment services to assist people who are addicted to heroin. A follow up publication is planned for release by the end of July.

Also, with the possible state funding of Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), there will be a need to assist law enforcement in connecting with treatment providers and other support

systems. A team of individuals from the Heroin Response work group will be attending a conference in Santa Fe on the LEAD program.

Opioid Use Disorders Treatment in Jails

Peggy Heil, Colorado Department of Public Safety, reported that she is coordinating with staff of the office of Behavioral Health, the Consortium, Colorado Sheriffs of Colorado, and the Office of Community Engagement on preparing a grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance for funding jail-based treatment service for the Alamosa, Rio Grande and Saguache County jails, expanding a model implemented in the Denver and Douglas County jails. The model will start in jail and then works on coordinating and managing services in the community. The goal of the proposed project is to look at components that are successful and document effective opioid intervention starting in jail for both urban and rural models. Funding awards will be announced in October.

AmeriCorp and Vista Funding:

The Colorado Area Health Education Centers (covering six regions across the state), the Office of Community Engagement in the Office of the Attorney General, the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, Rise Above Colorado, Serve Colorado (State of Colorado AmeriCorps Program in the Lt. Governor's Office), and Colorado VISTA Program (Colorado State Office of the Corporations for National and Community Service) to draw down federal funding for placing AmeriCorps and VISTA members in communities that are responding to the opioid crisis.

At least half dozen communities have local or regional collaborative efforts in this regard and are in need of extra "hands on deck" to respond to the impact of opioids in their areas.

Next Meeting: August 4, 2017

The August meeting will focus on data and data trends. Task Force members are asked to come prepared to share what the trends they are seeing in the respective fields regarding substance misuse and abuse and its impacts.