

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Harm Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020 via Zoom

Attendees:

Chris Stock, (Co-chair) Pharmacist
Jess Fear, (Co-chair) SummitStone Health
Barbara Gabella, CDPHE
Erin Flynn, CDPHE
Mike Nerenberg, MD
Theresa Baillie, Emergent BioSolutions
Christine Zeitvogel, Pueblo LEAD
Charlotte Ledonne, San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center
Denise Lobato, San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center
Krista Olsen, School of Pharmacy
Carly Larson, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners
Michael Ford, Jefferson County Public Health
AmeriCorps: Holly Sharps, Christine Charron, Sarah Green, Nathan Rodriguez
Consortium Staff: Jose Esquibel, Tyler Payne, Jen Place, Susanna Cooper, Jamie Feld, Judy Solano, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent:

Adam Starker, Stout Street Health Center; Karen Hill, JP Opioid Interaction Awareness Alliance; Amanda Bent, Drug Policy Alliance; Robert Willis, Albertsons/Safeway; Kevin Kaucher, Denver Health; Kathryn Mueller, MD, MPH, Medical Director, Colorado Division of Workers Compensation; Alan Lembitz, MD, COPIC; Agnieszka Baklazec, Peer Assistance Services; Angela Bonaguidi, ARTS; Andreas J. Edrich, MD, Heritage Hills Family Medicine; Jason Hoppe, MD, University of Colorado; Thomas L. Kurt, MD; Romany Redman, MD Candidate, UC School of Medicine; Joanna Martinson, RN, North Colorado Health Alliance; Theresa Pelo, King Soopers; Steven Wright, MD; Robert Perry, M.D.; Danna Bushell Richkun, RN; Ingrid Binswanger, MD, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Christina Mead, HHS/HRSA; Alma McKinley, Regional Pharmacist, CMS; Katy Brown, Telligen; William Gersch, Colorado Permanente Medical Group; Marc Condojani, Dept. of Human Services, OBH; Mike Patestio, Adapt Pharma; Michelle Main, Kaleo Pharma; Brandon Utter, HCPF; Kiley Fornelli, Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Kathy Patrick, Colorado Department of Public Education; Tony Saiz, Albertsons/Safeway; Stephanie Stewart, MD, UC Denver; Ericka Alexander, Genoa Healthcare; Gabrielle Rodriguez, North Colorado Health Alliance; Qing Li, Epidemiologist; Luke Richards, Cordant Health; Chris Benjamin, Boulder; Haley Foster, Tri-County Health Department; Briana Sprague, CDPHE; LeAnna Kent, CDPHE; Kiley Floren, Larimer County Health District; Lauren Boyle, Stout Street Center; Alyson Williams, Health District of Northern Larimer County; Kathy Jarvis, UC Denver School of Pharmacy; Amy Van Voorhis, RN, CeDAR; Kim Ward, King Soopers; Daniel Shodell, MD, CDPHE; Don Teater, MD, Teater Health Solutions; Carol Helwig, Boulder County Public Health; Rachael McLaughlin, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners; Trisha Bush, RN, The Center for Mental Health; Rochelle Gale, OBH; Christopher Doyal, Montrose Mental Health; Julia Rawlings, School of Pharmacy; Rebekah Armstrong; Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Front Range Clinic; Cori Howard, AmeriCorps Program Manager; Jessica Triplett, OBH; Andres Guerrero, CDPHE; Michael Hall, Boulder County; Eric Flynn, CDPHE; Nancy Steinfurth,

Liver Health Connection; Mary Pat Dewald, RN; T.J. Sayre, Regis University; P.J. Higgins, Community Health Partnership; Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment; Christopher Grano, CDPHE; Consortium: Rob Valuck, Gina Olberding

Co-Chair Chris Stock called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

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

2019 Overdose Data Review (Barbara Gabella, CDPHE):

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. Highlights:

- The data presented is retrospective, through the end of 2019.
- Both misuse and overdose deaths related to prescription opioids have been tracked from 2015 through 2019.
- 217,000 of Coloradans 12 or older (4.6%) have misused (non-prescribed) prescription pain relievers in the past year.
- Colorado is still in the top tier nationally due to use by age group 18-25.
- Overdoses related to synthetic opioids such as Fentanyl increased in 2019 (3.8 per 100,000).
- A new grant from the CDC will fund surveillance of unintended overdose deaths. Coroner and toxicology reports will be reviewed.
- There has been an increase in drug overdose deaths in the northwest part of the state. An increase in naloxone availability in the San Luis Valley may have contributed to a decrease in overdose deaths.
- Efforts are underway to determine the best way to measure reversals.
- Data can be reviewed by following the links listed in the presentation.

Comments/questions:

A question was raised regarding whether or not data is available for the number of patients receiving medication assisted treatment by county. Barbara suggested contacting Maria Butler at OBH.

Some syringe access programs distribute fentanyl test strips.

Naloxone Bulk Purchase Fund Update:

SB 19-227 established a fund for the purchase of naloxone at a low or no cost. Current funding through June 30, 2020 covers 100% of costs.

Erin Flynn indicated that there have been shipping delays due to COVID-19. Both naloxone nasal and syringe applications are backordered.

Erin indicated it is likely there will be additional funding available through September. Beyond September, the current state budget issues may affect funding. However, some funds will be available from pharmaceutical lawsuits.

Theresa Baillie, with Emergent BioSolutions, said her organization is fully stocked with naloxone nasal spray and they are shipping a thousand units per day. She is not aware of any production or shipping delays. She said she would follow up with Cardinal to see if there are any issues specific to Colorado.

Erin said that part of the problem might be delays in setting up new accounts due to mail delivery in certain parts of Colorado. Theresa and Erin will confer offline.

Susanna Cooper reported that overdoses have spiked due to lack of treatment access. Homelessness has also increased. The Bring Naloxone Home campaign had intended to conduct focus groups to determine effective messaging; however, budget cuts may affect this program. Existing funding will be used for media buys to target high-risk communities, particularly rural communities.

Legislative Update:

Jose Esquibel said the current funding situation is dismal. None of the five opioid-related bills will be funded and funds already allocated may be reversed. It will be imperative to continue to advocate for the policies that do not require funding. Both Senator Pedersen and Rep. Kennedy continue to support efforts related to the opioid bills. With job losses and isolation related to COVID-19, addiction and prescription drug misuse are on the rise.

Jamie mentioned an amendment to the Board of Health reporting requirements for demographic information related to the number of new engagements and syringes collected.

The Joint Budget Committee cut \$750,000 in funding earmarked for the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention's FY20-21 opioid prevention public awareness efforts. While the JBC decided to cut funding for the upcoming year, the program still exists in statute and can be funded in the future. Updates will be provided regarding any other changes during this difficult period.

https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/lis_20-1211_01_hed_05-08-20.pdf

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 1–2 p.m.

Attachment:

2019 Overdose Data Review