

## **Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**

### Prescriber & Provider Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022 via Zoom

#### **Present:**

Josh Blum, MD, and Kaylin Klie, MD, Co-chairs  
Sharon Langendoerfer, MD, Retired Pediatrician  
Liz Grace, MD, CPEP  
Aminta Bhutani, DEA  
Joan Sheehan, Consultant  
Sabine Dordick, Sober AF Entertainment  
Andrea LaRew, Colorado Chiropractic Association  
Consortium: Susanna Cooper, Rosemarie MacDowell  
**Absent:** See attached list.

Co-chair, Josh Blum, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the March 2022 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Josh reviewed the March 2022 meeting minutes, including a summary of the fentanyl questionnaire for healthcare workers. Fifty-eight responses were received. Josh noted that many who prescribe buprenorphine do not necessarily test for fentanyl. Josh also reviewed the benzodiazepine lunch and learn sessions that were held in May by the Benzodiazepine Action Work Group.

#### **Benzodiazepine Lunch and Learn Series:**

Susanna Cooper said there has been an increase in requests for training related to benzodiazepine tapering. She asked work group members to let her know if their organizations have a need for provider training or would like to meet with any of the Benzodiazepine Action Work Group speakers. The Benzodiazepine Action Work Group is also in the process of developing a peer support training program.

PDF copies of the lunch and learn presentation slides will be emailed to work group members. All session recordings are available on the Consortium website: [corxconsortium.org/CME](http://corxconsortium.org/CME) The work group may also consider producing modules specific to benzodiazepine use and tapering.

Josh mentioned the nature of chronic benzodiazepine injury and the different patient experiences which might not require tapering if there is no indication of misuse. Susanna said this was discussed briefly during the sessions, particularly certain cases involving the elderly, patients with dementia, or end-of-life situations where palliative care is the focus. Susanna said she would follow up with Alexis regarding this topic as it relates to the general population.

Susanna mentioned that the presenters have had lived experience with the detrimental effects of benzodiazepines and thus may be biased towards their use. Josh suggested the focus might be on not starting new patients with chronic benzodiazepine use and sharing decision making for those who might be okay with continued use. Treatment should not be dictated by the worst experiences. Some patients have gone back to using benzodiazepines at lower levels, and they feel stable.

Susanna asked for member feedback regarding the Benzodiazepine Lunch and Learn, including whether there might be value in creating professional module recordings of the presentations.

Kaylin Klie said that she found the education sessions very helpful. She also commented on the lack of data available in this area.

#### **Marketing and Communications:**

Susanna said a portion of the work group budget will be spent on marketing and communications efforts that will be outsourced to a marketing firm. Marketing will include direct mailing to rural providers and a digital campaign. There will be a new webpage on the Consortium website pertaining to education and CMEs, which will appear in Google searches over time. Work group members discussed the timeline for launching the marketing program. Legislation has included funding for benzodiazepine education.

A new benzodiazepine prescribing module by Alexis Ritvo has recently been posted on the Consortium website.

The Evaluation Center is looking into additional opportunities for CME-related training as well as evaluating how current training can be improved.

The work group discussed the challenges in finding ways to assess the effectiveness of training related to opioid prescribing. Dr. Grace concurred that, short of doing chart reviews, the evaluation can be difficult. She mentioned that pre- and post-tests and surveys are not very effective. Her organization has utilized a knowledge self-assessment before and after interventions, which provides some data, but is not as objective.

Josh suggested the knowledge assessment might be useful for some of the educational offerings.

#### **Fall Symposium Planning:**

Josh reviewed past provider education symposia held prior to the Consortium annual meeting in October of each year. Most education sessions have been very well attended.

Josh, Kaylin, and Susanna have discussed the possibility of inviting several authors of books about substance use disorders who may be interested in speaking at the symposium.

Authors mentioned include:

- Maia Szalavitz "The Unbroken Brain" <https://maiasz.com/>
- Dr. Gabor Mate (provides excellent lectures on addiction and recovery)
- Patrick Radden Keefe "Empire of Pain"
- Josephine Jones, MA (local author) "Sane in Pain" [www.saininpain.com](http://www.saininpain.com)
- Dr. Louise Aronson "Elderhood"
- Alan Gordon, LCSW "The Way Out"

#### **Member Updates:**

Aminta Bhutani: 724,082 pounds of medications were collected nationally last month during the DEA Take-Back, with 14,000 pounds collected in Colorado. Aminta will look into a question about sublocade raised by Kaylin Klie. Kaylin asked if the DEA has any plans to provide additional guidance or specific education for providers who provide suppliance.

Sharon Langendoerfer: CHoSEN will be holding a virtual spring forum on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event will include a keynote presentation from the Illinois

Perinatal Quality Collaborative regarding the implementation of their Mothers and Newborns Affected by Opioids Neonatal Initiative.

Elizabeth Grace: The Center for Personalized Education for Professionals provides a number of services, including competency assessment, practice-based remediation, and other educational courses.

**Other Business:**

Work group members briefly discussed including issues specific to the elderly in future work. Susanna mentioned that Sunny Linnebur (Co-chair of the Safe Disposal Work Group) is a geriatric pharmacist.

Legislative updates will be discussed at the next work group meeting in July.

The Consortium CME page is active: <https://corxconsortium.org/campaigns/cme/> Susanna asked work group members to share the link with their colleagues.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:58 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2022 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Attachments: Work group roster, Benzodiazepine Slides