

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Misuse Prevention

Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026 via Zoom

**The meeting discussion is for informational purposes only and does not represent the position of the University of Colorado.*

Present:

Sunny Linnebur and Becca Barnhart, Co-chairs
Aminta Bhutani, Drug Enforcement Administration
CDPHE: Rayna Oliker, Jericho Dorsey
Consortium: Hilary Bryant, Jessica Eaddy, Shayna Micucci, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached list.

Program Manager Hilary Bryant called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. and provided a brief review of the Consortium's work.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

CDPHE Update: Colorado Household Medication and Sharps Takeback Program (Rayna Oliker):

Rayna has been Manager of Green Business and Environmental Assistance in CDPHE's Department of Environmental Health & Sustainability for the past five years. The unit is a state-appointed task force overseeing the overdose response strategy.

- The program includes the Colorado Green Business Network, which provides technical assistance to several hundred businesses of various sizes and sectors.
- Rayna reviewed staff members and their responsibilities.
- Rayna, Holly Pummell, and Konrad Schlarbaum are responsible for the medication and sharps takeback program.
- The mail-back part of the sharps program was discontinued in 2025 due to a poor return rate and high disposal costs.
- Currently, there are 175 medication takeback kiosks in the state (80% of communities -- see map in presentation).
- The collection rate has been increasing steadily, with a large volume from collected from medical centers.
- There are 22 sharps collection locations (mapping is in progress). Sharps collection volume also appears to be increasing.
- The CDPHE medication and sharps website was recently updated and includes a Q & A. <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/dehs/medication-sharps-take-back>

Program funding and expansion were discussed, including increases in vendor costs and funding limitations. Work group members also spoke about the financial and environmental costs related to medication incineration, underperforming medication collection locations, efforts to educate the public, and collaborating with DEA takeback events.

Hilary mentioned that a future work group meeting might include employees or leadership from state wastewater facilities to discuss impacts on water quality.

Sunny was recently interviewed about safe disposal. The interview appeared in the campus newsletter and on LinkedIn.

Do At-Home Drug Disposal Systems Really Work for Opioids and Other Medicines? Sunny Linnebur interview: <https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/do-at-home-drug-disposal-systems-really-work-for-opioids-and-other-medicines>

Safe Syringe Disposal Flyer:

Becca previewed the new syringe disposal flyer. A copy is attached to the minutes. The flyer will be distributed at DEA takeback sites as well as state-sponsored collection sites. A digital version will also be available for communities to print and distribute.

Hilary and Becca recently researched legislation related to sharps disposal and found that the current disposal recommendation is to discard sharps in a puncture-proof bottle rather than incineration.

Discussion:

Other topics discussed included lockboxes (expensive and a storage issue). Shayna Micucci asked about funding that might be available for lockboxes in conjunction with safety concerns, i.e., suicides, child access. Becca mentioned grants that are safety issue specific.

Sunny commented on previous efforts to educate Colorado veterinary groups about safe disposal. This effort is ongoing. Rayna said she would note the veterinary demographic for her CDPHE program.

When Jessica Eaddy was a member of the external relations team, she would visit the medication collection locations in each county. Many of the rural counties have very low collections. Rayna said her staff is planning to contact underperforming sites. She asked Jessica to email her if she had suggestions for counties to contact.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon via Zoom.

Attachments: Work group roster, syringe disposal flyer

Links posted in the Chat: MediClip Sharps Storage-Syringe Clip and Storage Container: <https://medicool.com/products/medi-clip-syringe-clip-and-storage?variant=51651252683117>

Chewy to Acquire Modern Animal Accelerating Evolution to a Fully Integrated Healthcare Ecosystem: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20260408567488/en/Chewy-to-Acquire-Modern-Animal-Accelerating-Evolution-to-a-Fully-Integrated-Healthcare-Ecosystem>