

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Benzodiazepine Action Work Group Meeting Minutes

October 5, 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Co-chairs: Alexis Ritvo, MD; D.E. Foster

Christopher Schultz, MD

J.C. Curle

Brooke Thomas

Nicole Lamberson

Trina Faatz

Becky Barnhart

John Staight

Bernard Silvernail

Terri Schreiber

Terry Coleman

Consortium: Gina Olberding, Susanna Cooper, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached list.

Co-Chair D.E. Foster called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the September 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Annual Meeting

Alexis Ritvo and Susanna Cooper provided information regarding the Consortium annual meeting on October 28th and the Education Symposium on October 29th. The work group will be hosting a concurrent session on October 28th. The subject of the session is "Benzodiazepine-Induced Brain Injury: The Hidden Prescription Epidemic." Another type of public event will be held after January 1, 2022.

Links to registration for the above meetings:

- October 28th Concurrent Sessions:
https://ucdenver.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMlfuCtrDsuE9UPHq2Y2b9H_jxD14NRZm66
- October 28th General Session Webinar:
https://ucdenver.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_atwaHtg-RwquALMRlokvnq
- October 29th Education Symposium Webinar:
https://ucdenver.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ilhELC5rSeqLk3yPTat1Tw

Subcommittee Updates:

All subcommittee documents will be finalized prior to the Consortium annual meeting. The documents will be posted on the Consortium work group's web page. Other potential subcommittee projects were discussed, including the peer support program proposal and

collaborative educational seminars involving the Provider Education Work Group. Susanna suggested meeting with Josh Blum, Provider Education Work Group Co-chair, some time after the annual meeting to discuss program content and format.

Other Business:

Speakers Bureau: Anyone interested in joining the speaker's bureau should contact D.E. directly and include a bio. Email: foster@denmp.com

Steering Committee: Susanna will send a Doodle Poll work group members to determine dates for the Steering Committee monthly meetings.

Steve Wright has retired. Bernie Silvernail will join the Steering Committee to replace Dr. Wright's position. Bernie is the founder of the The Alliance for Benzodiazepine Best Practices. Bernie's website: <https://benzoreform.org/>. Other Steering Committee members: Christy Huff, Terri Schreiber, Trina Faatz, Alexis Ritvo, and D.E. Foster.

Work Group Member Updates: D.E. suggested including updates at every work group meeting.

- Bernie Silvernail reported that he and Steve Wright developed a project proposal they submitted to the FDA. If the FDA approves the project, they will begin a pilot program in Colorado. The program will investigate the feasibility of changing benzodiazepine prescription practices based on the ECHO education program and attempt to determine a dollar value per prescriber and prescription change. The Colorado project could evolve into a national program. They expect a response from the FDA within two or three months. If a positive response is received, they will then submit a full proposal. Bernie also reported that his organization has posted an opening to replace the position vacated by Steve. To date, they have received 14 applications.
- Terri Schreiber is still waiting to hear about the Telligen grant. She said that Telligen had received 124 applications. Last year, Telligen funded eight projects in Colorado. Terri's website: <https://tsrg.org/>
- Trina Faatz said her Boulder community is focusing on fentanyl. There were recent fatalities at the CU campus. Trina is preparing one-hour educational sessions for high school students and asked work group members to let her know if they have any information that pertains to this age group. She will follow up on this request with Alexis.
- Jen Place thanked D.E. for providing a presentation at the September Treatment Work Group meeting.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021 from noon to 1 p.m.

Attachments: Work Group Roster