

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Prescriber & Provider Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022 via Zoom

Present:

Kaylin Klie, MD, Co-chair

Alexis Ritvo, MD, Co-chair, Benzodiazepine Action Work Group

D.E. Foster, Co-chair, Benzodiazepine Action Work Group

Steve Young, MD, Co-chair, Treatment Work Group

Sharon Langendoerfer, MD, Retired Pediatrician

Michael Rountree, MD, Harmony Foundation

Richard Bottner, Colorado Hospital Association

Liz Grace, MD, CPEP

Joan Sheehan, Consultant

Dawn O'Keefe, Peak Vista Community Health Center

Meghan Razimoff, Boulder County Public Health

Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment

Rachel Linger, Rocky Vista University

Consortium: Gina Olberding, Susanna Cooper, Jessica Eaddy, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached list.

Program Manager, Susanna Cooper, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the January 2022 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Benzodiazepine Provider Curriculum Lunch & Learn Sessions:

Alexis Ritvo is Co-chair of the Benzodiazepine Action Work Group along with D.E. Foster. The work group is collaborating with the Provider Education Work Group to provide four educational sessions in May regarding benzodiazepine safe prescribing. The sessions will be held on May 4, 10, 17, and 24. Alexis reviewed the learning objectives for the sessions with work group participants. A copy of the objectives is attached to the minutes.

Susanna asked work group members for feedback on the learning objectives by the end of next week. Once comments are received, the curriculum will be sent to CMS for approval.

Fentanyl Questionnaire for Healthcare Providers:

Susanna reviewed responses received to a fentanyl questionnaire sent to providers in Colorado urban and rural areas. The intent of the questionnaire was to determine the level of fentanyl knowledge among providers and whether or not there is a need for education. Approximately 58 responses were received.

Kaylie Klie commented about the prevalence of fentanyl in the Denver metro area and asked meeting participants if they are seeing regional differences.

Mike Rountree works in a rehab center in Estes Park. He has seen predominant fentanyl use in the past three months. Prior to that, there was a prevalence of heroin use, which has now been almost exclusively replaced by fentanyl.

Jessica Eaddy said fentanyl is now appearing in Mineral and Ouray counties. Hinsdale County appears to be the only location where fentanyl is not in use.

Dawn O'Keefe said her psychiatry colleagues have reported co-prescribing of benzodiazepines and stimulants. Kaylin suggested this subject could be added to the benzodiazepine education modules.

Kaylin mentioned barriers that exist in clinics and labs due the lack of a widely available or accepted fentanyl immunoassay methods. Some labs are developing their own in-house testing in order to obtain results more quickly. Some providers are using fentanyl test strips with their patients, many of whom are unaware their medications contain fentanyl. She mentioned the limitations of urine immunoassays that detect opioids, but not fentanyl, which can lead to false assurances.

The work group discussed other potential education offerings, including patient case study presentations related to fentanyl treatment. Other suggestions and comments:

- Poster sessions at all addiction conferences.
- An open discussion/Q&A to ask about fentanyl in the community context and what providers are seeing; distribution of supplemental educational content from the webinar.
- Providers who attend addiction events are already engaged -- the reach has to be to providers who don't think addiction involves their patients.
- There are psychiatric providers in the state who do not think addiction is a DSM-V diagnosis.
- Alternatives to opioids following dental procedures.

Susanna mentioned the fentanyl public awareness project being developed by the Public Awareness Work Group in collaboration with the Harm Reduction Work Group.

Dental Provider Education:

The Consortium is collaborating with the CDPHE Oral Health Unit to organize education seminars for dental providers. The Consortium offered educational seminars last December and January in partnership with the Colorado Dental Association and Dr. Don Teater. Over 700 providers attended the sessions. The current collaboration with CDPHE will focus on educating dental staff, including hygienists and providers practicing in rural health clinics, regarding opioids and substance use disorders.

Gina provided additional information about Dr. Teater's presentation, including alternatives to opioids.

Kaylin said a recent publication addressed the dental risks associated with sublingual buprenorphine, which also underscores the need to educate providers regarding oral health for patients on opioid therapy.

Other updates:

The Opioid Abatement Council will begin meetings at the end of March. The Colorado Hospital Association will be participating.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2022 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Attachments: Work group roster, Benzodiazepine Action Work Group Learning Objectives