

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Harm Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024 via Zoom

Participants:

Sam Bourdon Co-Chair
Amy Walker, Hard Beauty
Christine Zeitvogel, Pueblo County
Cloe Wells, Community Medical Services
Elicia Chacon, Arapahoe County Public Health
Ellen Velez, Adams County Health Department
Erik Plate, Advocates Crisis Trauma Survivor Services
Izzy Pike, Colorado Health Network
Kelsey Compton, DU Health Promotion Team
Kimberly Santos Aviles, Salud Family Health Centers
Laura Goldberg, Emergent BioSolutions
Laurie Konsella, Health & Human Services
Lindsey Simbeye, Velocity Biogroup/Hikma
Melissa Chizmar, Southern Colorado Health Network
Sarah Money, Southern Colorado Health Network
Sierra Roe, La Plata County Public Health
Toni Gauthierdickey, Community Member
CDPHE: Cody Brown, Elisabeth Walker, Haley Klein, Jericho Dorsey, Lindsey Heldt-Werle, Rob McGoey, Teresa Will, Sarah Sohlberg
Consortium: Gina Olberding, Jessica Eaddy, Hilary Bryant, Michael Davidson, Teresa Cantwell

Absent: See attached work group roster.

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 2024 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Presentation: CDPHE Office of STI/HIV/Viral Hepatitis - Data Collection for Syringe Access Programs (SAPs) (Elisabeth Walker, Sarah Sohlberg, Lindsey Heldt-Werle:

The purpose of the presentation was to obtain survey feedback that will inform changes in data collection. A link to the survey is included in the presentation (copy attached to the minutes). Additional feedback will be obtained from SAPs and other interested parties. Meeting participants were asked to share the survey with their respective networks.

Presentation highlights:

- The goals of the syringe access program evaluation efforts are to demonstrate the impact of programming, identify and address disparities in staff access and outcomes, understand emerging needs of program participants, and inform future strategies in areas of program focus. Focused data collection is needed to achieve these goals.
- Data collection in SAPs has historically been difficult to obtain. The changes are intended to improve data quality.

- The data collection changes that will apply to SAPs funded either as sub-recipients of CDPHE grants or as direct recipients of CDPHE's Colorado HIV and AIDS Prevention Grant Program (CHAPP) grants.
- Currently, the high level of data collection and analysis presents a burden to staff and clients. Challenges exist with data quality and completion.
- In order to improve data quality, routine client level data collection requirements will be removed and will be replaced by point-in-time client surveys per program twice annually in order to capture demographics, service, utilization, and injection practices.
- The State of New Mexico changed from client-level intake data to point-in-time data surveys, which resulted in a doubling of their SAP interactions. The number of clients also increased.
- The survey is anonymous and will be available in English and Spanish for all SAP sites

The draft survey was reviewed for meeting participants. Several participant comments were noted:

- Melissa Chizmar: Capture all site visits across the state versus a specific SAP.
- Laurie Konsella: Pregnancy testing could be done at the same time as other Tests, followed by a referral to prenatal care.
- Sierra Roe: Ask the sharing syringes question in general terms. If people don't have barriers, they can report it; if they do, then they can say it without being asked. There is a lot of shame related to how needles are used. I like the wording of the first question "that might have been used by someone else" or "In the past 30 days, have you used a syringe to inject or divide drugs that have been used by another person?"
- Melissa Chizmar: A more direct way to get the answer to the syringe question could be by asking "how do you feel about the current distribution ratio for syringes and smoking equipment?" This would be less intimidating.
- Sierra Roe: We used to ask many more personal questions. We now ask for a preferred name and birth year.

Other comments were noted in the meeting chat (see below).

For additional information regarding the presentation and survey:

Elisabeth Meyer: elisabeth.meyer@state.co.us

Sarah Sohlberg: sarah.sohlberg@state.co.us

Lindsey Heldt-Werle: lindsey.heldt-werle@state.co.us

Pueblo Ordinance Update:

Pueblo's City Council voted on Monday, May 13th to ban syringe access exchanges within city limits. Many clinicians, organizations, and community members either wrote letters or appeared before the council to express their support for SAPs, including the Southern Colorado Health Network and the Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association. Despite much support, the council voted to discontinue the SAPs. Sarah Money attended the council session and said she would be glad to answer any questions. Email: Sarah.Money@coloradohealthnetwork.org

Jessica Eaddy said the work group plans to convene a small, informal, working group to discuss next steps. Any work group members interested in joining can email Jessica: Jessica.eaddy@cuanschutz.edu

Council meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the city council website: <https://www.pueblo.us/86/City-Council>

Information is also available on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofPueblo>

News coverage: <https://www.chieftain.com/story/news/2024/05/14/why-pueblo-city-council-is-banning-needle-exchanges/73677226007/>

Member Updates:

Cloe Wells, Community Medical Services: Their Aurora clinic now has a health supply kiosk with supplies, including naloxone (nasal and injectable) and fentanyl and xylazine test strips available at no cost. Address and hours of operation: Community Medical Services, 14300 E Exposition Avenue, Aurora, CO 80012. Hours from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

Jericho Dorsey, CDPHE: CDPHE will be offering monthly naloxone training. The first session is scheduled for May 31st at 11 a.m. Registration link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcuYvqTsuGd3AJ-wWEde6yZ07O-4aKINR#/registration>

Announcements:

Work group co-chair Sam Bourdon is stepping down as co-chair and announced that today's meeting would be her last. She will continue as a work group member. Jessica Eaddy recognized Sam for her leadership and contributions to the Consortium's work.

The work group will be seeking a state agency co-chair to fill Sam's position. Interested parties should contact Jessica.eaddy@cuanschutz.edu

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Attachments: Work group roster, CDPHE presentation

Chat Comments:

- Sierra Roe: I think an availability question might help get a better idea. For example, there is one SAP in my area and the next closest is 4 hours away.
- Laurie Konsella: Maybe add a question about how often you would like to visit one since some programs aren't open every day.
- Melissa Chizmar: Separating disposal and p/u perhaps?
- Rob McGoey: Viral hep or HCV education included with HIV/STI education.
- Laurie Konsella: Is there a referral question? For example, tested positive for syphilis so here is where to go for treatment. Pregnancy testing?

- Elicia Chacon: I think adding non-injection supplies could be useful, i.e., smoking supplies, snorting kits, etc.
- Rob McGoey: Perhaps safer injecting/wound care education, vaccination.
- Laurie Konsella: I am still thinking about the pregnancy test question and prenatal care.
- Haley Klein: Depends on the organization, but I don't know a SAP that offers pregnancy testing -- definitely referrals to sexual help though.
- Kimberly Santos Aviles: Return to use instead of reuse.
- Melissa Chizmar: Replying to "I don't know if you..." Good to specify since ketamine is also called tranq.
- Teresa Will: Do you want to address mixing on this survey?
- Sierra Roe: I don't ask about psychedelics, but I am wondering if I should because I've had multiple people report.
- Jessica Eaddy: It probably would be better to include everything and let people tell us versus leaving something out because we assumed no.
- Jessica Eaddy: It might be worth looking at the latest research edition of the ASI (Addiction Severity Index) for substance use and terms used.