

Opioids Response Round-Up





Director's Note

The Opioid Response Unit's activities have been ramping up this summer. I have been visiting numerous regions around the state to answer questions as they prepare to receive the first payments of the opioid settlement funds.

The nineteen <u>Colorado Regional Opioid Abatement Councils</u> are beginning to design their community-based opioid abatement strategies. This important work is being done by collaborating with stakeholders, subject matter experts, and community members to identify the right solution for their communities.

A few reminders:

In August we are hosting our first Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference with experts from around the state. If you have not already registered, we recommend you<u>register now</u> due to limited space. There will be remote options available as well as recordings after the event.

We recently launched a new portal for local governments to either opt-in to retain their allotted opioid settlement funds or opt-out to route the funds to their region. This brings us one step closer to distribution of settlement dollars.

On behalf of the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council and the Colorado Department of Law, I want to express our appreciation to all the stakeholders and partners across the state who are collaborating to maximize the impact of the funds.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Heidi K. Williams Director of Opioid Response Colorado Department of Law

Colorado's First Opioid Abatement Conference

Registration Now Open! August 15th and 16th, 2022

The Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference

Sponsored by the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council

REGIONAL OPIOID ABATEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL BE GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY

WHERE: RALPH L. CARR JUDICIAL BUILDING, 1300 BROADWAY, DENVER, CO, 80203

VIRTUAL OPTIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE

BECAUSE OF LIMITED SPACE, ONLY 200 SEATS ARE AVAILABLE

Join us for an interactive 2-day conference on best practices for addressing the opioid crisis, the nuts and bolts of opioid settlement funds, how to leverage state and national resources, and practical information about receiving funds. Gain inspiration from a series of dynamic speakers and local experts and build relationships with other decision-makers statewide. Agenda available <u>here</u>! Register now to reserve your spot!

Click Here to Register!

Opioid Settlement Funds to Local Governments



On June 13, the identified primary contact for most participating local governments in Colorado received an email with their estimated funding allocations and a link to the Colorado Opioid Settlement Tracker (COST). Participating local government is defined as local governments who have signed on to the Colorado Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Twenty percent of all of Colorado's opioid settlement funds are directly allocated to the participating local governments. With the Colorado Opioid Settlement Tracker (COST), local governments are now choosing whether they will pool their funds with their region(s) (i.e. route their funds to the region) or retain and manage their own local government share of the opioid settlement funds. If participating local governments choose to retain their funds, they must use funds for opioid abatement purposes only and report annually on expenditures.

Through this process, local governments and regions are working together to maximize the impact of opioid settlement funds in their communities. The deadline to complete has been extended to **August 17, 2022**.

If you have any questions about this process, are delayed in completing or if you are not sure if your local government has received this information, please reach out to the Opioid Response Unit at <u>opioids@coag.gov</u>, or by phone at 720-508-6904.

Welcome the Opioid Response Unit's New Program Assistant Jack Patterson

Jack Patterson joined the Opioid Response Unit as the new Program Assistant in May, bringing his over five years of experience in community programming and operations to the team. Jack joins us from the non-profit sector where he most recently managed a state-wide behavioral health-focused AmeriCorps program and developed healthcare workforce programming.

Born in London, Jack came to the States when he was young. After a decade in the Chicago area, he moved to Colorado to study at the University of Denver. His fascination with community systems led to him triple majoring in Public Policy, Ecology & Biodiversity, and Political Science, bringing together a range of studies around what he calls "human



impact."

team!

Contact Jack and the rest of the team at opioids@coag.gov

Updates from Across Colorado

Communities across Colorado are getting to work, planning how they are going to utilize the opioid settlement funds.

Learn more about what's happening across the state with the links below!

<u>Attorney General - Teva</u> <u>Announcement</u>

Mesa - GJ Sentinel

Pikes Peak - Gazette

Montrose - Montrose Press

Jefferson - Denver Gazette

Boulder - Daily Camera

Chaffee - Ark Valley Voice

Larimer - Reporter-Herald

<u>El Paso - KRDO</u>

Substance Use Disorder Stigma Course for State and Local Leaders

Jack provides a range of support to the Opioid Response Unit core functions and is the engine behind our opioids@coag.gov email. We could not be more thrilled to have Jack on our

> Learn about the latest research around SUD and criminal justice stigma with this free course created by the Addiction Policy Forum and The Council of State Governments Justice Center.

Participants will also learn from leading experts on stigma within the SUD and criminal justice fields about the manifestation of stigma at the structural and individual level and innovations to reduce stigma.

Learn More About the Course and Register Here!

2021 Fentanyl Overdose Death Data

2021 drug overdose data released by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) - <u>Colorado Drug Overdose Dashboard</u>

According to final data, 1,881 Coloradans died of drug overdose in 2021

- Of these, 1,154 involved some form of opioid (prescription, fentanyl or heroin)
- In 2021, over 60% of all drug overdose deaths involved some form of opioid

• Fentanyl-associated deaths of Colorado residents have more than quadrupled in 2 years—from 222 deaths in 2019 to 912 **fentanyl-associated deaths of Coloradans in 2021**

Please find the Fentanyl Infographic in English and Spanishhere.



FENTANILO: sobredosis y repercusiones en Colorado

El fentanilo es un opioide sintético aprobado para el tratamiento del dolor intenso, como el cáncer avanzado. El fentanilo fabricado ilícitamente es la principal causa del reciente aumento de muertes po opioides en Colorado.





New Treatment Locator Resources

<u>OwnPath</u>, is a new searchable Colorado-specific care directory launched by the Behavioral Health Administration to address behavioral health, including opioids. With <u>OwnPath</u>, you can find meaningful care for yourself or someone you care about in Colorado. You can search for specific services or use a guided search



to identify the providers or resources that best meet your needs. You can trust that all providers are correctly licensed, and you can narrow your search by thoughtful and inclusive criteria.

Visit OwnPath Searchable Directory

988 Crisis Support Number in Colorado

As of July 16, 2022, Colorado has deployed the<u>988 dialing code</u>, a new, easy-to-remember three-digit number for call (multiple languages), text, or chat (English only).

Events

#END OVERDOSECO

August 31 is International Overdose Awareness Day

Visit <u>EndOverdoseCo.com</u> to find events throughout Colorado.

New Public Awareness Materials

<u>Lift The Label</u> just released three new videos to further reduce stigma on the following:

- <u>The Power of Language</u>
- Importance of Naloxone
- <u>Effectiveness of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder</u>



Colorado Office of Behavioral Health Marketing and Outreach Campaigns

The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) runs several public awareness and stigma reduction campaigns that encourage Coloradans to get lifesaving support through OBH-funded treatment and programs. Learn about the programs and how you can get involved.

Anti-Stigma Campaigns

LIFT THE LABEL

About: Lift The Label strives to remove damaging labels and stigma that prevent those with substance use addiction from seeking effective treatment.

Get Involved: Colorado partners may use their own funds to run ads in their communities, co-brand digital ads and print materials, recruit and produce stories for Lift The Label to represent your community, and boost pre-made Lift The Label social media posts on your own channels. OBH can sometimes cover administrative costs to buy and manage media and report on results. <u>Order</u> free materials and access social media toolkits.

Contact: charlotte.whitney@state.co.us



About: A collaboration between the Lift The Label campaign, people in recovery and artists in Colorado and nationwide, the <u>Recovery Cards Project</u> offers free greeting cards that celebrate recovery, provide encouragement to those who need it and express gratitude to those who support others in their recovery.

Get Involved: Order free cards on the <u>Recovery Cards</u> <u>Project</u> website. Organizations that serve people experiencing substance use disorder may <u>order a free kit</u> and purchase cards in bulk to distribute in the community.

Contact: charlotte.whitney@state.co.us

Crisis Services Campaigns



About: <u>Colorado Crisis Services</u> (CCS) is the statewide behavioral health crisis response system offering residents mental health, substance use or emotional crisis help, information and referrals. This campaign aims to increase awareness and utilization of this vital service.

Get Involved: Counties and community partners may use their own funds to pay for CCS ads in your communities. OBH can sometimes cover administrative costs to buy and manage media and report on results.

Contact: maria.livingston@state.co.us

SOMETIMES ANXIETY lies just below the surface.

About: Below the Surface aims to help teens connect to and get support from the Colorado Crisis Services (CCS) text line. This text line allows anyone to text 24/7 with a trained counselor on a personal, free, confidential line.

Get Involved: Counties and community partners may use their own funds to pay for Below the Surface ads in your communities. OBH can sometimes cover administrative costs to buy and manage media and report on results.

Contact: maria.livingston@state.co.us

Click Here for More Campaigns

Reports & Other Updates

Please note that inclusion on this list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement.

Evidence Based Strategies for Abatement of Harms from the Opioid Epidemic

<u>Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation – John Hopkins School of</u> <u>Public Health</u>

Rx Summit 2022 Takeaways eBook - Review Federal Resources Coming Down the Pipeline

Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking

The Stanford-Lancet Commission on the North American Opioid Crisis

<u>From the War on Drugs to Harm Reduction: Imagining a Just Response to the Overdose</u> <u>Crisis</u>

<u>Resources on Cost-Benefit Analysis of Strategies for Opioid Use Disorder - Washington</u> <u>State Institute for Public Policy</u>

<u>Ten Indicators to Assess the Readiness of State and Local Governments to Receive the</u> <u>Opioid Settlement Funds</u>

Evidence Based Strategies for Abatement of Harms