

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Affected Families & Friends Work Group Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2024 via Zoom

Present:

Sarah Werner and Tracey Ritter, Co-Chairs

Madison Zang, Benzodiazepine Action Work Group Co-chair

Bret Rausch, Spero Recovery Center

Heather Hopkins Miller, Albertsons & Safeway

Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Hilary Bryant, Jessica Eaddy, Jen Place, Eric Barker, Jennifer Mackender, Teresa Cantwell

Absent: See attached roster.

Work group Co-chair, Sarah Werner, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Presentation – Medication Assisted Therapy (Heather Hopkins Miller, Patient Care Pharmacist, Albertsons & Safeway):

Heather is a pharmacist with Albertsons & Safeway's Specialty Care/Clinical Services. Her focus has been on expansion of services throughout Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Utah. The medication administration service provides long-acting injectable medication for mental health or recovery at any Albertsons & Safeway pharmacy. Heather also trains pharmacists on how to provide injections. She is on the Colorado Pharmacists Society Board of Directors and a member of the Legislative Committee.

The presentation reviewed medications used for substance use disorder, the types of medications, the barriers to access, and the work being done to eliminate those barriers. Heather also spoke about naltrexone (Vivitrol) in oral and long-acting injection form. A copy of her presentation is attached to the minutes. Presentation highlights:

- Medications for Substance Use Disorder is the term now used for MAT.
- Patients should be advised about the risk of relapse and other safety concerns, including increased risk of overdose and overdose death.
- Medication in combination with psychosocial treatment appropriate for the patient's needs is the standard of care for treating opioid use disorder.
- If someone goes through withdrawal management, discharging them without any medication and without psychosocial support is not doing the patient justice.
- Long-acting naltrexone is typically injected once per month, but sometimes given every three weeks depending on the patient.
- Naltrexone completely blocks the euphoria feeling; the patient must be opioid free for seven to ten days, which can present a challenge for some patients.
- Alcohol use disorder does not require these stipulations.
- Naltrexone does not provide pain relief and can't be used for withdrawal management

- The injectable formulation needs to be administered by a healthcare provider.
- Oral naltrexone is available, but is currently on back order.
- Colorado Medicaid covers naltrexone with prior authorization. The injectable form is very expensive.
- There are manufacturer cards to help with cost.
- Buprenorphine is available as a sublingual tablet and is commonly used for pregnant patients.
- Buprenorphine with naloxone is preferred over buprenorphine as a mono product in order to prevent misuse (naloxone prevents buprenorphine from binding to opioid receptors).
- Sublocade and Brixadi are both long-acting subcutaneous buprenorphine injections that are injected monthly.
- There is a newer weekly formulation of Brixadi; however, monthly injections help increase adherence.

Heather addressed evaluation and mitigation strategies.* She concluded her presentation with a summary of the mission and guiding principles of the program as well as locations of the specialty care coordination centers.

A discussion was held regarding insurance barriers that create access difficulties. Jose said the Consortium is working closely with the Colorado Pharmacy Society and DORA on protocol related to recent medication assisted legislation. Funding has been allocated for MAT expansion. He suggested that Heather contact Gina Moore: gina.moore@cuanschutz.edu

Announcements:

- The work group webpage resource list has been expanded. Included are sites for family support, treatment, recovery, legal issues, and grief support. A link to the site will be featured on "care cards" distributed to coroners, first responders, and harm reductionists.
- "Stories in Black and White" is a proposed black and white photo exhibit of those who have suffered from SUD. Inspired by "Into Light" and supported by Becca Barnhart, CDC Foundation, and Sarah Hoke, Rocky Mountain HIDTA, exhibits may be scheduled in Colorado communities beginning with a pilot exhibit.
- Family Organization Roundtable (tentatively scheduled in the fall). The work group is developing a list of nonprofits started by Colorado families after the loss of a loved one to SUD. The objective of the roundtable is to increase awareness and foster communication and cooperation. Contact the co-chairs if you know of organizations that might qualify.
sjwern@gmail.com
traceyritter@advocatesforrecovery.org
- A few volunteer openings are still available for the "Keep the Party Safe" summer concert series. Contact Hilary Bryant: hilary.bryant@cuanschutz.edu or <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AADAB2AA0FAC34-49772569-keep#/>

Future Meeting Topics:

- July: How to Navigate the Legal System and Drug Court
- August: Naloxone/Fentanyl Awareness
- September: Family Support in Recovery
- October: Prevention Tactics

- November: Benzodiazepines - what they are and why they are a problem
- December: TBD

Adjournment/next meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Friday, July 19, 2024 from 12-1 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, presentation

*Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) is a drug safety program that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) can require for certain medications with serious safety concerns to help ensure the benefits of the medication outweigh its risks

Colorado Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) locations in Colorado:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1naco-pLi0honGtdSd62m3XuQuGkdwKDF/view>