

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021 – via Zoom

#### **Present:**

Sunny Linnebur, Co-chair, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy

Lynette Myers, Co-chair, CDPHE

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Beverly Hanstrom, Colorado Medical Waste

Laurrie Laurenzo, PharmD

Maggie Seldeen, Mind Springs Health

Danielle Harwell, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association

Consortium: Gina Olberding, Tyler Payne, Jamie Feld, Jessica Eaddy, Lindsey Simbeye,

Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

**Absent:** See attached list.

Co-Chair Lynette Myers called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

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

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

#### **Sharps Program Update:**

The sharps program contract was signed in October and will begin on July 1, 2021. The program was delayed due to COVID-19 and has a limited budget of \$125,000. While the containers will not be located in every Colorado county, plans are in place to meet certain demographic requirements such as homebound patients, individuals who have issues related to disposal, and areas where discarded sharps are an issue. Six kiosks will be installed, four in Colorado Springs and two in the Denver Metro area. The mailback program began in November.

Data is being collected and should be available within the next few months. Data will help support further research regarding the program. Lynette spoke to the City and County of Denver about their program. They said it took them about two years to collect data from their program.

There are 32 sharps mailback sites. The majority are located within pharmacies such as Safeway and Kroger. Pharmacies are providing mailback containers to Medicare and Medicaid patients. Home health, hospice, public health agencies, and clinics are also distributing containers to patients. Plans are to increase locations to 20 the first year and expand to Boulder, Ft. Collins, and Aurora.

Michael Davidson asked about publicizing the program on the Consortium website and in the Consortium newsletter. Lynette said she will look into this and get back to Michael.

Comments:

Beverly Hastrom pointed out the lack of public awareness regarding the intent of sharps kiosks and that public has used them for trash disposal. She suggested developing public information guidelines.

Lynette commented on the pushback encountered in some communities and how much of the sharps that are improperly discarded are in areas of high homeless population.

Jamie Feld asked about other potential contacts in the Boulder, Denver, and tri-county areas. Lynette will let Jamie know who she has contacted to date. Lynette said additional outreach would be very helpful.

Jessica Eaddy mentioned a HRSA grant that might help with mailback purchasing. She also suggested disseminating information to homeless coalitions. Durango has a large problem with sharps being disposed of in public places such construction sites, parks, and alleys, and they are seeking solutions. Lynette said Durango has a mailback location in the Albertson's Pharmacy on College Drive.

Lindsey Simbeye asked Lynette to send the external relations staff information regarding the targeted population.

**Medication Take-Back Program Update:**

Lynette provided the program update. A copy of the update is attached to the minutes. She indicated that collection trends have been difficult to determine because of the impact of COVID-19. The current contract with Trilogy ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Lynette is preparing a new RFP for the next five-year period.

Jessica mentioned both Mineral and Hinsdale counties as possibilities for disposal container placement. Jessica will provide Lynette with contact information.

Gina Olberding said that Ouray and Silverton were provided Deterra disposal bags and she is working on other possible distribution locations. Tyler Payne said 80 Deterra bags are in stock.

Beverly indicated that there are other mailback options available as well, including those that meet the DEA definition for destruction of controlled substances. Sunny is interested in receiving this information.

Lindsey Simbeye is creating an informational flyer for pharmacies, which she will share with the work group. She asked for a list of kiosks and mailback locations so that the external relations staff can speak to their respective regional coalitions regarding locations and programs. She indicated that a pharmacist in Routt County expressed interest in the Deterra bags for pharmacies located in the county. The pharmacy currently has ten of them.

Lynette announced that there may be additional program funding available and that she will discuss this in more detail during the March work group meeting.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m. The next work group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Attachments:

Take-Back Program Update

Absent Member List