

Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force Meeting Minutes

May 6th, 2022, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Attorney General Weiser, Dr. Lesley Brooks, Matthew Baca, Julia Roguski, Stazi Snelling, Dr. Kathryn Wells, Matt Holman, Dr. Liz Hickman, George Dingfelder, Wendy Buxton-Andrade, Peggy Heil, Melissa Divido, Tonya Wheler, José Esquibel, Claudia Zundel, Leslie Shaefer, Brandon Davis, Andrés Guerrero

Guests: Heidi Williams, Jamie Feld, Jack Patterson, Kent MacLennan, Sarah Warner, Tracy Ritter, Jillian Morrison, Jade Woodard, Andrew Schmidt, Michael Davidson, Robert Jones, Rebecca Gleason, Kelly Sutton, Shaina Swain, Jessica Eaddy, Elizabeth Pace, Lindsey Simbeye, Henny Laxly, Tim Kitchens, Sarah Brown, Jennifer Place, Michael Angel, Lola Strong, Andrew Schmidt

Welcome and Introductions

Department of Law Director of Community Engagement Matthew Baca provided welcomed everyone and celebrated everyone being in person

Review and Approval of Minutes

Matthew Baca asked for a motion to approve the minutes of previous meeting
Liz Hickman moved to approve; George Dingfelder seconded
Unanimously approved

Supporting Perinatal substance use Prevention, Recovery, and Treatment in Colorado (SuPPoRT Colorado)

Presented by SEN Co-Chairs Jade Woodard, Executive Director of Illuminate Colorado and Dr. Kathryn Wells, Denver Family Crisis Center Medical Director

SEN (Substance Effected Newborns) sub-committee will now be referred to as SuPPoRT (Supporting Perinatal substance use Prevention, Recovery, and Treatment in Colorado). Name changed to better reflect the work being done, and recognize the role of support, recovery, and treatment

Continued priorities/workgroups

- Fetal Alcoholism Spectrum Disorder
- Statewide Capacity Building
- Ensuring Warm Handoffs
- Stigma Reduction

Update on Opioid Settlement Funds

Presented by Director of Opioid Response Heidi Williams

Heidi Williams discussed core principles of the All Colorado Plan

- Maximize settlement funds

- Utilize existing infrastructure to the extent possible

- Ensure equity for All Local Government (infrastructure fund)

99.9% of Colorado governments have signed on to MOU, only missing a few small towns, resulting in access to a larger share of funds from Johnson and Johnson. 20% of the opioid settlement funds are direct allocated to local governments, 60% to regions, 10% to infrastructure, and 10% to the State.

Funds will be held by national administrators. Local government funds will be released to all local governments if they have not opted out once we get the requisite information. Regional funds will be released once region's two-year plans are submitted and approved by COAC. All expenditures will be reported and made publicly available through an outward facing dashboard

Heidi provided an overview of Timeline of region formation (March 2022), local government opt-outs (May-June 2022), 2-year plan submissions (Summer 2022), payments (Beginning July 2022), and expenditure report due dates (Q3 2023)

Partnership with the Affected Families Work Group

Presented by Deputy Director of Opioid Response Jamie Feld

Jamie Feld discussed idea from previous SATF meeting regarding developing a family support/family advisory group. Jamie noted that existing groups with partners meet these needs to continue bidirectional conversation way including the state-wide Affected Families and Friends Workgroup run by the Consortium.

Workgroup Co-Chairs Sarah Werner and Tracey Ritter shared their experiences and discussed the purpose of the workgroup.

The workgroup provides opportunities for families and friends to share hope and reduce stigma, referrals for families seeking support, and create a forum to gather information and collect resources for families. It includes participants who have lost family members, and participants with family members in recovery or with SUD, allies, and professionals.

Discussion on Fentanyl Awareness in Schools

Presented by Attorney General Weiser

AG Weiser discussed the need to hear lived experience and engage families and affected individuals in developing solutions, and shared ongoing efforts to promote fentanyl awareness.

Tonya Wheeler shared the essential benefit of adding a family support specialist to their staff, both in supporting families and gathering data. Recognized that from a recovery standpoint,

family members affected by substance use need more support, and is an essential part of the work to heal communities.

AG Weiser shared his commitment to promoting Fentanyl Awareness in schools and to create content and engagement that saves lives and asked for feedback and support in ongoing youth engagement efforts.

Heidi Williams and Jamie Feld provided updates on Department of law activities regarding fentanyl, including upcoming RFP for opioids and fentanyl awareness, Safe2Tell, fentanyl awareness toolkit, and ongoing data collection.

Kent MacLennan shared that Rise Above is collecting more data (Rise Above Youth Survey, 2022) to understand perceived risk of fentanyl to see where we are starting from in awareness to inform how we do this messaging. Rise Above is also building a resource page around fentanyl and working on module for fentanyl/contaminated pills within Not Prescribed lesson which reaches about 11,000 youths 12-18 annually in Colorado.

Stazi Snelling emphasized need to get youth impact to make messaging effective for youth and recognized that engaging youth takes a lot of time and capacity, and requires thinking outside of the box.

José Esquibel shared that the Consortium is putting together a catalog on work being done across the country re: Fentanyl.

AG Weiser discussed need to engage and support successful programs in schools that can be a model, and recognized the work being done by Adams 12 and Plata. Heidi Williams noted that DOL is including parents/families in our RFP, and that the AG's Office Safe2Tell program has school networks that can be leveraged

Traci Ritter shared successful model of joint adult-youth presentations to schools, and the challenge of who to go to in each school district.

Lindsey Simbeye shared the Consortium's success in engaging schools in Steamboat Springs and in Pueblo. Noted that they worked extensively with students in schools and will use that in providing tech assistance to schools, helping schools to adjust/make policies to help school districts. Interested in partnering to promote this kind of model.

Closeout and Adjournment

AG Weiser thanked attendees and reminded attendees of the upcoming conference in August and requested engagement with the Opioid Response Unit to provide ideas and suggestions.

Adjournment – 11:41 am