

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2021 – via Zoom

Present:

Sunny Linnebur, Co-chair, School of Pharmacy

Lynette Myers, Co-chair, CDPHE

Megan Canon, CDPHE

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Beverly Hanstrom, Colorado Medical Waste

Consortium: Tyler Payne, Susanna Cooper, Jamie Feld, Lindsey Simbeye, 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 March 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Sharps Collection & Household Medication Take-back Programs:

Lynette reviewed March collections. 65 pounds of sharps were collected. There are 10 kiosks located in Denver, Colorado Springs, Aurora, Fort Collins, and Westminster. Another kiosk will be installed in Commerce City. Kiosk safety remains a concern.

The sharps program is slowly progressing. One of the challenges is finding a location that meets the program's requirements. The goal is to locate kiosks along the front range, not only the Denver and Aurora areas. One of the largest collection kiosks is located with the Fire Department. Lynette asked work group members to let her know if they can suggest any organizations willing to accept a kiosk.

Lynette reported that household medications collected in February are finally reaching pre-COVID levels (4,741 pounds collected). Plans are to add a kiosk in all locations with populations of 1,000 or more. A contact has also been made with the Ute Tribe for a potential sharps mailback program for tribe seniors.

A discussion was held regarding the public service announcements that aired in the northwest rural areas. Lindsey Simbeye assisted with the broadcast bookings. Announcements aired the week before DEA Take-Back Day. Lindsey is also working on added-value ads (matching ads). There was an increase in medications collected; however, this may or may not be connected to the promotional ads.

DEA Collection Event – April 24, 2021:

A total of 16,264 pounds of medications were collected by 57 participating police departments.

Aminta Bhuntani said there was greater participation this year, particularly in rural areas.

Work group members discussed the challenges associated with medication collections, including transfer to the DEA. Once medications are collected, they are considered contraband, not household waste, and this prevents the medication from being transferred. Once kiosks are placed in a location, they cannot be moved for a collection event. Lynette will do more research into this issue.

Michael Davidson mentioned the event organized by University of Colorado students with local law enforcement (Aurora) to set up a collection event at a retirement community. Disposing of collections once they are collected can be an issue. Aminta mentioned that 50 pounds or less of medications can be mailed to the DEA. Sunny Linnebur said that the university also has their own collection event, which involves university law enforcement and is located adjacent to Building 500.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m. The next work group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 13, 2021 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Attachments:

Sharps and Take-Back Program Updates
Work Group Roster