

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022 – via Zoom

**Present:**

Sunny Linnebur and Lynette Myers, Co-chairs

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Maria Bertino, Youth Advocate Programs

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

**Absent:** See attached list.

Co-Chair Lynette Myers called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

**Sharps Collection Program:**

Ten additional sharps collection sites will be added beginning in July when the new collector (Healthcare Medical Waste Services) begins servicing kiosks. The previous contractor's collection range was very limited. The mail back program will continue to be monitored. No expansion is planned at this time.

The work group continued discussing the placement of sharps containers on mobile MAT units. Brianna Hurd is in charge of the mobile MAT unit program at OBH. Gina Olberding and Susanna Cooper will speak further with Lynette regarding this subject. Jessica Eaddy suggested other mobile health units might have a need.

Work group participants discussed the issues and types of signage on kiosks in locations that have a high homeless population (such as Dorchester Park). It was suggested that trash containers be placed next to sharps kiosks. In addition, pickups could be increased if overflow continues. Lynette explained that program participants can pick their own kiosk color and that most select green. The Colorado Needle Disposal sign is located on the front of the kiosk. There was community pushback for the red color. Sunny suggested using the terminology "sharps/needles" on signs in English and Spanish.

Gina Olberding suggested partner marketing efforts. Lynette agreed that outreach would be helpful, although the kiosks are not intended for the general public.

Michael asked about the types of outreach materials that might be required. Lynette said she will meet with current partners to discuss outreach. She said some organizations are nonprofit drug rehab organizations that also collect sharps.

### **Medication Take-Back Program:**

March collections were the highest reported. There are now 177 sites. Twelve kiosks were added in the past few months, with additional requests from pharmacies. Lynette has been visiting each site. Issues have been identified (work orders not filled out correctly, for example). This may be due to employee turnover and training issues. Some sites have zero collections and may be relocated to other areas once need is determined. The marketing firm SE2 has been hired to conduct a communications campaign based on data collection. Community outreach material may be developed. SE2 will be participating in future work group meetings. Lynette acknowledged the communication campaign assistance provided by Michael Davidson over the past year.

### **Consortium Update:**

Michael gave an update of the recent DEA Take-Back held on campus. The campus site collection was quite successful, with 85 pounds of medication collected. Both campus police and students assisted with the take-back. Dr. Peter Wright also assisted. Michael said there was a request to collect unexpired medications for possible donation; however, it is not legal to recycle medication (per Sunny). Some nursing homes are exempt as they are able to establish a chain of custody.

### **DEA Take-Back Update:**

Aminta Bhutani reported that 724,082 pounds of medications were collected nationally, with 10,000 pounds collected in Colorado.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m. The next work group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12, 2022 from 10-11:30 a.m. Due to co-chair scheduling conflicts, the September and November work group meetings will be rescheduled.

Attachments: Work group roster, Medication Take-Back & Sharps Collection Program Reports