

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Prescriber & Provider Work Group Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2022 via Zoom

Present:

Josh Blum, MD, Co-chair

Steve Young, MD

Aminta Bhutani, DEA

Rachel Linger, Rocky Vista University

Rachele Poissant, Colorado Health Care Policy & Financing

Joan Sheehan, Community Member

Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Shayna Micucci, Hilary Bryant, Lindsey Simbeye,

Kristin Carpenter, Jennifer Mackender

Absent: See attached list.

Co-chair, Josh Blum, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. He reviewed minutes from the previous meeting, including plans to collect data from education modules, marketing communications, the creation of digital material, and plans for the October 28th education symposium.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the July 2022 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

General Discussion:

Josh spoke about several current issues, such as the fentanyl crisis, and the importance of education. He cited a symposium sponsored by the AG's office in August that was well attended by people from around the state and the Denver Fentanyl Action Summit held on September 12th and 13th

<https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2022/08/CO-Opioid-Conference-2022-Agenda.pdf>

<https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directories/Public-Health-Environment/Community-Behavioral-Health/Denver-Fentanyl-Action-Summit#:~:text=Hancock%20and%20the%20Denver%20Department,substance%20misuse%20to%20save%20lives.>

The Supreme Court recently overturned the conviction of a physician accused of having a pill mill.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/27/us/politics/supreme-court-controlled-substance-act.html>

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/justices-rule-for-doctors-on-pill-mill-prosecution-proof>

Aminta Bhutani said she was not aware of any changes to DEA regulations, but would review the legal case mentioned above and look into the matter.

Josh spoke about petitioning the FDA for the use higher doses of morphine to manage withdrawal symptoms as well as the removal of the prior authorization currently being considered by HCPF's Utilization Review Committee. Josh explained the complexity involved in

inductions because of fentanyl's unique properties and the effort to provide accurate information to physicians and other providers.

Rachele Poissant said she was not directly involved in the HCPF matter, but would obtain details and report back at the next work group meeting.

Work group members discussed the increasing number of overdose deaths attributed to fentanyl and the importance of provider education.

Evaluation Plan:

The work group is collaborating with the University of Denver to update the provider education evaluation template. The evaluation is intended to determine post-education prescribing practices. Some courses offered include non-opioid pain management, introduction to substance use disorder, medication-assisted treatment, safe prescribing and deprescribing of benzodiazepines. List courses on the Consortium's Provider Education page:

<https://corxconsortium.org/work-groups/provider-education/>

Marketing and Communications:

Shayna Micucci will be meeting with Jet Marketing. Jet is assisting the Consortium with outreach to providers in rural areas. Magazine ads are planned and Jet plans to reach out to the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians: <https://www.coloradoafp.org>

October Meeting Updates:

Registration opens on September 27th for both the 10th Consortium Annual Meeting on October 27th and the 5th Annual Provider Education Symposium on October 28th. Nationally-recognized author Maia Szalavitz will be the guest speaker. She will be available to sign any of her books that participants may bring with them. <https://maiasz.com/> Approximately 150 to 200 people are expected to attend the event scheduled to be held in the Elliman Conference Center, Anschutz Health Sciences Building.

The Colorado Pain Society is having their annual meeting September 23rd – 25th.

<https://coloradopainsociety.org/annual-meeting-2022/>

Member Updates:

Rachel Linger: Rocky Vista received approval for an elective course related to chronic pain management. The course includes non-pharmacologic strategies, prevention and treatment of substance use, and a pharmacologic and treatment perspective. They also plan to focus on harm reduction and stigma. Included in the course is a field trip to visit the Arapahoe Recovery Court and participate in a debriefing with the judge after a proceeding. Rocky Vista now has a naloxone standing order. A student club is setting up regular naloxone training. Rachel said that she is interested in contacting organizations that participate in high school education and outreach. Rachel has an interest in both provider education and harm reduction.

Gina Olberding suggested Rachel contact Consortium partner Rise Above Colorado. Rise Above targets youth between the ages of 12 to 17. They have a curriculum entitled "Not Prescribed" and visit different schools around the state: <https://www.notprescribed.org/> There are other resources listed on the Consortium's Affected Families & Friends web page:

<https://corxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/Affected-Families-and-Friends-Resource-Guide.pdf> <https://www.riseaboveco.org/index.html>

Jose Esquibel said Rise Above has educational material related to fentanyl and suggested the Consortium consider collaborating with education associations to establish a broader

collaboration with school boards and superintendent associations. Several of the external relations staff have been working with local school districts. There are now 18 schools carrying naloxone. The AG's office is working on a fentanyl awareness campaign aimed at youth.

Jessica Eaddy provided a link to the new fentanyl public awareness campaign: <https://keepthepartysafe.org/> which is targeting 18-44 year olds, but may be relevant to older teens.

Joan Sheehan said she has experience in effective networking and is a volunteer with Colorado Humanities. <https://coloradohumanities.org/>

Aminta Bhutani mentioned several DEA presentations that primarily address rules and regulations, but not trends related to fentanyl.

Josh asked about the possibility of scheduling another education session related to diversion, particularly data related to diversion rates. He also suggested a harm reduction module for providers.

Rachele Poissant said she is working on better access to care for Medicaid program members to include education on harm reduction and the appropriate use of opioids.

Jose pointed out that some pharmacies are not carrying naloxone or buprenorphine and people are unable to fill their prescriptions. There is a need for pharmacist education.

Steve Young announced a training session for OTPs that will be held on September 28th "Medication for Opioid Use Disorder: Colorado Practice Essentials." The program is designed for OTP staff; however, anyone can attend. Registration: <https://ColoradoMOUDPracticeEssentials.eventbrite.com>

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17, 2022 from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom.

Attachment: Work group roster