

Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force

November 1, 2019 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Colorado Municipal League, 1144 Sherman St., Denver

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Attorney General Phil Weiser, Matthew Baca, José Esquibel, Rick Brandt, Robert Valuck, Marc Condojani, Sharon Liu, Jade Woodward, Jillian Adams, Bethany Pace-Danley, Colleen Brisnehan, Julia Roguski, Dr. Kathryn Wells, Lindsey Myers, Dr. Liz Hickman, Melissa Gallardo, Peggy Heil, Stazi Snelling, Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade

Welcome and Introductions

AG Weiser provided a welcome and members of the Task Force and guests introduced themselves.

AG Weiser announced the appointment of Avani Dilger as Vice Chair of Treatment by the House Majority Leader and the appointment of Matthew Baca as the Vice Chair of Prevention by the Senate President.

AG Weiser acknowledged and thanked outgoing Vice Chairs Marc Condojani (Treatment) and José Esquibel (Prevention) for their dedicated work with the Task Force and called upon them to continue to offer their content expertise to the Task Force.

Review and Approval of MAT Task Force Minutes

There was one correction to the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes, and then a second was provided. Unanimous agreement to approve the minutes by all members.

Announcements from Task Force Members

AG Weiser complimented the Annual Meeting of the Colorado Consortium for prescription Drug Abuse Prevention.

Dr. Rob Valuck, Director of the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, thanked AG Weiser for his opening remarks at the annual meeting and mentioned that positive comments about the meeting were received by participants. There was a live stream option to include individuals from across the state to access. There were also participants from other states, including as distant as Hawaii. Anne Hazlett, the Senior Advisor for Rural Affairs with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy gave a keynote address about the federal response to the opioid crisis and also traveled to Weld County for a meeting with community members responding to the opioid crisis in the rural northern and northwestern part of the state.

Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade mentioned that she had the opportunity to travel with Ms. Hazlett and spoke with her about the need for federal grant funds specific to rural communities.

Marc Condojani shared that the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) is in the second year of the two-year federal grant, the State Opioid Response Grant. OBH is anticipating that another round of federal grants to address the opioid crisis will be approved by Congress. One interesting item that OBH has instituted is the success of the recovery greeting cards, which is a new way for people to show support for people in recovery from a substance use disorder. OBH operates a kiosk that can be requested for events to showcase and obtain the greeting cards. The cards are free and were designed by local artists with a message of support from people in recovery.

Also, OBH is looking forward to the roll out of six mobile health units deployed to various regions of rural Colorado to administer medication-assisted treatment along with medical services and peer support services. The first unit is expected to be ready in November and the remaining mobile units will arrive over a period of four months into February. There will be two units in southern Colorado, one in the Lower Arkansas Valley, one in Routt County and one on the Western Slope and one in Northeast Colorado.

Marc also reported that sixteen county jails have responded to the opportunity to receive funding and technical assistance for providing medication assisted treatment for individuals with on opioid use disorder that are incarcerated. There is a need to follow up with educating Sheriffs about how the program works.

Melissa Gallardo mentioned having heard a lieutenant from Rhode Island give insight on the ground view of a jail-based medication-assisted program and perhaps we could get her to speak with our sheriffs about her experience. There are good videos from Rhode Island.

Lindsey Meyer mentioned that the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is preparing to release two requests for applications. One is for local community grants for syringe access programs to support linkage to care and with enough funding for about ten grantees at around \$91,000 per grant. The second is a Harm Reduction Grant expected to be released in January 2020 that focuses on collaboration between law enforcement agencies and harm reduction organizations, including linkage to treatment services. Awards for this grant will be given to 5-6 agencies in the amount of about \$250,000

It will also cost around \$250,000 each community to get them prepared. Three positions will be opening up at the CDPHE is working to launch the Colorado Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund in

early 2020. The fund will begin with an allocation of \$500,000 from the Colorado General Assembly, which will allow eligible entities to order Naloxone in an of its forms at a discount or perhaps even for no cost. At this point, there is no further allocation of dollars for the Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund after the end of the State Fiscal Year.

AG Weiser asked Chief Rick Brandt to assist with getting information about the Bulk Purchase Fund to law enforcement agencies when the program is formally launched.

Henny Lasley, Executive Director of SMART Colorado, mentioned that pot clubs are now legal in Colorado and that SMART Colorado has received feedback from concerned residents about the implications for the minimum purchase of marijuana in those settings.

Presentation: Trends in Vaping—Clinical and Policy Perspectives

Dr. Robin Deterding, Children's Hospital Colorado

Zach Zaslow, Children's Hospital Colorado

Dr. Deterding first discussed how vaping devices work and the three elements they contain: 1) sensor, 2) juice, and 3) heating element. Colorado has the highest percentage of teens that are vaping. Most teens are unaware that they are inhaling nicotine. We don't know what inhaling is really doing to the body. It's a chemistry experiment that people are inhaling. There are many different products, and it is extremely easy for teens to vape without anyone knowing they are doing it.

Dr. Deterding discussed the need to ask kids the right questions in the right way to find out if they are vaping. Need to start talking to kids as young as kindergarten about the risks of vaping. Although vaping was initially framed as a way to quit smoking, there is no evidence and no studies that show it helps someone to quit smoking.

Dr. Deterding discussed the equivalencies of electronic cigarettes and traditional cigarettes. One JUUL pod is equivalent to 1 pack of cigarettes. Teens can vape 1-3 JUUL pods a day. Teens that vape are more likely to start using traditional cigarettes than ones who do not vape. We are seeing more vaping related lung injuries and we don't know what's causing the severe injuries or deaths. The lungs were not designed to inhale solvents used in vaping.

Zach Zaslow discussed the need for more grants to do more research. There is a need also for more education and more people in the schools to help educate kids about the danger of vaping. Mr. Zaslow discussed the need to get marijuana on the federal level changed from a class 1 to a class 2 for research purposes and the need to involve kids in the process.

AG Weiser mentioned an interest on his part for the working on a public awareness effort.

Presentation: MAT Landscape and Strategy in Northern Colorado

Lesley Brooks, MD, Sunrise Community Health Center, North Colorado Health Alliance

Lt. Staci Shaffer, MCJ, Larimer County Sheriff's Office

Dr. Brooks and Lt. Shaffer began by explaining the structure and work of the Northern Colorado Opioid Prevention Workgroup. A federal grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides \$1.5 million to this organization and CO-SLAW – Colorado Opioid Synergy Larimer & Weld. They currently have five, but it will soon be six coordination teams.

They have one phone number—1-844-944-7529—that takes phone calls 24/7 and routes them to the correct clinic. What is needed to implement this approach in other locations in Colorado is a community of networks, changing culture and minds through education and research. Jails need outpatient MAT clinics. There is a need for more Care Coordinators. Learn more about Medication-Assisted Treatment at the Colorado Hospital Association's web page, ColoradoMAT.org.

Policy Issue: Methamphetamine Contamination and Housing

Colleen Brisnehan, Environmental Protection Specialist, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Bill Hayes, Environmental Engineer, Boulder County

As a follow-up to the issues of methamphetamine contamination in public housing that was discussed in the February 2019 meeting of the Task Force, Colleen Brisnehan discussed the complexities of remediating meth-contaminated housing and in particular the public housing implications. The relevant statute is C.R.S. § 25-18.5-101 through 109. The statute requires the owner of the property to meet the cleanup standards of the statute. Under the current statute, there are situations in which the residence is deemed safe by health care officials but individuals living on the property and adjacent property must still be evicted.

Bill Hayes shared draft proposed bill language.

The Task Force discussed a recommendation to revise the statute to allow health care officials discretion to allow people to stay in their homes. Members are working with Rep. Chris Kennedy to seek a revision. AG Weiser asked that the Office of the attorney General be notified when this revision is introduced.

Opioid Study Committee Bill Drafts and MSO Transparency

José Esquibel and Dr. Rob Valuck discussed five bills to be introduced as a result of the work of the Study Committee on Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders. A summary of the

proposed bills was provided for Task Force members and guests. The bills pertain to prevention, treatment, harm reduction, recovery, and the criminal justice response to the opioid crisis. Member of the Task Force and of the consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention provided input to members of the Study Committee over the course of the summer and assisted in bringing content expert to help inform the developing of the proposed policies in the bills.

Commissioner Wendy Buxton-Andrade discussed an effort to seek reform in Colorado Managed Service Organization (MSO) system. There may be a bill that requires the state to audit the MSO structure and reconfigure boards to add transparency. There will be a meeting next Friday November 8, 2019 at 2:00pm at the office of Colorado counties, Inc., to discuss language for a proposed bill. Rep. Jonathan Singer is exploring carrying such a bill.

Committee Updates

Substance-Exposed Newborns Steering Committee

- The semi-annual meeting of hospitals will be on Monday, November 4, 2019, with about 80 participants expected.
- The SEN Steering Committee is working on an evaluation plan, which will be shared with the Task Force when drafted.

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

- Rob Valuck is now the Director of the Colorado Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and José Esquibel is the Associate Director of Community Engagement for the center, serving as the new Director of the Colorado Consortium. Rob remains very much involved in the work of the Consortium and is also working on expanding the work of the center to include research, clinical practice improvement, and education among schools and colleges in the fields, of medicine and public health.
- The Consortium continues to conduct provider education with health care professionals on safe opioid prescribing and alternatives to pain management throughout the state. There is also a growing interest into provider education about benzodiazepines.
- The Consortium is partnering with the College of Nursing on the MAT Expansion project to 16 counties in Colorado. More details will be provided in 2020.
- Efforts are underway to ramp up public awareness activities, including an update to the Take Meds Seriously web site, expansion of public awareness input opioid medications among older adults, further promotion of the Bring Naloxone Home and Take Meds Back campaigns.
- There are 10 workgroups of the Consortium and anyone with an interest in participating in one or more workgroups are invited to speak with Rob or José.

Data Committee

- The State Epidemiological and Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) which serves as the data Committee, is working on an alcohol density licensing and zoning guide for local jurisdictions. This will be shared with the Task Force when completed.
- The SEOW is also planning on a brief related to polydrug abuse in Colorado to help inform the public and policymakers about issues related to polydrug abuse in the state.

SBIRT Advisory Council

- The SBIRT Advisory Council has two workgroups, one addressing education and one addressing adolescent SBIRT. Both groups have preliminary goals.
- The Education Workgroup is looking at an SBIRT curriculum that could have an option for Continuing Medical Education credits.
- In the area of adolescent SBIRT, there is a need for training pediatricians in conducting SBIRT with a validated tool. Also, the workgroups are looking into SBIRT as a part of the juvenile justice system and possible training with juvenile probation officers.
- A website for the work of the SBIRT Advisory is being prepared and the link to the site will be shared with Task Force members.

Closing Comments and Adjournment

Vice Chair Matthew Baca gave closing comments and adjourned the meeting.