

**COLORADO**  
**SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE**  
**MEETING AGENDA**  
**August 5, 2016**  
**10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**  
*Colorado Municipal League*  
*1144 Sherman St., Denver (South of the Capitol)*

**Minutes**

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the May 13, 2016 meeting of the Task Force were approved.

**Announcements from Task Force Members**

Vice Chair Condojani announced that there is a new director of intervention in the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH). The application period for the recent request for proposal for recovery based services is now closed.

Vice Chair Condojani announced that there is a new project being funded by the OBH to work with the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) to conduct a statewide substance abuse services needs assessment. Doyle Forestal, Executive Director of the CBHC, provided a summary about this needs assessment. The goal of the needs assessment is to gather ideas from across the state on reform, gaps needs, what is funded, what we wish was funded for substance abuse prevention, treatment and recovery. A report is due to the legislature in March, but there are plans to get this completed sooner.

**Legislation Discussion and Forming a Policy ad-hoc Committee**

Jennifer Anderson, Director of Legislative Affairs in the Colorado Attorney General's Office, provided a brief presentation regarding the policy trends around the country designed to combat opioid abuse and heroin use. Proposed legislation in other states includes:

- programs to increase awareness regarding the risks of addiction from opioids and improper disposal of prescription drugs;
- placing limits on the length of opioid prescriptions;
- mandatory registration and quarrying of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program;
- require substance abuse evaluations to be administered in hospitals to patients admitted for injuries related to drug and alcohol abuse;
- heightened training for law enforcement to respond to drug-related overdoses;
- improved insurance coverage for drug rehabilitation and treatment.

There was a discussion by Task Force members regarding the specifics of some of these ideas. Ms Anderson explained that if the Task Force would like to form an ad hoc policy committee to meet

separately and consider proposed legislation for next year related to reducing opioid abuse and heroin use, the policy committee could then report back to the entire task force with a proposal at the next quarterly meeting in November.

There was a motion to form an ad hoc policy committee which passed unanimously. Ailala Kay, Lyndsay Myers, Tammy Lovejoy, Paula Riggs and Denise Vincioni volunteered to be on the committee.

Rob will put out message with Rx Consortium for additional volunteers to participate on the ad hoc committee.

### **Substance Exposed Newborns Ccommittee**

Dr. Kathy Wells and Jade Woodard announced that a group of representatives of various hospitals from across the state will meet following the upcoming Strengthening Families Conference in Winter Park. The group will discuss formally starting a Hospital Learning Collaborative as part of the work of the SEN Committee, which will include representatives of hospitals from Grand Junction, Denver, Pueblo, Greeley and Ft. Collins. The areas of focus for the collaborative would be in related to looking at best practice policies and practices, as well as lessons learned, for screening pregnant women for drug use and assisting them in being abstinent of drugs during pregnancy, which may mean helping them receive treatment.

September 9<sup>th</sup> is National Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Day. There will be events in the Metro area and messaging around the importance of earlier prevention. Members SEN Committee are coordinating the production of short videos for the National FASD social media video campaign that will air in September.

### **Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Update and Actions**

Rob Valuck reported that there is an increased interest at local levels coordinated responses to the abuse of opioids. In addition to the long-standing collaborative work in the San Luis Valley, there is a strong community effort occurring in NW Colorado with the Yampa Valley Rx Task Force, and this group is looking into implementing the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery program, known as PAARI. A community effort was also launched in Colorado Springs. Magistrate Vigil, who runs the Family Treatment Drug Court in El Paso County, also reached out for assistance in how to best serve her clients. Members of the Consortium attended a community session in her courtroom to discuss strategies for assisting adults who are abusing opioids. As a result, there is now draft guidance document for her court.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> is the National Drug Take Back event. Please encourage people in your networks to participate. The Colorado Permanent Medication Take Back Program is still on hold awaiting federal approval on the designated receptacle bags.

The Narcan project to provide nasal to law enforcement personal and first responders in 17<sup>th</sup> counties with high rates of drug overdose is awaiting the finalization of a pharmaceutical lawsuit settlement.

The intent is to provide about \$260,000 to make a bulk purchase of Narcan, provide regional trainings in how to administer Narcan, and upgrade the OpiRescue app to allow it to collect data on Narcan administrations and overdose reversals.

### **State Substance Abuse Data Trends**

*See the data presentation PowerPoints for more details*

a. Public Health Drug Use Data and Trends

Barbara Gabella, Colorado Department of Public health and Environment (CDPHE),  
Senior Scientist in Injury Epidemiology  
Daniel Vigil, MD, CDPHE, Marijuana Health Monitoring and Research

Daniel Vigil presented data on adult and youth marijuana use in Colorado. Key points include:

- about 13% of all adults, 21% of high school students, and 4% of middle school students used marijuana in the past 30 days;
- the highest rates of marijuana use are among 18-25 year olds and high school juniors and seniors,
- all around 26%; alcohol use remains higher than marijuana use, but has been declining;
- adult use is higher among males than females, but in high school they're nearly the same.

Barbara Gabella presented trends on prescription opioid misuse and on drug-related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths. Key points include:

- 9.3% of Coloradans age 18-25 years old reported in 2013-2014 misusing prescription opioids (latest results available), lower than the results for 2012-2013.
- Prescription opioids contributed to 5.8 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population in 2015. This is similar to results for 2014 but higher than 2010. Prescription opioids overdoses might be leveling.
- Heroin contributed to 2.9 drug overdose deaths per 100,000 population in 2015, similar to 2014, but higher than the rate of 1.8 deaths in 2012.
- Alcohol-related emergency department visits, defined as dependence or substance use disorder or acute drug poisoning, have decreased since 2011 in contrast to similarly defined hospitalizations, which are rising.
- Alcohol rates are 4 to 30 times greater than other drugs, depending upon the indicator (not all indicators shown in the talk).
- Psycho-stimulants with abuse potential (including methamphetamine) contributed to 2.5 overdose deaths per 100,000 population and is higher than the rate in 2012. It mirrors the trends in heroin overdoses.

b. Substance Abuse Treatment Admissions Drug Use Data and Trends

Becky Helfand, Office of Behavioral Health, Director, Data and Evaluation

Becky Helfand provided a summary of the treatment admissions data gathered from licensed providers. This focused on alcohol, marijuana, prescription opioids, heroin cocaine and methamphetamine. Treatments admission are for OBH licensed facilities only and information is based on primary drug only. Treatment admissions vary across the state of Colorado with the highest percentage of treatment admissions for alcohol. Marijuana treatment admission remains stable since 2008. Non-medical use of prescription opioids have dropped but heroin treatment admissions have increased 244% between 2008-2015. IV drug use across all drugs has increased 166% and Meth treatment admissions have increased 34%. All data is based on information from 2008-2015.

c. Public Safety Drug Use Data and Trends

Jack Reed, CDPS, Division of Criminal Justice, Statistical Analyst

Jack Reed provided a summary of some of the public safety trends around substance use. It included data on substance offense rates by drug type, age, and geographic location. Additionally, data on impaired driving from the Colorado State Patrol and vehicle fatality data from the Colorado Department of Transportation were presented, which included information on different substances that may have impaired driving ability. Suspension and expulsion rate trends from Colorado schools were also included in the presentation. Finally, information on probationers testing positive for THC was provided.

**Task Force Meeting Adjourned**