

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Treatment Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2024 via Zoom

#### **Present:**

Steve Young, MD, and Tyler Coyle, MD, Co-Chairs  
Amy Nichols, County Sheriffs of Colorado  
Andrea LaRew, Colorado Chiropractic Association  
Carl Anderson, Arapahoe County  
Clark McCoy, Porch Light Health  
Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Front Range Clinic  
Jane McCulloch, Colorado Health Network  
Jess Angleson, Community Member  
Luke Davis, CU Health  
Marie Archambault, Creative Treatment Options  
Meli Reumann, AllHealth Network  
Melissa Montoya, Behavioral Health Group  
M.J. Jorgensen, Northern Colorado Health Alliance  
Sarah Money, Access Point  
Shelley Marie, Health District of Northern Larimer County  
Steve Carleton, Front Range Clinic  
Teresa Cobleigh, The Herren Project  
Terri Schreiber, The Schreiber Research Group  
BHA: Becky Huckaby, Kelly Russell, Ryan Mueller, Kacy Behrend  
CDPHE: Terri Hurst, Rob McGoey  
Denver Health Center for Addiction Medicine: Brooke Bender, Emily Elrick  
HCPF: Hannah Hall, Merideth Davis, Michelle Cornett  
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Eric Barker, Kristin Carpenter, Teresa Cantwell

**Absent:** See attached roster.

Co-chair Tyler Coyle called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

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

#### **Jail-based Treatment Updates (HCPF, Denver Health, BHA):**

##### Hannah Hall – HCPF:

Because of federal policy, individuals cannot utilize their medical benefits while incarcerated. HCPF has asked to cover 90 days prior to release, including case management, MAT services, counseling, and a 30-day supply of all medications upon release.

HCPF submitted an amendment on April 1st for federal authority to start providing these services in state prisons and youth detention centers and indicated the intention to expand services within jails. Extending services in jails will likely take longer than state-run facilities. Continuous coverage for 12 months for individuals leaving the Department of Corrections has

also been requested, even if there are changes in income. This change should provide stability for individuals reintegrating into the community. HB24-1045 includes funding for reentry services.

#### Brooke Bender – Denver Health Center for Addiction Medicine:

Denver Health has received innovation grant funding for jail-based MAT services from the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council. Brooke introduced associates who are working with Denver Health on the program: M.J. Jorgensen, NCHA, and Emily Elrick, Denver Health Center for Addiction Medicine.

The Denver Health center opened in 2018. It functions as the administrative center to coordinate health services for individuals with substance use disorders. Services extend to jails and are also available in Denver Health's community clinics, emergency departments, and schools.

The center, which serves as a model for the prevention and treatment of substance use, has partnered with the Northern Colorado Health Alliance in a hub and spoke model arrangement. John Brooklyn, from the State of Vermont, helped organize the center. Brooke explained how the hub and spoke model functions to deliver services.

The center just launched a statewide assessment of all Colorado public health agencies to determine the possibility of extending the hub and spoke model by county and by Opioid Abatement Council regions. The assessment is being conducted in collaboration with NCHA, and will identify opportunities for future funding. Center staff will be available to provide technical assistance in the implementation of the hub and spoke locations across the state. Technical assistance would also include correctional care settings (mostly jails).

Brooke presented a one-page document outlining links to all the information and technical assistance capabilities they will have available. A training catalog (The Center for Addiction Medicine Academy) includes best practices and available courses offered virtually at no cost to correctional facilities. CNIs and CMEs are available.

Work group members were asked to provide feedback on the resource links and catalog and to share other information that could be included. Brooke asked members to recommend contacts they may have in Colorado counties. Center staff is collaborating with Jamie Feld, AG's Office, Allyson Gottsman, CU Anschutz, J.K. Costello, The Steadman Group, and Terry Schreiber, Schreiber Research Group. They will be meeting with the County Sheriffs of Colorado in the near future. Brooke thanked the Consortium staff for all of their assistance. For more information: [Brooke.Bender@dhha.org](mailto:Brooke.Bender@dhha.org)

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes and includes an invitation to the center's open house on Wednesday, May 29th.

#### Behavioral Health Administration:

Kelly Russell provided a brief BHA update. Funding for MAT in jails continues to be a significant issue. JBBS will be in 49 of 50 jails next year. Many of the smaller jails do not have sufficient staff to administer medications. BHA has addressed some of the existing gaps in services; however, funding continues to present a challenge since federal funds will cease in December.

Becky Huckaby added that BHA has been having issues getting all the jails on board as providers are finding legislation requirements confusing. BHA staff is working directly with jails to try to solve some of the issues.

Ryan Mueller updated members on methadone and opioid treatment centers. There are now 42 licensed OTPs serving 9,000 patients in the State of Colorado, a significant increase in the past year. Medicaid disenrollment is an issue. Over 20 percent of OTP clients lost benefits. BHA would like to see more OTP clinics in communities that lack treatment clinics. Additional centers are planned in Mesa County, Pueblo, and Colorado Springs. Ryan mentioned the recent decision by the City of Pueblo to ban syringe access programs within city limits.

#### Comments:

Jose Esquibel said prohibiting the banning of syringe access programs is not restricted by state statutes, but some protection should be provided in the future. Banning SAPs might be a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act or a Home Rule provision violation. He also raised concerns about communicating information on new Colorado laws to licensed providers.

Carl Anderson said Arapahoe County has had a full-service MAT program since 2018 and has developed strong community-based OTP partnerships. One of the barriers to treating the jail population is the inconsistency of jail-based MAT services in the state.

#### **Consortium Announcements:**

Treatment Bill HB24-1045 passed and awaiting signature

Communications survey – Consortium members were asked to complete the survey as soon as possible: <https://ucdenverdata.formstack.com/forms/corxcomms2024>

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, July 25, 2024 from 12 to 1 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, Denver Health presentation