

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2023 – via Zoom

Present:

Sunny Linnebur and Lynette Myers, Co-chairs

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Kaleigh Kessel, CDPHE

Stephanie Salkin, BHA

Sarah Dennis, Safe Rx

Lori Lawrence, Hinsdale County

Doug Bowman, NarcX

Izzy Pike

Deterra Systems: Jack Dwyer, Ian Goldstein

Consortium: Hilary Bryant, Jessica Eaddy, Lindsey Simbeye, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached list

Co-Chair Lynette Myers called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the May 2023 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Medication Take-Back Program Update (Lynette Myers):

A complete program update is attached to the minutes. Lynette provided a brief history of the collection program for new meeting participants. Collection challenges in rural areas of the state are being evaluated. Some of the kiosks may be relocated to other areas. Placement in pharmacies requires a specific license or law enforcement presence. Currently, there are 177 collection kiosks in every county of the state except for Dolores County. There are no plans to purchase and distribute additional collection kiosks. The disposal location map includes kiosk locations provided by other partner agencies. The myColorado app can be used to locate collection sites. <https://mycolorado.state.co.us/home>

Lynette stressed the importance of medication collections due to the high incidence of medication misuse and overdose. All medications collected are incinerated. Over 200,000 pounds of medications have been collected since the program inception in 2016.

A recent promotional campaign resulted in website visits that exceeded expectations. A grant in the amount of \$400,000 will fund Phase III of the campaign (June 2023 to June 2024) and will include toolkits, posters, marketing materials for partner organizations, and increased air time. Collection events are planned for rural areas.

Sharps Collection Program:

The goal of the program is to place needle disposal collection kiosks and mail back containers in areas where sharps are being used and discarded, including parks and areas near homeless

shelters. A third-party contractor handles collection. Contamination remains an issue. Refuse containers are being placed adjacent to sharps disposal kiosks.

Comments:

Doug Bowman said sharps can be auto-claved, depending upon state regulations. Lynette confirmed that collected sharps are incinerated at a plant in North Carolina regulated as a medical waste processor and DEA registered reverse distributor rather than being auto-claved and brought to a landfill.

Disposal Product Test Presentation (Hilary Bryant):

The following products were purchased for testing purposes: Deterra pouches, SafeRX bottles, and pill terminators. Testing included five different types of medications, various amounts of water and water temperatures. One of the pills used was metformin (500 mgs), which is a non-controlled diabetes medication. A copy of the presentation, including photos and test results, is attached to the minutes.

Hilary said the Consortium had received an inquiry from a Denver community about options for medication storage (such as locking boxes) that can be provided to their low-income community members at no cost. She asked for member comments and ideas.

Comments:

Aminta Bhutani said she has a potential vendor source for lockboxes that have been distributed during take-back events. The DEA just recently hired a new community outreach specialist who will be focusing on enforcement, prevention, and outreach: Ciara Gregovich ciara.a.gregovich@dea.gov

Partner Updates:

Doug Bowman: NarcX will soon be testing NarcX Plus for fentanyl, which has been independently validated to render cocaine, methamphetamine, and heroin non-retrievable.

Sarah Dennis: Safe Rx is focusing on providing patients with secure medication containers when they obtain drugs at their pharmacy.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Attachments:

- Work group roster
- Medication Take-Back Program presentation
- Disposal product test presentation
- Overdose Awareness Day flyer