

COLORADO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

MEETING MINUTES

May 4, 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: Amy Kingery, Ashley Chase, Cheri Jahn, Colleen Brisnehan, Cynthia H. Coffman, Jaime FitzSimons, Jenny Wood, José Esquibel, Julia L. Roguski, Lindsey Myers, Liz Hickman, Marc Condojani, Melissa Gallardo, Peggy Heil, Ron Rakowsky, Robert Valuck, Renie Dugwyler, Jade Woodward

Guests: Qing Li, Eileen Forlenzo, Jack Reed, Becky Bui, Mary Steiner, Adrian Pascual, Rebecca Atkinson, Ashley Jelks-Fragier, Gina Olberding, Ariel Britt, Sara Cardora, Jessica Eaddy, Mara Rhodes, Melissa Reiss, Henny Lasley, Kent MacLennan, Meredith Davis, Kacy Crawford

Celebration of the Task Force Reauthorization

The bill to reauthorize the Task Force passed and is awaiting signature by the governor. Thank you to the prime sponsors, Senator Cheri Jahn, Senator Larry Crowder, Representative Daneya Esgar, each of whom are members of the Task Force.

Reflections on the Task Force:

- This is a group that just doesn't talk but takes action.
- The AG's presence and being directly involved has made a huge impact in things getting done
- The structure is unique and having three experts serving as vice chairs and representatives from different areas provides a wide berth of perspective.
- The fact that the meetings are open to the public, provides real time perspectives in all areas and communities in Colorado.
- The early partnership with the Colorado Alliance for Drug Endangered Children served as the arm of getting into communities.
- Collaborating with other working groups, leveraging resources and partnerships has leveraged the good work accomplished.
- Provides law enforcement, public health, judicial, community and policy information and education that helps all the groups and networking.

Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with corrections submitted.

Announcements from Task Force Members

- The Office of the Attorney General is approving another bulk purchase of Narcan for distribution to law enforcement and other first responders. This is a collaboration with Denver Health and Hospital Authority, Harm Reduction Action Center, and the Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention.
- A Law Enforcement Opioid Summit is being planned through the Colorado Office of the Attorney General for July. The Summit will be solution focused.
- The Office of Behavioral Health is completing the first year of funding from the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant of \$7.8 Million. The goal was to serve 493 people through medication assisted treatment (MAT). With a month of left to go in the first year, the grant has served over 700 individuals through MAT. Also the grant was used to purchase 7,000 Narcan kits that were distributed to treatment centers and harm reduction organizations and an additional 1500 kits are being purchased for distribution in Year 2 of the grant. Also, OBH is working on an upgrade to the OpiRescue App to include a component with information about access to treatment. This update is scheduled to be live in 6-8 weeks.
- May 14th is the scheduled launch the “Life the Label,” an anti-stigma campaign related to substance use disorders aimed at overcoming myths and moral misreads. The campaign is supported by federal funds and will include videos, social media, and online aspects.
- The Office of Behavioral Health posted an alcohol policy training position posted last night.
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment is continuing the work on the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) data collection pilot project and is now in data collect mode. One aspect of this project involves integrating the PDMP into electronic health records. Also, this is the last year of funding from the Center for Disease Control for prevention efforts. Some of these funds are supporting the Statewide Shared Risk and Protective Factors Conference that will be held on May 30th-June 1st, which has 600 registered participants plus a waiting list.
- There were 860 attendees at this year’s Colorado Collaborative Justice Conference with participants ranging from pre-trial to parole professionals. The conference focused on collaborative leadership and inclusivity, and included sessions on medication assisted treatment and recovery support.
- State Judicial Branch was awarded a grant to research new juvenile court guidelines and approaches in juvenile drug courts. Also, criminal problem solving court research findings are expected in July.
- Task Force member Amy Kingery of State Judicial received an invitation to join a national task force of court administrators regarding how the opioid crisis is impacting the judicial system. The task force will work on bench books, as well as training for judges on addiction dynamics, medication-assisted training, and reducing stigma.
- Dr. Qing Li is advocating for a Prenatal Screening, Brief Intervention, & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Expansion Pilot Program. Pregnant women are the sentinel and priority population in the epidemic of opioid and other substance use disorders in Colorado. Accidental overdose and suicide

was the leading cause of pregnancy-associated death from 2004 to 2012 in Colorado. Among 50 deaths with toxicology testing available, the most commonly detected class of drugs was opioids (48%, 24/50). Clinical care and data are often incomplete and delayed on substance exposed pregnancy & neonatal abstinence syndrome in Colorado.

- The community assessment report of the El Paso County Coalition for Prevention, Addiction Education, and Recovery (CPAR) was recently released. The findings show that there is only mid-level awareness among residents about the impact of the opioid crisis in the area. The assessment also indicates that provider education and public awareness are priorities. Also, CPAR is working to engage the local business community.
- The local CBS stations is partnering with Shatterproof, a national organization promoting an anti-stigma message regarding substance use disorders, on the Denver Rise Up against Addiction 5k Walk/Run schedule for Saturday, July 21st. There is an opportunity for Colorado organizations to participate as part of the event. José Esquibel will follow up with Task Force members on this.
- The National Rx & Heroin Summit was held in Atlanta in early April. Colorado had five presentations on the Summit agenda. The presentation on the AmeriCorps-VISTA collaboration program that places members in communities that are addressing the opioid crisis generated interest from participants from Minnesota and Michigan. Quite a few federal agency leaders presented during the Summit and there is clearly a concerted effort of collaboration across federal agencies. Also, Congress is working on a large number of bills for addressing the opioid crisis.

Legislative Update

- Five of the six bills proposed by the Interim Study Committee on Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders were passed by the Colorado General Assembly:
 - Prevention & Education: Opioid Misuse Prevention ([HB18-1003](#))
 - Clinical Practice for Opioid Prescribing ([SB18-022](#))
 - Workforce: Expand Access Behavioral Health Care Providers ([SB18-0024](#))
 - Medicaid Residential Treatment: Substance Use Disorder Treatment ([HB18-1136](#))
 - Payment Reform: Substance Use Disorder Payment and Coverage ([HB18-1007](#))
- Senate Bill 18-1441 passed. It require the location of a retail building that sells fermented malt beverage to be 500 feet or more from an education institution.

Ad-hoc Policy Committee

- An ad-hoc policy committee will be formed to look at policy recommendations to be presented to the Task Force, particular to look at recommendations on alcohol policy and from the Caregiver Impact Report. The following Task Force members expressed an interest in the ad-hoc committee: Jade Woodard, Mark Condojani, Lindsey Meyers, and Cheri Jahn. Also, Dr. Qing Li expressed an interest in participating on the committee. José will follow up with this group.

Impact on Children of Caregiver Substance Use (ICCSU) Recommendation for Policy and Practice

- ICCSU Review is completed. An executive summary and the full report are available online at: <https://www.illuminatecolorado.org/iccsu/>

- The goal of this project was to develop statewide recommendations and strategies to prevent child maltreatment and improve outcomes for children affected by caregiver substance use. The recommendations are intended to serve as a research-based framework for substantial, actionable change to better meet the needs of children impacted by caregiver substance use. They provide a starting point for multi-sector partners as they develop goals, objectives, and activities to prevent harm and improve outcomes for children.

Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee

The SEN Steering Committee has activated six workgroups:

1. The Colorado Hospital SEN Collaborative is working to increase consistency in implementation of best practice approaches in the identification of and response to newborns that are prenatally exposed to substances and their caregivers at the time of birth across Colorado through education and quality improvement efforts.
2. SEN Data and Research WG is working to increase statewide data and research capacity in order to inform our work and to share successes and challenges.
3. SEND FASD Identification WG is working to assess the needs related to FASD identification capacity in the state and develop an expansion plan.
4. SEN Plans of Safe Care WG is working to promote community-based strategies to meeting the CAPTA/CARA requirement regarding plans of safe care for infants and caregivers.
5. SEN Policy WG is working to develop state policy priorities including access to treatment, barriers to engagement, SBRT promotion and other issues.
6. SEN Providers Education WG is working to expand provider education on related issues such as screening every pregnant woman with a validated screening tool in prenatal, hospital and postpartum settings.

Statewide Needs Assessment of Prevention for Substance Abuse

Jenny Wood, Director of Community Prevention and Early Intervention Programs, shared that the first extensive statewide needs assessment of prevention has been conducted and results are being reviewed for preparing a statewide strategic plan.

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Rob Valuck provided an update on several activities of the Consortium:

- The Consortium is hiring for a second community outreach position and a second program manager.
- The Community Resource Toolkit funded by the Office of Behavioral Health will be available soon on the Consortium web site. It contains information about how local community groups can implement various strategies and activities to address the opioid crisis and draw on the consortium for support.
- Another round of online media was implemented to promote the Colorado Household Medication Take Back Program.

- There is a need to increase the number of household medication collection sites across the state.
- Rob shared images of presented the new look and access for OpiRescue App.
- The Office of Behavioral Health is funding an upgrade to the OpiRescue App that provides a Treatment Referral Option. Release is set for Beginning of June.

Coordination on Criminal Justice Opioid Response Technical Assistance

Meredith Davis, the MAT-PDOA Grant Manager at the Office of Behavioral Health is reaching out to speak with various partners about the criminal justice response to the opioid crisis. She will follow up with several Task force members, including send some questions that are part of a Survey Monkey to obtain information in order to determine what kind of training and technical assistance would be beneficial to criminal justice professionals. She will send the question for review and input by Task Force members Amy Kingery and Melissa Gallardo.

Substance Abuse Trends Discussion

- There are signs of an increase in fentanyl, which is appearing in various parts of the state.
- There is concern about the connection of overdoses with meth and cocaine linked to fentanyl.
- There is a need to work with coroners on drug-toxicology screening for fentanyl
- The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment can look at death certificates and toxicology findings to see if there are differences between two reports. CDPHE is already working with coroners around the state and discussing what barriers exist when it comes to identifying opioid drugs, what funds are needed, and what other factors are involved. CDPHE should have information summarized around August.
- Could we coordinate with Coroners Association with the help of the attorney General AG?
- Problem Solving Courts are still seeing meth abuse as a primary drug abuse issues, as reported by the probation population. Heroin is catching up.
- In Routt County the overdose numbers went down from 16 in 2016 to 5 in 2017. The Availability of Narcan has increased in the region and coroner reporting of opioid deaths has improved. Some of the ski towns are reluctant to report because it is not good for business.
- Trend – clients are asking not to receive opioids. Decrease in prescription amounts is apparently due community education. It is easier to reach communities versus working through doctors.
- Stimulants are on the rise, including cocaine and meth.
- Also increase in drug abuse among older adults is a concern
- Abuse of benzodiazepines are of increasing concern.
- Alcohol is still #1 drug of abuse. Binge drinking in millennials and older adults is a concern nationally.
- There is a national statistic that 25% of pedestrians killed were drunk and were not by drunk drivers.
- There continues to be a need for a comprehensive in approach address substance abuse prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery.
- There is a trend in the education of elected officials.
- Stigma about substance use disorders is still high.
- Marijuana and and opioid cocktailing is occurring and may be gaining in popularity. Because data on this is not reported, it's difficult to quantify the trend

- Vaping is too popular among youth. We will know more about this when the Healthy Kids Colorado survey data is released.
- Anyone tracking Kartom? When it is noted on death certificate, people ask about it. Kratom is a herb from southeastern Asia and is banned in at least 7 countries.

Next Meeting August 3, 2018