

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Prescriber & Provider Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024 via Zoom

Present:

Josh Blum, MD, Co-chair

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Jess Angleson, Colorado Pharmacist Society

Lindsey Simbeye, Velocity Biogroup/Hikma

Nathan Aguilar, LaPlata County

Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jessica Eaddy, Shayna Micucci, Hilary Bryant,

Jennifer Mackender, Eric Barker, Teresa Cantwell

Co-chair, Josh Blum, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. He reviewed the previous meeting minutes.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 2024 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Member Updates:

Aminta Bhutani, DEA: Another drug take-back event is scheduled in April. The event is being promoted via a media campaign which includes information about year-round drug disposal available in pharmacies, hospitals, and law enforcement departments. DEA healthcare conferences are focusing on rules and regulations. Josh mentioned information shared by DEA representative Sarah Hoke about illicit drugs containing counterfeit benzodiazepines that do not show up on a benzodiazepine test strip.

Jess Angleson: Jess is a pharmacist by training. She provided background information regarding her work with the Colorado Pharmacists Society and her lived experience with alcohol use. She is currently working as a recovery coach with Advocates for Recovery Colorado. Josh spoke about the focus of the Provider Education Work Group and how Jess's background and current efforts might align with the work group's objectives.

Nathan Aguilar, La Plata County: Nathan works with the county harm reduction program and is a new member of the Provider Education Work Group. He will also be joining the Consortium Harm Reduction Work Group.

Legislative Update (Jose Esquibel):

Jose summarized the four bills moving through the legislative process. One of the bills creates an alcohol enterprise. State taxes on alcohol have not been raised since 1980. Alcohol remains the number one drug of abuse, contributing to huge state healthcare costs. A proposed fund would dedicate support for prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery services.

Josh spoke about the rates of alcohol use disorder among physicians and others in the healthcare field, which he said is higher than average. A lot of work needs to be done to

educate providers regarding patient alcohol treatment and the issue of alcohol use disorder within the healthcare field.

Shayna Micucci, Program Manager for the Benzodiazepine Action Work Group, provided an update of the current education modules related to benzodiazepines. The work group has been collaborating with Jet Marketing. Jet has developed an outreach campaign directed toward providers across the state. For additional information: Shayna.micucci@cuanschutz.edu

2024 Spring Lunch & Learn Schedule (COSAM & Consortium):

The work group is hosting a series of educational sessions beginning on May 15th. Sessions will be held from 12 to 1 p.m.

- May 15 – Diagnosis and Management of Infections Associated with Substance Use Disorders and Related Behaviors
- May 22 – MOUD Part 1: All About MOUD
- May 29 – MOUD Part 2: A Spirited Debate – Methadone Regulatory Reform through the MOTAA Bill
- June 5 – Pharmacy-Based Buprenorphine Initiation: A Care Model for Marginalized People
- June 12 – Overview of New and Emerging Drugs
- June 19 – Overview of Updated CDC Guidelines
- June 26 – Management of the Perinatal Patient with Substance Use Disorders

Registration will be available in April on the Provider Education webpage.

Josh said that COSAM is very interested in sharing and promoting information about medications and the effectiveness of medications for opioid use disorder. He explained how they would be participating in the education modules.

The American Society of Addiction Medicine has been promoting the MOTAA bill, while the American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence has taken an opposing position.

The topic of new and emerging drugs will likely be led by someone from the Rocky Mountain Poison Control Center. Don Teeter will provide an overview of the CDC guidelines on June 26th. Kaylin Klie, work group co-chair, will conduct the June 26th session pertaining to perinatal patients. Other presenters are pending.

Learning Management System Update (Jessica Eaddy):

Currently, all of the education modules are hosted online on the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center website, which is now undergoing changes. Therefore, the work group is seeking a new learning management system. Jessica asked for participant feedback.

Lindsey Simbeye mentioned that Kajabi might be worth exploring. Kajabi can be accessed online or via a phone app. <https://kajabi.com/>

Other Business/Events:

New: [Benzodiazepine Induced Neurological Dysfunction](#)

[Pain Management for Dental Providers](#) modules.

Eastern Plains Symposium on Addiction – June 6th

Colorado Pain Society & Colorado Consortium Pain Conference – October 2024

Before adjourning, work group members discussed potential educational session speakers and how LinkedIn might be utilized for disseminating information about education modules.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2024 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Attachment: Work group roster, Rural Addiction Care Symposium flyer