

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

### **Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes**

September 13, 2022 – via Zoom

#### **Present:**

Sunny Linnebur and Lynette Myers, Co-chairs

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Crystal Goodiel, Safe Rx

Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Hilary Bryant, Shayna Miccuci, Kristin Carpenter, Lindsey Simbeye

**Absent:** See attached list

Co-Chair Lynette Myers called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

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

A motion was made to approve the May 2022 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

#### **Medication Take-Back Program Update:**

There are currently 177 takeback sites in Colorado. The original goal was to have a site in each county. Only one county lacks a site; however, many counties have more than one, including locations at police departments.

CDPHE conducts regular site visits and has visited 81 sites since February of this year. Most issues encountered pertain to the accuracy and updating of training records related to new hires. A marketing and public awareness campaign began last year. This year, the campaign will continue to reach out to organizations and include posters and videos.

Hilary Bryant has been very helpful in disseminating information at events, such as the recent Patriots' Day. Medication containers were distributed to veterans during that event. Lynette said she was very open to other ideas work group members might suggest, particularly for the four corners of the state. Lynette's presentation is attached to the minutes.

#### **Sharps Collection Program Update:**

Lynette gave a brief history of the program and legislation that initiated program funding. The program mission is to provide free and convenient access to proper needle disposal throughout Colorado, including areas populated by the homeless and those who are homebound. Containers have also been placed in pharmacies and nonprofit organizations

Currently, there are ten kiosks located in the Front Range area; others are waiting to be installed in places such as Catholic Charities and Mile High Behavioral Healthcare. Lynette is working with county health departments and the Colorado Health Network to place seven additional kiosks in areas of the state. The Golden and Empire Police Departments have requested a kiosk.

Lynette reviewed collection counts, including mailbacks. She also commented on the necessity of providing proper disposal information to the public. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Discussion:

Lynette mentioned the possibility of working through Medicare to disseminate information that sharps disposal containers are available to their beneficiaries.

Sunny Linnebur suggested distributing mailback containers to individuals in clinics who utilize sharps and to area assisted living centers and group homes. She volunteered to provide mailback containers to some of her clinic patients. She also mentioned some of the clinics located in lower income areas that are supported by the School of Nursing and said she would look into the tribal health and other low income area clinics. Connie Valdez was mentioned as a possible contact.

Jose Esquibel said Hilary could help by contacting the Colorado Assisted Living Association: <https://www.coloradoassistedlivingassociation.org/>

Work group members discussed the lack of statistical data pertaining to the quantity of sharps that may exist in rural areas and how this information might be obtained.

Crystal Goodiel suggested looking into sharps sources, such as community groups and needle exchange programs. Lynette explained the definition of "household sharps," indicating that adding a container to mobile units was considered a possibility if the individual using the needles were able to deposit them directly. Crystal said she had additional ideas about determining distributor sources and would be following up with Lynette.

Lindsey Simbeye mentioned a homeless encampment in Delta that might have a need for a kiosk and suggested that Lynette contact Maggie Seldeen at High Rocky's Harm Reduction. She will contact Lynette directly with additional information.

**Other Items:**

The next DEA Take-Back event is scheduled for Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 30 departments have registered to date. The DEA covers the cost. Mailbacks are allowed in rural areas.

Gina Olberding suggested that work group members consider further public awareness outreach for both the take-back and sharps programs and include possible assistance from pharmacy students. She mentioned the TakeMedsSeriously campaign developed several years ago, which emphasized safe use, safe storage, and safe disposal.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. The next work group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2022 from 11-12:30 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, Medication Take-Back & Sharps Collection Program Reports