

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Harm Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022 via Zoom

#### **Participants:**

Mike Nerenberg, MD, and Sam Bourdon, Co-chairs

Chris Stock, Pharmacist

Christine Zeitvogel, Pueblo County LEAD

Georgia Babatsikos, Boulder County Public Health

Kala Roger, Hikma Community Health

Christine LaRocca, Telligen

Jamey Garmon, Northern Colorado Health Network

Cleary Wunder, SWCAHEC

Kimberly Santos Avilés, Salud Family Health

Melissa Chizmar, Southern Colorado Health Network (Colorado Springs)

Sara Gallo, Care on Location

Julia Deziel, Jefferson County Public Health

Katie Carnett, Safeway/Albertsons

CDPHE: Sophie Feffer, Robert McGoey

Consortium Staff: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, 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 March 2022 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

#### **Legislative Update (Jose Esquibel):**

Jose provided an update on the modifications to HB22-1326, which include the provision of fentanyl test strips, removal of the word “knowingly” in reference to a fentanyl possession felony, limiting possession of any illicit substance to one gram, and immunity protection. Harm reduction measures recommended by the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force were also included in this legislation. The bill allocates \$20 million for the naloxone bulk fund. Application eligibility has been expanded and includes pharmacies. Given current fund utilization, it is estimated that current funds will last approximately one year.

Jose spoke about the importance of utilizing donated naloxone supplies for those in need, providing education on the use of fentanyl test strips, and assisting organizations with grant applications related to harm reduction efforts. The Interim Study Committee meetings planned for the summer may be postponed to some time in 2023; however, this will not interfere with efforts to continue providing policy recommendations to legislators.

Link to 5-6-2022 HB22-1326 revisions:

[https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a\\_1326\\_rer.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2022A/bills/2022a_1326_rer.pdf)

### Comments:

- It is important to increase awareness of the Good Samaritan law. Help those affected by substance use advocate for themselves.
- Do Not Prosecute form used by the Harm Reduction Action Center provided by Sophie Feffer: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWQBudZckfugs-8PS10qkAtUkgBz1r7QfD8jm34bxWImelxQ/viewform?fbzx=-6835318686811803292>
- Prioritize individuals working with syringe access programs for naloxone access
- Legalities related to drug paraphernalia.
- “Colorado Sun” article related to current legislative session: <https://coloradosun.com/2022/05/10/colorado-capitol-stalled-2022/>

Work group members discussed the work and recommendations of the Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking: Link to Commission Final Report 2-2022:

<https://legislativeanalysis.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Commission-on-Combating-Synthetic-Opioid-Trafficking-Final-Report.pdf>

Discussion also included the recent report pertaining to the Office of National Drug Control Policy FY 2023 budget submission. ONDCP is requesting a total of \$450,510,000. This request includes \$22,340,000 for Salaries and Expenses (S&E) account; \$134,670,000 for the Other Federal Drug Control Programs (OFDCP) account; and \$293,500,000 for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) account.

Link: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/FY-2023-ONDCP-CONGRESSIONAL-BUDGET-SUBMISSION.pdf>

### **Interim Study Committee – Interactive Brainstorming:**

Sam Bourdon provided the following link for meeting participant suggestions. A copy of participants suggestions is attached to the minutes. The chart is divided into high impact/high feasibility, low impact/low feasibility sections. Sam will be contacting work group members to determine their interest in working on the suggested recommendations.

[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)

### Comments:

- Focus on harm reduction activities currently in place.
- Better ways to measure the impact of harm reduction efforts to reduce fentanyl overdose deaths that are independent from law enforcement measures.
- Define regional priority differences.

## **Fentanyl Awareness Campaign Qualitative Research & Open Discussion (Susanna Cooper and Michael Davidson):**

The fentanyl campaign will be launched on Overdose Awareness Day, August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Consortium is working with Amelie, a Denver-based ad agency. Susanna asked work group members to provide input regarding the target audience, key messaging, and media planning. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

### **Comments:**

- Concerts (with tables set up) have had a high level of success.
- Festivals/concerts/summer events.
- Social media (Instagram specifically) is great for 18-25 year olds, but for everyone else concerts are a great idea.
- Posters at schools, coffee shops, main streets.
- QR codes for many. Boulder County Public Health has a video explaining overdose reversal that could be used on a QR code. Video link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=bUtYpbdUSus>
- Many individuals may not have access to a phone.
- Target bar/restaurant staff and theater/venue staff for OD Prevention/FTS training.
- Provide resources to the hospitality staff in bars staying open late.
- Bar bathrooms, venue bathrooms, anywhere people are waiting in line.
- Test strips and paraphernalia laws.
- Don't use substances while alone.
- There are broad categories that could potentially be grouped together, such as education (youth, providers), supplies/products (FTS, vending machines, smoking equipment). Suggest selecting one item from each category.
- Providing information with fentanyl test strips could definitely be helpful because of the potential for user error. How to Test for Drugs Using Fentanyl Test Strips:  
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/basas/fentanyl-test-strips-brochure.pdf>
- Add information about fentanyl test strip usage to OpiRescue app.
- Fentanyl is naloxone resistant. Clarify the difference in overdose timeline between fentanyl and other opioids.
- The touching fentanyl myth has been a big issue in Jeffco schools. There's also a huge fear among Jeffco parents and children that people might have fentanyl-laced marijuana and nicotine devices.
- There was one confirmed case of fentanyl-laced marijuana in Ohio. There have not been any reported cases in Colorado.
- Fentanyl-laced vape pens are terrifying people in Colorado Springs; Southern Colorado Health Network is working to correct this.
- Kloxxado was recently presented by a pharmaceutical company as better than Narcan to the Boulder County local group. There are concerns about the pressure to use Kloxxado instead of Narcan (Kloxxado is 8mg, Narcan 4) and pushing people into withdrawal unnecessarily.
- What are SSPs hearing from participants (surmise smoking access is huge).
- Bubble pipes are high demand.
- JCPH has many requests for glassware every day.
- Promote harm reduction and other education efforts among providers.

Additional campaign comments can be emailed directly to Susanna:  
[susanna.cooper@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:susanna.cooper@cuanschutz.edu)

Michael asked participants about the kinds of communication assets and resources they would consider useful (wallet cards, brochures, online information, etc.). Suggestions can be emailed to Michael: [Michael.davidson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Michael.davidson@cuanschutz.edu). Sophie suggested that official logos might not work for the targeted population and that information disseminated should not engender fear.

### **Work Group Member Updates:**

Jessica Eaddy said that she will be conducting naloxone training at the Boulder and Fox theaters and will be referring participants to Boulder Works for fentanyl test strips and drug checking supplies. She will also be disseminating harm reduction information and supplies at FIBArk and Paddlefest in Chaffee County as well as the Bear Dance for Southern Ute.

Georgia Babatsikos said Boulder County Public Health has a presentation they have been providing for professionals for more than a year. It focuses on harm reduction, overdose prevention, and personal stories about Narcan and recovery.

Melissa Chizmar said Corri Mercy, Lead Prevention Services Coordinator for the Southern Colorado Health Network, is presenting on harm reduction and their fentanyl test strip/Narcan distribution program, Love Alive, at the National Multiple Pathways to Recovery Conference on May 12<sup>th</sup> in Colorado Springs. She is also co-hosting a presentation to faith communities on harm reduction. The Colorado Health Network is currently surveying participants regarding the placement of a Narcan/FTS vending machine.

CDPHE Fentanyl Test Strip Program: Thirty thousand fentanyl test strips have been ordered and will be distributed to a number of entities including school districts, homeless service providers, court services, etc. Eligibility will be expanded. SAMHSA has provided funding.

Jessica Eaddy said that she and Lindsey Simbeye have been receiving requests to speak about fentanyl to middle and high school students. They have also had requests pertaining to naloxone supplies in schools.

May 10<sup>th</sup> is Fentanyl Awareness Day.

Rob McGoey said CDPHE is working on a Viral Hepatitis Elimination Plan. If any work group members are interested in assisting, contact Rob: [robert.mcgoey@state.co.us](mailto:robert.mcgoey@state.co.us) The first virtual meeting will be held on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from Noon to 1:30 p.m.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 from 1–2:30 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, copy of work group participant brainstorming comments