

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Harm Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2022 via Zoom

#### **Participants:**

Mike Nerenberg, MD, and Sam Bourdon, Co-chairs  
Christine Zeitvogel, Pueblo County LEAD  
Georgia Babatsikos, Boulder County Public Health  
Jane McCulloch, Colorado Health Network  
Christine LaRocca, Telligen  
Sarah Money, Southern Colorado Health Network  
Becky Milanski, Recovery Café Longmont  
Laurie Konsella, Health & Human Services  
Laura Goldberg, Emergent BioSolutions  
Lorraine Hoover, Raymond Rountree Jr. Foundation  
UC School of Medicine: Arman Saeedi, Andrew Willis, Ann Mackey  
SLV AHEC: Charlotte Ledonne, Denise Lobato, Anita Martinez  
CDPHE: Megan Canon, Jericho Dorsey, Sophie Feffer, Robert McGoey  
Velocity BioGroup: Jen Kuper, Kala Roger  
Consortium Staff: Jose Esquibel, Susanna Cooper, Jessica Eaddy, Jen Place, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell  
**Absent:** See attached work group roster.

Co-Chair Sam Bourdon called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

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

#### **Interim Study Committee Update:**

Jose Esquibel provided background information about the Interim Study Committee, which was formed in 2017 to facilitate policy-level discussions between legislators and subject matter experts. The ISC will be convening in late July. Sen. Brittany Pettersen and Rep. Chris Kennedy are co-chairs of the committee. Jose asked work group members to consider harm reduction policies they would like to discuss with legislators during committee meetings, including harm reduction policies currently in place that are working well, what can be improved, and funding requirements. While the focus should be on state policy, the state legislators could present suggestions to federal delegates.

Sam said the work group would discuss this further during upcoming work group meetings and asked meeting participants to suggest potential ISC talking points (copy of the list of suggestions attached to minutes).

Link to LucidChart to add comments: [https://lucid.app/lucidchart/88c857e1-24ed-4d2d-82f6-32513d19bb9f/edit?invitationId=inv\\_7399c5ef-dfd8-44e6-ba6e-e252caf4d1df](https://lucid.app/lucidchart/88c857e1-24ed-4d2d-82f6-32513d19bb9f/edit?invitationId=inv_7399c5ef-dfd8-44e6-ba6e-e252caf4d1df)

Mike Nerenberg mentioned the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, which he indicated should apply to patients with substance use disorders seeking treatment in ERs.

<https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Legislation/EMTALA>

Sam mentioned California suboxone case studies. She said she would try to obtain more information.

### **Fentanyl Public Awareness Campaign:**

Susanna Cooper and Michael Davidson spoke about a public awareness collaboration between the Harm Reduction and Public Awareness Work Groups that will focus on fentanyl. The Consortium plans to develop a fentanyl overdose prevention campaign beginning this summer which will target adults from 18 to the early 40s. In the future, the campaign could be directed towards high and middle school students. The Research Triangle Institute (RTI) will be assisting with the campaign by providing analyses of Colorado overdose data and message testing.

Michael discussed the campaign timeline and other stakeholders involved in developing ideas and implementing the campaign (local health departments, nonprofits, state agencies). Susanna said she and Michael are researching similar efforts in other states. Work group members were invited to participate in focus groups, suggest audience targets, and also let Michael and Susanna know if they are aware of other similar campaigns.

Mike Nerenberg suggested Lisa Raville as a source of information. He also mentioned that the target audience is hard to reach, as they may not watch TV, read newspapers, or participate in social media. Michael suggested that other means of communication would be explored, such as bus ads.

Sarah Money said she would like to participate in the campaign. She brought up the importance of fentanyl test strips. She pointed out that there are individuals who actually want and prefer fentanyl and questioned how those individuals might be educated on how to use fentanyl safely. Christine LaRocca, with Telligen, also offered assistance.

Michael said there are different ways to reach the broad spectrum of individuals using fentanyl, i.e., those who do not know that fentanyl is in drugs they are taking and others who specifically want to use fentanyl.

The work group discussed other illicit substances that do not respond to Narcan. This issue will be included in the current research being done.

Michael reviewed the CDC branded assets, which can be used by other organizations. The material is directed to 18 to 24-year olds. Links to other resources are available. The DEA has resources and materials available (One Pill Can Kill campaign). For information on obtaining materials, email: [michael.davidson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:michael.davidson@cuanschutz.edu) or [susanna.Cooper@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:susanna.Cooper@cuanschutz.edu).

### **Other Member Updates:**

Sophie Feffer, CDPHE, provided information regarding her background and willingness to provide assistance. Email: [sophie.feffer@state.co.us](mailto:sophie.feffer@state.co.us)

Jen Kuper, Director, Government Alliances at Hikma Community Health. They manufacture Kloxxado, the 8 mg naloxone nasal spray. There will be a Kloxxado webinar on March 18<sup>th</sup> from 10–11:30 a.m. To register:

[https://ucdenver.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEIcemsrj4vH92IPFOn\\_ueRv4yC6giH8wmT](https://ucdenver.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEIcemsrj4vH92IPFOn_ueRv4yC6giH8wmT)

Susanna said progress is being made regarding syringe access on mobile health units. The program will be supported by MAT expansion funds. Anyone interested in joining a subcommittee to help with this effort should email [susanna.cooper@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:susanna.cooper@cuanschutz.edu).

Rob McGoey, the new Viral Hepatitis Prevention Coordinator at CDPHE, provided information regarding his hepatitis testing background and work in MAT clinics.

Jen Place said the Consortium Treatment Work Group discussed the connection between treatment and harm reduction at their January meeting. CU Arts now has a naloxone vending machine in their lobby.

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 from 1–2:30 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, List of comments/suggestions

### **Selected Chat Comments and Links:**

Sarah Money: In Pueblo, we have actually provided test strips to a few local smoke shops and it's been very successful.

Jessica Eaddy: Rural Successes - Gunnison and Custer both have implemented Narcan in all public AEDs across all county buildings

Laura Goldberg: There are several MAT providers that will do teleservices and continue upon release. There has been success before; however, there is a big issue with malpractice insurance not covering providers for any type of corrections or jail services.

Denise Lobato: SLV AHEC has implemented Case Advocates in the Costilla and Saguache County jails. CA's provide MAT education, Narcan, and case advocacy services to inmates.

Laura Goldberg: The makers of Suboxone and Sublocade now have a government affairs person in Colorado. I also have a list of actual practicing MAT providers vs. what is listed on the SAMSHA website. Check out the King County website Washington State -- great fentanyl resources and many languages.

Sophie Feffer: This campaign is about naloxone, but includes a useful template

<https://harmreduction.org/our-work/action/know-overdose-campaign/>

My #1 favorite campaign from Oslo: <https://saferdrugpolicies.com/harmreductioncampaign>

Christine LaRocca: <https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/news/opioid-overdose-deaths-54-2020-fentanyl-fatalities-spike>

Link to the recent KUNC interview with Sam Bourdon on harm reduction:  
<https://www.kunc.org/show/kuncs-colorado-edition/2022-03-07/how-the-pandemic-has-worsened-colorados-part-in-americas-overdose-death-epidemic>

