

# Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

## Prescriber & Provider Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2021 via Zoom

### **Present:**

Joshua Blum, MD, Co-chair, Denver Health

Jon Clapp, MD

Elizabeth Grace, CPEP

Ali Rosenberg, Colorado Hospital Association

J.K. Costello, The Steadman Group

Sharon Langendoerfer, MD

Kelsey Robinson, Peer Assistance Services

Meredith Davis, OBH

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

AmeriCorps: Marie Hafner, Zak Hyde

Consortium: Susanna Cooper, Jessica Eaddy, Jen Place, Judy Solano, Lindsey Simbeye,

Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

**Absent:** See attached list.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Co-chair Josh Blum reviewed the November 2020 meeting minutes and made a motion to approve them. Motion approved.

### **Current Work Group Projects Update:**

Susanna Cooper updated the work group on upcoming presentations, including two programs by Dr. LaTisha Bader. One of the presentations is related to women-specific addiction treatment issues. Both sessions have CME approval. In March, DEA representative Aminta Bhutani will speak about DEA and opioid prescriber issues. Other upcoming speakers include Steve Wright, Alexis Ritvo, and Christy Huff from the Benzodiazepine Action Work Group. Future sessions will include presentations related to headache management, wound care, buprenorphine for pain management, and health equity. One of the most popular online modules is Steve Wright's Benzodiazepines 101. A module by Don Teater "Clinical Pearls for Safe Opioid Prescribing," will be ready by early February, followed by Introduction to MAT in March.

Josh Blum indicated that there has been a lot of interest in the hidden risks associated with benzodiazepine use. He also cited a review concerning the increase in rates of neonatal abstinence syndrome and maternal opioid use disorder between 2010 and 2017. There was an increase across the board, but great variability from state to state. He suggested this subject might be another good module topic.

Sharon Langendoerfer indicated that she can assist, as she has been working with hospitals have changed their approach to the care of infants with neonatal abstinence syndrome. Denver

Health has been involved in this program as well. She indicated that many fewer infants in these hospitals require medication treatment. The focus is now on training mothers and families. Sharon also mentioned that any educational material should also address women and substance use issues and include questions regarding pregnancy and birth control.

Jessica Eaddy said the San Luis Valley Neonatal Task Force just recently obtained a HRSA grant related to neonatal abstinence syndrome. She provided the following contact information: The grant recipient (Illuminate Colorado): <https://www.illuminatecolorado.org/san-luis-valley-to-benefit-from-nearly-half-a-million-dollar-federal-investment-to-reduce-the-number-of-babies-experiencing-withdrawal/> Jade Woodard: [jwoodard@illuminatecolorado.org](mailto:jwoodard@illuminatecolorado.org)

Josh mentioned other pain management options, including a presentation related to interventional pain management by an interventional radiologist. He also asked meeting participants to let him know if they have other ideas for future presentations or online modules.

Jen Place mentioned promotion of the basic MAT modules, given that there may be an elimination of the x-waiver for physicians which could generate more interest in MAT treatment. Josh said that the MAT 101 module will be ready soon, and it could be expanded to an hour. He also noted that the waiver has not been removed for nurse practitioners or physician assistants, and they are still handling a large patient load in primary care settings.

J.K. Costello suggested a module on stimulant use disorder treatment. Many community health centers see patients with this disorder. He also cited articles pertaining to treatment.\*

### **Work Group Goals and Direction for 2021:**

Josh summarized the historical focus of the work group, i.e., pain management, opioid reduction strategies, and safe opioid prescribing. He asked how participants would view the inclusion of pressing issues pertaining to social determinants related to health and the resultant contribution to opioid use in patient populations. In addition to pain management, future topics could include holistic health, public health, stigma reduction, harm reduction, and other issues that affect opioid use. Education offerings could encompass behavioral and psychiatric health. There is a greater potential to reach a larger provider audience with a broader range of topics.

### **Comments:**

Judy Solano mentioned a new state insurance option and pointed to the health disparity among people of color and poor populations who lack resources, including health insurance.

J.K. Costello acknowledged that stigma is a big issue, and there are many organizations in the state that already do excellent work in this field (Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center, Colorado Public Health Association, among others). He asked how the work group would avoid a duplication of effort.

Josh indicated that the Consortium has a funding advantage and, therefore, a greater reach. In addition, he has not seen that many educational offerings for providers related to these topics. The Consortium could also assist or partner with other organizations.

J.K. said that he would provide additional information on current organizations and their educational offerings.

Jessica Eaddy said rural primary care providers are in need of pain management education and that patients have to travel to other areas.

John Clapp said the Colorado Pain Society website has a physician locator by zip code: ([www.coloradopainsociety.com](http://www.coloradopainsociety.com)) He would be happy to help with future needs.

### **Member Updates:**

Ali Rosenberg reported that the Colorado Hospital Association is collaborating with ECHO Colorado for a MAT series in hospital inpatient units. They are also adding other initiatives and will be collaborating with Peer Assistance Services (SBIRT).

Registration for the upcoming ECHO sessions:  
<https://projectcore.echocolorado.org/Series/Registration/1358>

J.K. Costello listed a number of rural area grants available through HRSA and SAMHSA and reported on an increase in the number of recovery community organizations.

Denver Health is developing a comprehensive and searchable resource listing of all the various ASAM level treatment programs in the Denver area.

J.K. Costello mentioned the OBH LADDERS resource database:  
<https://www.colorado.gov/ladders>

Aminta Bhutani is planning provider presentations, including information on how the DEA utilizes the PDMP. The DEA bi-annual take-back event is set for April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Liz Grace said CPEP is focusing on increasing awareness and access to more intensive educational options related to pain management for non-pain management specialists. They offer a more intensive prescribing controlled drug course in conjunction with Vanderbilt University. Josh mentioned he would continue discussions with Liz regarding the Consortium subsidizing the participation of Colorado residents.

Kelsey Robinson reported that Peer Assistance Services is partnering with the Colorado Hospital Association. They have been involved in ongoing training and implementation with Signal Behavioral Health Network in the southeast area of Colorado and recently expanded to the Denver Metro area (SBIRT Training & Implementation Support for practices in Denver, Jefferson, Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Clear Creek, Gilpin, and Broomfield). PAS provides an annual \$2,000 stipend to clinics involved in the training. For additional information:  
[krobinson@peerassistanceservices.org](mailto:krobinson@peerassistanceservices.org)

Marie Hafner, AmeriCorps, is serving with Envision:You, a non-profit located in Denver that supports the LGBTQ community living with mental health and substance use disorders. They focus on barriers to treatment and health disparities.

Zak Hyde, AmeriCorps, is also serving with Envision:You and is involved in a behavioral health training program launching in February. They are planning a behavioral health and wellness summit in late October: <https://pheedloop.com/cbhws2020/site/> Susanna said the Consortium could co-promote the conference.

Meredith Davis, OBH, reported on the State Opioid Response 1 and 2 grant projects, which include prevention, harm reduction, treatment support, and recovery support services. They continue to support indigent, uninsured, and underinsured individuals with medication assisted treatment. Medicaid is now covering individuals in residential treatment facilities. OBH is expanding prevention and harm reduction activities as well as Narcan distribution. Recent programs include treatment related to stimulant use. She mentioned that implementation of a community reinforcement approach as a best practice model for stimulant use disorders. The FDA has not yet approved MAT for stimulant use disorder. For additional information: [meredith.m.davis@state.co.us](mailto:meredith.m.davis@state.co.us)

Josh suggest Meredith consider a lunch and learn presentation to report on all of the OBH activities.

### **Adjournment and Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, March 18, 2021 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Attachment: List of absent work group members

\*Bupropion and Naltrexone in Methamphetamine Use Disorder:  
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2020214>

\*Methamphetamine Overdose Deaths in the US by Sex, Race, and Ethnicity:  
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/article-abstract/2774859>