

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2021 – via Zoom

#### **Present:**

Sunny Linnebur, Co-chair, School of Pharmacy

Lynette Myers, Co-chair, CDPHE

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Laurie Lorenzo, Pharmacist

Rachel Fowler, Recover Simply

Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Jessica Eaddy, Tyler Payne, Jamie Feld, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael

Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

**Absent:** See attached list.

Co-Chair Lynette Myers called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

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

A motion was made to approve the May 2021 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

#### **Updates (Sharps Collection, Medication Take-Back, Program Promotion):**

Lynette Myers provided a report of the above-mentioned programs. A copy of her presentation is attached to the minutes. The sharps collection program did not begin until November of 2020. Collections were lower due to the pandemic. Since November, 163 pounds of sharps were collected, which is higher than anticipated. Lynette is analyzing the regions returning the highest levels of sharps and will determine whether or not the collections include other waste. 10 kiosks have been placed throughout the front range.

A question was raised regarding whether or not the individuals dispensing the mail back containers are collecting names and contact information in order to track returns. Lynette indicated that this information is being obtained in order to determine which areas and zip codes are returning containers. Pharmacies are not sending reminders at this point. The patient is required to complete a mailing manifest upon pickup and place it inside the container for later mailing. Lynette also keeps track of the number assigned to every manifest. Mail back reminders could be sent from this listing. It could take some time for a patient to fill the container and return it.

In response to another question related to trash being placed in kiosks, Lynette mentioned that trash bins are now being placed alongside kiosks by the City and County of Denver.

In order to expand services beyond the front range, an RFP will be issued shortly for a new kiosk contractor to cover the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, Larimer, Park, and Weld. The new contractor should be on board by January of 2022. One of the challenges in the outlying areas is finding a contractor with the capability to handle biohazards such as sharps. Jose Esquibel

indicated that the Consortium could help promote the disposal program in the new communities once the new contractor is hired. Work group members discussed ozone waste solutions and recycling of plastics associated with disposal.

The medication take-back program may actually have higher numbers this year. A total of 10 containers have been distributed. Two additional containers will be placed in Dinosaur and Mineral counties. Trilogy has been renewed as a partner.

Program promotion included ad campaigns in English and Spanish. Blizzard Broadcasting will be starting a Spanish-speaking radio station. Tyler Payne, Michael Davidson, and Lindsey Simbeye assisted with the promotion program. An analysis will be done to determine if the advertising resulted in an increase in collections. The results will be discussed at a future work group meeting.

Jamie Feld mentioned the recent RTI survey related to naloxone and medication take-back efforts and suggested the survey results could be shared with the work group.

Aminta Bhutani said the DEA fall take-back is scheduled for October 23<sup>rd</sup>. National ads will likely begin in October. Registration for local enforcement will begin approximately six weeks prior to October 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was an increase in law enforcement participation during the April take-back.

Lynette will keep the work group informed regarding the promotion budget.

### **Consortium Update:**

Jessica Eaddy will be visiting Purpose Cliffs in Durango. They are beginning an informal syringe disposal program. The Durango sheriff's department is currently paying for syringe disposal. Their local Neighbors Helping Neighbors program is also assisting. Jessica will provide additional information at a future meeting.

Jamie Feld announced that a number of events will be held on Overdose Awareness Day and that disposal materials could be distributed during events.

Lindsey Simbeye said that a group in NW Colorado is still considering medication disposal sites. She will follow up with Lynette.

Jose asked if any reports exist that have reviewed the impact of disposal programs. Sunny said one of her students had authored a manuscript on Colorado and national resources seven or eight years ago. She will research available literature on this subject and see if any of her students would be interested in addressing the topic. She also indicated that she has not seen anything in the literature related to sharps disposal. Funding might be required if a journal requires page fees or if they don't waive student fees.

Meeting attendance was discussed. Sunny indicated that, from her perspective, attendance was likely greater at the outset because a means of medication disposal did not exist. Attendance began to taper when disposal programs began to be developed. There had not been a lot of interest on the part of community members. Lorrie Lorenzo said she became interested in the work group when she was a pharmacy technician and after a family member passed away and there wasn't a suitable method available for medication disposal. She said that Regis College is establishing a homeless tent community and health clinic for the underserved population, and that it might be a good place to gather information and place a dropbox. She will provide a Regis contact to Lynette.

Jose felt that the number of participants was less important than the participants' level of expertise. Lindsey Simbeye suggested that the work group framework might now be more geared towards program promotion. Such promotion could involve participation from local areas of the state. Lynette said that she would review the locations around the state participating in the program.

The work group briefly discussed advertising methods and expense. Funding from the opioid settlement and the American Rescue Plan was also discussed.

Aminta will provide additional information regarding DEA take-back advertising.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m. The next work group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 10-11:30 a.m.

Attachments: Disposal presentation and work group roster

FDA Links related to disposal ads:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP-LN8Kd9H4>

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/ensuring-safe-use-medicine/safe-opioid-disposal-remove-risk-outreach-toolkit#video>