

## **Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**

### Harm Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021 via Zoom

#### **Attendees:**

Mike Nerenberg, MD, Co-chair  
Christopher Grano, CDPHE, Co-chair  
Christine Zeitvogel, Pueblo LEAD  
Georgia Babatsikos, Boulder County Health  
Caroline Bunn, SummitStone Health  
Danielle Harwell, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association  
Krista Olsen, PharmD  
K.J. Bergfalk, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association  
Theresa Baillie, Emergent BioSolutions  
Michael Refice, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association  
Keaton Sheagley, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association  
Maggie Seldeen, Mind Springs Health  
Denise Lobato, San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center  
Consortium Staff: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Susanna Cooper, Jessica Eaddy, Jamie Feld, Judy Solano, Lindsey Simbeye, Rosemarie MacDowell

**Absent:** See attached listing.

New Co-Chair Mike Nerenberg called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the November 2020 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

#### **Naloxone in Schools Presentation (Norma Portnoy):**

Norma Portnoy, a member of Boulder County's Substance Use Advisory Group, delivered a presentation on the Naloxone in Schools Toolkit, which she developed in collaboration with the Consortium and CDPHE. The toolkit has everything needed to promote the deployment of Narcan Nasal Spray in Colorado school districts, with the goal of preventing deaths and serious injuries resulting from overdoses.

The toolkit includes legislation authorizing schools to obtain and administer opiate antagonists on school grounds without liability, instructions and forms for ordering free Narcan, resources for training school district staff, sample letters of support that can be edited as needed, and position statements from the National Association of School

Nurses and the National Association of School Personnel and Administrators. Norma reviewed all the components of the toolkit.

Link to Google Drive for the Narcan in Schools Toolkit:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1evyxe7eGFTlr3Dm4jLwB07Xy3GsTZAQS?usp=sharing>

#### Comments/Questions:

Jamie Feld asked about toolkit dissemination methods. Possibilities include a link to Google Drive on the Harm Reduction Work Group webpage, distribution via the Consortium listserv, Communities that Care, and RiseAbove Colorado.

Georgia Babatsikos suggested a coordinated dissemination approach. She asked if the information was intended for elementary as well as high schools. Norma recommended all schools, given that a teacher could also accidentally overdose. Supplies are expected to be filled by the CDPHE bulk fund (Erin Flynn). Schools are eligible to apply, and there is no charge.

Theresa Baillie said the application is included in the toolkit, and that her company, Emergent Biosolutions, provides all schools and universities with free Narcan. Few schools have applied. She said the toolkit also serves as an opportunity to educate teachers and students.

Lindsey Simbeye suggested that information in the toolkit could include a link to the bulk fund for replacement needs.

Jessica Eaddy asked about shipping cost coverage. Susanna indicated that the Consortium is going to pay for shipping via FedEx.

Jose Esquibel suggested the Consortium could support the dissemination effort via press releases, the Consortium newsletter, and website links in addition to assisting with the coordinated effort. Press releases could be included in newsletters and websites related to school superintendent associations, nurses associations, and other similar channels. Gina Olberding suggested the Area Health Education Centers could also be a dissemination partner.

Work group members discussed offering training along with the distribution of supplies. Both Mike Nerenberg and Judy Solano conducted such a program in Pueblo. Judy said obtaining approval from the school administration can present a challenge.

Mike said he worked with local faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations, and local public health. Letters of support from these organizations would have a positive impact. Harm reduction organizations are well placed to assist with distribution and training. Judy suggested that nursing school students and medical societies represent education target groups.

Chris Grano suggested there might be more leverage for the program in the fall of 2021, once the COVID-19 vaccine has been widely distributed.

### **Update on Law Enforcement Toolkit (Susanna Cooper):**

A law enforcement toolkit is being finalized and will include information regarding expired naloxone supplies. The toolkit will include flyers that can be sent to law enforcement agencies and donor organizations. The flyer will include a link to the toolkit documentation. Current documentation includes a list of agencies that will accept expired supplies. This list will be updated on a regular basis. Other documents include information about the shelf life of naloxone, checklists for law enforcement pertaining to expired naloxone and distribution, and promotional brochures. AmeriCorps volunteers will be helping with distribution.

Mike Nerenberg mentioned the needs of rural fire departments and that direct communications may be a better way to communicate with them.

### **2021 Work Group Direction:**

Mike spoke about expanding the direction of the work group by including other forms of harm reduction, i.e., infectious diseases, endocarditis, the social harms resulting from poverty, and the lack of resources. He encouraged work group members to start thinking about other issues and how the work group can address them. This discussion will continue at the next work group meeting in March.

Chris mentioned other items for discussion during the March meeting: data updates that will help create a data-to-action plan for the remainder of the year based on identified trends, new and additional syringe access programs, legislative updates, and increasing visibility of the Bring Naloxone Home Campaign.

Mike mentioned that Ryan Turner could possibly provide data as he recently obtained a data collection grant.

### **Other suggestions from work group members:**

Address skyrocketing overdose deaths related to fentanyl. What can be done to distribute strips?

Legislation regarding safe injection sites. The nursing association has expressed support for safe injection sites in Colorado.

Pharmacy level co-prescribing. Pharmacists have prescription authority to provide naloxone along with an opioid prescription.

Follow up with Andreas Guerrero, CDPHE, regarding harm reduction organization startups.

Additional ideas or presenter suggestions can be emailed to Susanna [susanna.cooper@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:susanna.cooper@cuanschutz.edu) or Rosemarie [rosemarie.macdowell@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:rosemarie.macdowell@cuanschutz.edu)

**Work Group Member Updates:**

Maggie Seldeen, Mind Springs Health, announced that her organization received funding that will support her position as director.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 1–2 p.m.

Attachment: List of absent work group members