

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2023 – via Zoom

Present:

Sunny Linnebur and Lynette Myers, Co-chairs

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Doug Bowman, NarcX

Jack Dwyer, Deterra Systems

Emma Woolard, Fountain Valley Communities That Care/EI Paso County Public Health

Consortium: Hilary Bryant, Michael Davidson, Jennifer Mackender, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached list

Co-Chair Lynette Myers called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the September 2023 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Medication Take-Back Program Update: (Lynette Myers):

Originally the program planned to locate a kiosk in every Colorado county. The current goal is to maintain the current kiosk distribution, which covers 95 percent of counties and 80% of municipalities with a population exceeding 100,000. A survey of sites and demographics is currently in process to determine why some collections sites are more successful than others and how rural communities with limited access can be better served. A copy of the program update is attached to the minutes.

Lynette briefly summarized the marketing campaign which recently secured additional funding. Lynette will provide a copy of the marketing toolkit to work group members to distribute to their respective networks. Printed material will be distributed to doctors' offices and pharmacies to hand out with prescriptions. In addition, ads will appear on billboards and buses and a link to the toolkit will be posted on the Consortium website.

Information about the program is now on the MyColorado App. CDPHE is working on a press release. Michael Davidson is monitoring social media traffic generated by the campaigns. Work group members discussed of the sharps program collection challenges and other challenges related to the mail back program, including the methods of distribution, shipping costs, lack of partner participation, and users not returning containers on a timely basis.

TakeMedsSeriously Website (Hilary Bryant & Michael Davidson):

Michael summarized the website history and planned updates. Hilary asked work group members to review the site and provide feedback regarding what they think is working well and what recommendations they might suggest: <https://takemedsseriously.org/>

Some of the current updates will include minimizing the number of clicks required and clarification of available resources. The website is intended to serve a wide range, including community members and healthcare professionals.

Work group participant comments and questions:

- The website wording is “high level.”
- Why would anyone want a social media kit?
- Why offer a Spanish language version and not other languages?
- Should adjustments be made to accommodate seniors?
- Should there be separate sections for community members, agencies, senior living facilities, etc.?
- The list of medications for disposal should be easily accessible.
- More visuals and less text.
- A video that addresses the amounts of medication dispensed and the accumulation of medications in the home might be useful.

DEA Collection Update (Aminta Bhutani):

The October take-back event collected 7,988 pounds of medications. A copy of the presentation is included with the minutes. [Take Back Day \(dea.gov\)](https://www.dea.gov)

Lynette said a campaign survey indicated that people are more likely to dispose of medications at a take-back event than a pharmacy.

Partner Updates:

Doug Bowman, NarcX: NarcX Plus received independent validation that fentanyl pills are rendered non-retrievable. They are still waiting for verification of the powder form.

Emma Woolard, El Paso County Health Department: El Paso County is now distributing Narcan. Narcan was recently distributed at the Fountain Valley take-back site.

Jack Dwyer, Detera Systems: Detera has developed a new mail back pouch that is more cost effective. Approximately a billion pills have been deactivated since their program began.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, Medication Take-Back Program and DEA presentations