

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2023 – via Zoom

Present:

Lynette Myers, Co-chair
Alice Casey, Pikens Technical College
Sarah Dennis, Safe Rx
Lori Lawrence, Hinsdale County
Doug Bowman, NarcX
Deterra Systems: Jack Dwyer, Ian Goldstein
Consortium: Hilary Bryant, Jessica Eaddy, Shayna Micucci, Lindsey Simbeye, Eric Barker, 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 July 2023 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Medication Take-Back Program Update (Lynette Myers):

Over 300,000 pounds of medications have been collected since 2017. Collection goals have been recently updated. Originally the plan called for a kiosk in every county, which was almost accomplished. The exception was Dolores County. Since then, several other collection sites have been discontinued; however, 95% of state counties are covered. 81% of municipalities with populations over 100,000 have access to a collection site. Thirty municipalities with over a thousand residents do not have access. To ensure that environmental access goals are being met, the marketing campaign will focus on underserved areas.

Law enforcement collects about 290 pounds per year per site. Standalone pharmacies collect about the same amount. Hospitals and medical centers collect approximately 557 pounds per site. Kaiser has numerous sites, and they are very popular among their patients.

Surveys are planned for those areas doing well to see if there is a common factor that can be utilized in other communities. Lynette reviewed the marketing campaign, which includes air time, social media, the myColorado app, and community toolkits.

The complete program update is attached to the minutes.

Sharps Program:

The program has two facets: collection kiosks and mail back containers. Since 2021, the program has collected over 5,000 pounds of sharps in collection kiosks. Another 10 sites will be

added this fiscal year. The mail back program has collected over 3,000 pounds since 2021. Sharps are sent to North Carolina for incineration, as there are no incinerators in Colorado.

Storage Discussion:

Hilary Bryant led the discussion regarding safe storage of medications. She asked for comments.

Eric Barker suggested that safe storage messaging might focus on underserved areas of the state.

Lindsey Simbeye suggested safe disposal kits, pill bottles, and lockboxes for public health departments, harm reduction and youth organizations. She said there was a lack of awareness in rural communities about safe storage and disposal options. Education is required to raise awareness and also counteract some of the “rural mentality” suspicions connected to DEA medication disposal. Partnerships with individuals in recovery might help. She also suggested creating partnerships with chain drugstores.

Eric spoke about the complications involved in establishing disposal kiosks in Hinsdale County; however, disposal packets are popular. Lynette said a lot of the issues may have to do with convenience and confidentiality. Another factor may be where people in the area are obtaining their prescriptions.

Jack Dwyer said Meals on Wheels has distributed disposal pouches and some pharmacies are providing pouches when dispensing medication. The pouch has a survey QR code to track how it's being utilized.

Lynette mentioned that the state hasn't approved pouches and, therefore, they cannot be part of a promotional effort.

Sarah Dennis said Safe Rx's largest customers are coalitions and public health departments. Grant funding is supporting the purchases, which are then distributed at events like overdose awareness day. Last year, the company attended Douglas County's take-back day and distributed locking pill bottles. Safe Rx recently hired a grant manager.

Hilary said she and Lynette would consider all of the suggestions made during the meeting discussion to determine next steps. A disposal resource flyer and other outreach materials are now available for distribution. The flyer can be customized with a QR code for local areas. Contact: hilary.bryant@cuanschutz.edu

Updates/Recent Events:

Hilary attended the “Into Light” exhibition at the University of Denver. The exhibition featured drawn portraits and accompanying biographies of those lost to an overdose. The event was very well attended.

Lindsey Simbeye attended an “Anonymous Sister” screening in Summit County. The sheriff's department staff also attended the screening and provided medication take-back boxes.

Many other events are posted on <https://endoverdoseco.com/>

Ian Goldstein mentioned a letter sent to the FDA by eleven Democratic senators (including Sen. Hickenlooper) urging the agency to develop a stronger policy for at-home deactivation and disposal of prescription opioids for rural and tribal communities that do not have reliable access to the US Postal Service and would not benefit from a prepaid mail-back envelope to return unused opioids. A copy of the letter is attached to the minutes.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

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

Attachments: Work group roster, Medication Take-Back Program presentation, FDA letter