Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Harm Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021 via Zoom

Attendees:
Mike Nerenberg, MD, Co-chair
Sam Bourdon, Co-chair, CDPHE
Susanna Velie, Christlife Ministries
Denise Lobato, SLV Area Health Education Center
Laurrie Lorenzo, Pharmacist
Christine Zeitvogel, Pueblo County
Nancy Steinfurth, Vivent Health
Norma Portnoy, Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group
CDPHE: Megan Canon, Erin Flynn
Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association: K.J. Bergfalk, Keaton Sheagley
Holly Allen, Hilltop Family Resource Center
Nicole Wagner, CU Anschutz
AmeriCorps: Marlee Yost-Wolf, Julia Deziel,
Kailey Meardon, Southeast Health Group
Liz Burnham
Consortium Staff: Gina Olberding, Jessica Eaddy, Susanna Cooper, Jamie Feld, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell
Absent: See attached listing.

Co-Chair Sam Bourdon called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the March 2020 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Vending Machine Naloxone Distribution for Young Adults (Presentation by Nicole Wagner):

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. The vending machine is a stand-alone unit available 23/7. The unit contains syringe exchange and hygiene kits as well as fentanyl strips, naloxone, and other health related items. Nicole covered the history of this type of vending machine and the current program in the State of Nevada. She addressed the goals of the pilot program as well as implementation barriers.

Questions/Comments:

- The vending machines require electricity.
- Cards may be used to access the machines (which could affect the 24/7 availability).

- In Nevada there have been no cases of vandalism, but this concern would be part of the overall program evaluation.
- Online QR codes could be used to prevent access by children.
- Jessica Eaddy is available to discuss locations in her region: Jessica.eaddy@cuanschutz.edu
- Megan Canon offered connections to syringe access programs statewide:
- Megan.canon@state.co.us
- Liz Burnham said the Boulder County needle exchange program hopes to install a harm reduction vending machine of their own with the help of the Jefferson County team. They would like to put it somewhere in the more rural mountain communities of Boulder County.
- Gina Olberding suggested community colleges or places where students congregate.
- Jessica Eaddy said she could contact rural Adams State, Fort Lewis, and Western University.
- Dr. Mike suggested adding OpiRescue information within the machine as well as information about other services available in the area.
- Sam Bourdon suggested collaboration with safe disposal.
- Laurrie Lorenzo said that Regis is putting up a homeless encampment on one of their parking lots this year for a one-year trial and that she could put Nicole in touch with individuals who might be able to help with tracking. laurriej@aol.com

Legislative Updates:

Gina Olberding provided an update on the following bills:
SB 21-137 Behavioral Health Recovery Act. Link: https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-137
The bill includes funding for harm reduction programs, include MAT expansion.

HB 21-1276 Prevention of Substance Use Disorders. Link: https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1276. This bill includes funding for benzodiazepine related disorders.

The American Rescue Plan Act.
Link: https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text
This Act includes federal funding that will be available for state programs.

Senator Pettersen's aide, Paul Brink, is in charge of stakeholder meetings. Email: sd22staff@gmail.com

2021 Project Proposals:

- Increase statewide testing and treatment of viral hepatitis (partnership with Vivent Health)
- Faith-based community collaboration
- Presentations on stigma reduction for rural partners
- Partner with Consortium Criminal Justice Response Work Group (adulterated substances)
- Partner with dispensaries statewide to distribute fentanyl test strips
- Prepare work group members to testify before the Interim Study Committee
- Data collection for overdose prevention sites, syringe programs, and the costs associated with the current criminal justice system.

Member Updates:

Jessica Eaddy said that Durango is interested in starting a harm reduction and syringe access program. Tonya Wheeler is opening a recovery community organization that offers syringe access and overdose prevention services.

Denise Lobato, SLV AHEC, said their harm reduction syringe exchange program was started three years ago. They also opened a program in Del Norte last year. They are planning to open their third site in Saguache County and an additional fourth site in the San Luis Valley at some future date.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 from 1–2 p.m.

Attachments:

Vending Machine Naloxone Distribution for Young Adults Presentation
Work group roster