

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Harm Reduction Work Group Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021 via Zoom

Attendees:

Mike Nerenberg, MD, Co-chair
Sam Bourdon, Co-chair, CDPHE
Don Stader, MD
Chris Stock, Pharmacist
Christine Zeitvogel, Pueblo County LEAD
Ryan Tsipis, Colorado Naloxone Project
Troy Bowman, Signal Behavioral Health
Georgia Babatsikos, Boulder County Public Health
Charlotte Ledonne, SLV AHEC
Laura Goldberg, Emergent BioSolutions
Sara Gallo, Care on Location
Lori Spurgeon, Denver Recovery Group
Patricia Stroud, RMCP
Chris Williams, Memorial Regional Health
CDPHE: Megan Canon, Jericho Dorsey
Barbara Jackson, Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment
Consortium Staff: Gina Olberding, Jessica Eaddy, Jen Place, Susanna Cooper, Jamie Feld, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached listing.

Co-Chair Sam Bourdon called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the July 2021 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Your Words Have Power – Stigma Presentation by Barbara Jackson:

Barbara Jackson, Pueblo Department of Public Health & Environment, provided work group members with an overview of a stigma campaign she developed that included 15 community members sharing their experiences with stigma. She photographed all participants and created storyboards to form a stigma “art” exhibit. The exhibit was shown in libraries, other public places, and to college students as part of an introduction to health professions class. Part of the exhibit included a three-person panel comprised of individuals discussing their own stigma biases. Her exhibit was featured on TV and radio stations.

Comments/questions:

Susanna Cooper asked what would be required if other communities wanted to replicate her exhibit. Barbara suggested creating a strong proposal, particularly if people with lived experience were going to be involved. Informed consent and a determination of how much autonomy each individual would require should also be considered. She suggested matching stories with the targeted audience by taking into consideration diversity, gender, socio-economic and educational levels. An important element of the program is having resources available for individuals in need.

Mike Nerenberg asked if her exhibit could be taken “on the road,” and Barbara said it could be. She said she could assist others in developing a similar exhibit. Mike and Barbara will discuss this further offline. Other work group members interested in following up with a similar program can contact Susanna directly: susanna.cooper@cuanschutz.edu

Provider Education Symposium:

The symposium will be held on Friday, October 29th. It will be an all-day event focusing on fentanyl and harm reduction. The morning speaker is a University of California SF researcher who will discuss methamphetamines and fentanyl. Other speakers include law enforcement personnel working on community engagement. The afternoon session will address harm reduction and a panel comprised of Lisa Ravielle, Judy Solano, Maggie Seldeen, and Denise Lobato. The moderator may be Phillip Coffin, Director of Substance Use Research in the Center for Public Health Research at the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

Susanna asked work group members to brainstorm and suggest questions for the panel and to provide comments regarding their current experiences in the field related to syringe access programs, fentanyl testing, drug checking, pandemic-related issues, and how the harm reduction community is addressing fentanyl in Colorado.

Comments/question suggestions:

Lori Spurgeon: Information regarding treatment for youth under age 18 and medication limitations.

Sam Bourdon: Buprenorphine was approved in 2002 by the FDA for adolescents age 16 and over; however, substance use can start much earlier. She suggested panelists address education related to safe supply with providers as well as some “myth busting.”

Jessica Eaddy: Easier to use fentanyl testing strips, particularly for college-age individuals involved in the party scene. (Chris Williams will provide Jessica and Mike with information. Mike Nerenberg provided an update of Richard Leddon’s work in this regard.)

Jamie Feld: 18-25 is the highest risk group for prescription drug misuse in the state. CU Boulder has the following statement on fentanyl: <https://www.colorado.edu/health/fentanyl-overdose-safety>

Mike Nerenberg: Mike asked how much fentanyl is currently out there. He stated that in Pueblo, it's in the range of 60 to 70%. Testing could be done at harm reduction centers.

Chris Williams: There's an organization called DanceSafe dedicated to on-site drug testing. <https://dancesafe.org/> Susanna will contact Chris for more information and possible suggestions for other panel members.

Chris said he would be interested in learning about a plan for the targeted distribution of fentanyl testing strips. He mentioned a harm reduction testing kit program in the Pacific Northwest. Kits contain fentanyl test strips, naloxone, and information resources. Kits are provided to first responders, libraries, etc. and are free of charge. In addition to their harm reduction kits, they conducted a massive regional media campaign, hosted a BBQ in Craig on the 31st, and had an interactive memorial at the county courthouse for an entire week where community members left stories, messages, and photographs.

Member/Community Updates:

Mike reported that his organization, SCHRA, partnered with a Telehealth organization and began offering urgent care services on Saturdays. As utilization increases, they will expand the hours to weekdays, and begin scheduling appointments.

Charlotte Ledonne reported 145 naloxone kits distributed in six counties in the San Luis Valley. A new harm reduction site is opening in Costilla County at the end of this year or beginning of 2022.

Ryan Tsipis reported that the Colorado Naloxone Project received a grant from OBH (\$500,000 for Narcan). The supplies from Emergent BioSolutions will be distributed to hospitals that are enrolled in the project. They now have a total of 85 hospitals in the program, including the UC Health System. Their goal is to have all Colorado hospitals enrolled in the program.

<http://naloxoneproject.com/>

<https://vimeo.com/593425142>

<http://naloxoneproject.com/naloxone-how-to-videos/>

Gina Olberding said the Consortium annual meeting and Provider Education Symposium event registrations will be available near the end of the month. Information will be posted on the Consortium website: <https://corxconsortium.org/events/>

Recap of Overdose Awareness Day Activities:

Events across the state: <https://www.endoverdoseco.com/community-events>

@corxconsortium Twitter has photos of statewide events.

A North Colorado Health Alliance event in Fort Collins included Sam Bourdon demonstrating naloxone use.

There was a mural painting and outreach event in Boulder at the Clinica building.

AmeriCorps members organized a 5K race in the Denver metro area with over 100 participants.

Legislative Updates:

The Consortium is working with the Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force regarding recommendations for the distribution of ARPA funding. Upcoming meetings will be open to the public.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021 from 1–2 p.m.

Attachments:

Work group roster