

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

### Treatment Work Group Meeting Minutes

July 22, 2021 via Zoom

#### **PRESENT:**

Steve Young, Co-Chair, Colorado Treatment Services

Angela Bonaguidi, Co-chair, ARTS

Moses Gur, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council

Stephanie Salkin, OBH

Lisa Carlson, Tribal Experience Korner

Kailey Meardon, Southeast Health Group

Wendy Sachs, Denver County Courts

Troy Bowman

Presenters: Nora Sullivan, Westminster Police Department, J.K. Costello, MD, The Steadman Group,

Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Susanna Cooper, Jessica Eaddy, Jamie Feld, Lindsey Simbeye, Rosemarie MacDowell

**ABSENT:** See attached roster.

Co-chair Steve Young called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

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

#### **Updates:**

The regulations pertaining to OTPs, methadone, and buprenorphine are reverting to pre-COVID standards. Extensions are available. Jose suggested the work group might want to provide a statement in support of the extension that the Consortium could then submit to the Congressional delegation. The Pew Charitable Trust just initiated a policy academy related to OTPs and are working with several states, including Colorado. Legislators are interested in this and have invited Rob Valuck and Jose to participate in the policy academy. The focus will be on state policy issues to further facilitate and/or expand OTP practices and identify state barriers and policies that might need updating. Pew would like to conduct interviews. Jose asked for members to let him know if they are interested.

Mobile methadone vans have been approved by the DEA. OBH is in the process of creating rules. This is a significant benefit for individuals living in rural areas.

#### **Behavioral Health Recovery Act SB21-137**

Jose provided an overview of the funding available through SB21-137. A copy of the pdf infographic is attached to the minutes. The Consortium staff is available to assist with additional information regarding access to funding opportunities.

Stephanie Salkin indicated that OBH will also be making an announcement shortly regarding funding sources. She recommended that meeting participants contact MSOs and register for both the Consortium and OBH newsletters for more information.

The state legislature will be allocating \$450 million from the American Rescue Plan for behavioral health. A state task force will be meeting this summer to determine funding distribution. Consortium staff will be taking part in the task force activities.

**Co-Responders in Colorado (Nora Sullivan):**

Nora provided an overview of Co-Responder Programs in Colorado, including growth opportunities. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

**Questions/Comments:**

- Moses Gur: The co-responder funding provided by OBH is separate from JBBS funding. More often, JBBS funding is for jail-based services.
- Lisa Carlson: Police are not utilizing the M5 holds, this is a problem. Police need to use co-responders more; the police can be very triggering to many.
- Kailey Meardon: Southeast Health Group has the co-responder program, a huge benefit.
- Gina Olberding suggested Nora contact ED Departments.

Commented [MR1]:

**Contingency Management Discussion (J.K. Costello):**

J.K. presented a brief summary of the clinical aspects of contingency management. A copy of the more detailed slides from the previous presentation are attached to the minutes. The contingency management concept offers individuals something of value for a desired behavioral outcome, i.e., compensation for abstinence from stimulants. Denver Health's CM program has been very successful. CM is also effective for opioid and alcohol use disorders. Stimulant use disorder is causing more overdose deaths, particularly in rural areas.

J.K. outlined outreach opportunities, i.e., op-eds, white papers, presentations, discussions with decision-makers. He asked participants for ideas to overcome obstacles to the CM program. Some of the barriers that exist are regulatory and funding related. California legislation mandates Medicaid plans work with providers to include CM programs.

J.K. asked meeting participants to contact him directly if they are interested in joining an advocacy group to assist with CM program development in Colorado. J.K. Costello: [jkcostello@steadmangroup.com](mailto:jkcostello@steadmangroup.com) Steve Young volunteered to assist. Gina Olberding said she would also follow up with the state agencies and provide feedback at a future work group meeting.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on September 23, 2021 from 12–1:00 p.m.

Attachments: SB21-137 Infographic, Co-Responder Program Presentation, CM Overview, Work Group Roster