

DRAFT
COLORADO SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

August 2, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Colorado Municipal League, 1144 Sherman St., Denver

Meeting Minutes

Present: AG Phil Weiser, Matthew Baca, Adam Zarrin, Colleen Brisnehan, Sheriff Jaime Fitzsimons, Jose Esquibel, Dr. Kathryn Wells, Lindsey Myers, Dr. Liz Hickman, Peggy Heil, Robert Valuck, Stazi Snelling, Wendy Buxton-Andrade, Sharon Liu, Jade Woodard, Bethany Pace-Danley, Taylor Hillhouse, Ali Maffey, Qing Li, Jack Reed, Meagan Hillman, Heather Tolle, Mandi Kennedy, Shaina Riciputi, Gina Olberding, Kacy Crawford, Kent Maclennan, Danielle Felder, Jillian Adams, Henny Lasley

Absent: Amy Kingery, Ashley Chase, Dan Rubinstein, Greg Daniels, Jenny Corvalan-Wood, Julia Roguski, Sen. Larry Crowder, Lucinda Wayland-Connelly, Marc Condojani, Rep. Meg Froelich, Melissa Gallardo, Miles De Young, Ray Pedilla, Chief Rick Brandt, Mayor Ron Rakowsky, Whitney Mielke, Kurt Morrison

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Weiser provided a welcome and members of the Task Force and guests were introduced.

Review and Approval of Mat Task Force Minutes

Dr. Liz Hickman provided the motion. Lindsey Meyer seconded. Unanimous agreement to approve the minutes by all members.

Announcements from Task Force Members

Chair Attorney General Weiser mentioned that the Office of the Attorney General has amended the state opioid complaint to sue the Sackler family, and he confirmed that any opioid litigation settlement monies obtained by the State of Colorado will go directly to address the opioid crisis in Colorado, inclusive of approaches to prevention, treatment and recovery.

Chair Weiser also brought up the concern about the risks related to vaping, especially among youth, and is interested in knowing what approaches are being consider or implemented in Colorado.

Vice Chair José Esquibel announced that Dr. Rob Valuck will be the Director at the new Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. José will serve as the Associate Director of Community Engagement of the new Center and in that capacity serve as the director of the Colorado Consortium for prescription Drug Abuse Prevention.

Coleen Brisnehan indicated that by the November Task Force meeting she expects to be ready for a brief presentation to the Task Force about issues related to the increase in methamphetamine use and it is affect in the public housing system. She also mentioned that counties do not know how to connect folks within public housing who are using methamphetamine to treatment and will be evicted (required by state statute). Also, people who live in apartments adjacent to an apartment contaminated with methamphetamine are also subject to eviction for public safety reasons and this is a concern. Enforcement of state statue about methamphetamine contamination allows some discretion to local public health agencies, although they aren't so certain about that.

Kent MacLennan spoke of Rise Above Colorado's public awareness campaign efforts. They continue to use positive messaging (social norming campaign – most kids don't use). This summer and fall has been/will be a big push. Attorney General Wesier recommends tracking data at a high level.

Jillian Adams of Illuminate Colorado announced the annual report and data from the Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee. The first family advisory board meeting is set for later this month. The Colorado Data Linkage Project is almost underway through the new Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and the University of Denver's Colorado Evaluation and Action Lab. The Linkage Project will serve to link various state data concerning data about pregnant women who give birth to a substance exposed newborn and their children to determine outcomes after birth. Also, Illuminate Colorado has received a child-care solution grant that brings treatment to mothers in need.

A guest raised a question of opioid prevention and treatment for the Native American population. Vice Chair Esquibel mentioned that through the Office of Behavioral Health there is a tribal liaison on substance use disorder issues with the two Ute Tribes, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. This liaison position is also connected with and supported by the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs.

Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade commented about the difficulty that southeast Colorado faces in not receiving adequate resources, especially unequal pay and unequal capacity for grants between rural and metro areas, which causes an extremely high turnover rate in rural and frontier regions.

Legislative Updates

Vice Chair Esquibel provided updates surrounding the legislative Study Committee on Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders. The Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention is assisting with collecting stakeholder input and will assist with stakeholder meetings on the topics of prevention, harm reduction, treatment, recovery, and criminal justice response. The Study Committee will likely not be renewed, so the Task Force will need to seat an ad-hoc policy committee in 2020, as has been done in the past, to generate policy recommendations.

Statewide Prevention Strategic Plan

Sharon Liu, Manager, Community Prevention Programs

Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services

Ali Maffey, Policy and Communication Unit Supervisor

Prevention Services Division, CO Department of Public Health and Environment

The new [Statewide Strategic Plan for Primary Prevention](#) plan focuses on:

- Advancing prevention by using evidence-based programs and strategies,
- Strengthening the prevention workforce,
- Aligning state agency funders of prevention, and
- Addressing inequities in substance abuse and access to prevention services.

This plan promotes programs, policies and strategies addressing risk and protective factors that predict or protect against substance abuse and other negative health behaviors.

Here is a summary of the strategic objectives of the plan:

Strategic Objective 1:

- Increase public awareness of the advances in and cost savings of prevention
- Pursue policy change at state and local levels

Strategic Objective 2:

- Support and increase community-driven selection, implementation, and fidelity of prevention interventions – including both tested and effective approaches and new approaches that are being evaluated.
- Strengthen how Colorado tracks and increases the statewide adoption of tested and effective prevention programs and strategies

Strategic Objective 3:

- Strengthen Colorado’s prevention workforce with broad prevention skill building and certification and with program-specific competency trainings.
- Increase the diversity of prevention providers practicing in Colorado by geographic representation, race/ethnicity, and other attributes.

Strategic Objective 4:

- Align statewide public funders of prevention services
- Clarify for communities how to access the right funding at the right time
- Reduce inequities and inequalities leading to substance abuse and the factors that predict it

Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade commented about the difficulty that southeast Colorado faces is that there is unequal pay and unequal capacity for grants between rural and metro areas, which causes an extremely high turnover rate.

Colorado Drug Data and Trends

The following data presentations are available for download at: <https://coag.gov/task-force/meetings>

Public Health Drug Surveillance Data

Barbara Gabella, Senior Scientist in Injury Epidemiology

Katelyn Hall, Epidemiologist & Statistical Analyst, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Colorado Drug Offenses, Vehicle Fatality, and DUI Data

Jack Reed, Statistical Analyst, Office of Research & Statistics, Colorado Department of Public Safety

Methamphetamine Data Brief

Stephanie Russell, Evaluation Manager, Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services

Peter Rumbach, Senior Evaluation Specialist, The Evaluation Center, University of Colorado

Substance Use Disorders Treatment Admissions Data

Stephanie Russell, Evaluation Manager
Heather Tolle, Substance Abuse Evaluator, Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services

Open Discussion on Data Findings

Chair Attorney General Phil Weiser requested that the profiling of best practices around the state.

Closing Comments and Adjournment

Next Task Force Meeting: November 1, 2019

Lunch and Informal Discussion