

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Treatment Work Group Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2024 via Zoom

#### **Present:**

Steve Young, MD, and Tyler Coyle, MD, Co-Chairs  
Andrea LaRew, Colorado Chiropractic Association  
Jess Angleson, Community Member  
Angela Michener, Denver University  
James O'Geary, University of Denver  
Luke Davis, MD, UC Health  
Marie Archambault, Creative Treatment Options  
Mellie Ryan, Colorado ROOTS  
Nicole Valdovinos, HardBeauty  
Sophie Sugar, University of Colorado  
Terri Hurst, CDPHE  
Terri Schreiber, The Schreiber Research Group  
BHA: Brooke Applegate, Debra Starin, Ryan Mueller  
Denver Health: Josh Blum, MD, Haley Rotello  
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Eric Barker, Teresa Cantwell

**Absent:** See attached roster.

Co-chair Tyler Coyle called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

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

#### **Co-chair updates:**

Co-chair updates were tabled for the next meeting.

**Presentation: Involuntary and Emergency Commitments** – Brooke Applegate & Debra Starin, Involuntary Commitment Program Coordinators, Adult Treatment and Recovery Team, Behavioral Health Administration:

A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. Presentation summary:

In Colorado, an individual can be committed to a substance use treatment facility if a judge orders an involuntary commitment. This is a civil process through the courts and requires that an individual complete substance use treatment determined by the Behavioral Health Administration. Criminal charges, which involve a violation of the law, are different from a civil matter and are processed through the criminal justice system. The presentation covered the history of involuntary commitment, including relevant legislation, the statutory definition of incapacitation, qualifications of the commitment petitioner, the role of the BHA, and the commitment process. A listing of withdrawal management facilities is attached to the minutes. Some hospitals have licensed withdrawal management facilities.

For additional information:

<https://bha.colorado.gov/resources/substance-use-commitment>

Email: [brooke.applegate@state.co.us](mailto:brooke.applegate@state.co.us)

Phone: (303) 866-7502

To provide feedback regarding the presentation: <https://forms.gle/ZvCCs4jFDXELzMbb6>

Discussion/additional comments:

Involuntary commitments have increased, with an average of 15 involuntary commitments per month. The highest number (20 per month) occurred during the pandemic.

Lacey Gregory, with Denver CARES, indicated that so far in 2024, they have had 49 involuntary commitments.

A crossover team at BHA manages co-occurring issues (mental health/substance use) to determine which issue is primary. There are a number of co-occurring treatment agencies in Colorado.

A question was raised about legal representation for individuals who have been involuntarily committed. Once an involuntary commitment has been filed with the court, individuals are either automatically assigned a court-appointed attorney or they can apply for one.

It is not necessary for the involuntary commitment petitioner to be a clinician; most often the petitioner is a family member. The clinician's role is to conduct an assessment after an involuntary commitment has been filed. The assessment determines the level of care required as well as the treatment recommendations.

**Consortium Announcements:**

The Consortium Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. Both in-person and virtual options are available. For information and to register: <https://corxconsortium.org/2024-annual-meeting/>

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 from 12 to 1 p.m.

Attachments:

- Work Group Roster
- Presentation
- IC Flowchart
- Withdrawal Management Facility List