

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Treatment Work Group Meeting Minutes

September 28, 2023 via Zoom

Present:

Steve Young, MD, Tyler Coyle, MD, Co-Chairs
Lydia Garey, LPN, ARTS
Nicholas Longnecker, MD, CorrHealth
Carl Anderson, RN, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department
Adam Cabrera, Denver Recovery Group
Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Front Range Clinic
Amber Quartier, CommonSpirit Health
Kelly Aronson, University of Denver
Bob Schulz, Denver Health
Amy Nichols, County Sheriffs of Colorado
Mary Weber, College of Nursing
Bryce Givens, True North Recovery Services
Melissa Dominguez, San Luis Valley Rural Recovery Network
Crystal Goodiel, Rocky Mountain Poison & Drug Safety
Brandy Kinslow, Valley-Wide Health Systems
Melissa Dominguez, SLV Rural Recovery Network
Lori Spurgeon, Denver Recovery Group
Louie Rodriguez
BHA: Ryan Mueller, Kelly Russell, Becky Huckaby
Consortium: Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Shayna Micucci, Lindsey Simbeye, Kristin Carpenter, Eric Barker, Rosemarie MacDowell
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 June 2023 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Co-Chair Updates:

Work group members briefly discussed SB 23-265: Prohibit Professional Discipline for Marijuana. The act protects an individual applying for licensure, certification, or registration in a profession or occupation in Colorado, as well as a professional who is currently licensed, certified, or registered in a profession or occupation in Colorado, from having the license, certification, or registration denied to the applicant, or from discipline being imposed against the licensee, based solely on the following: a civil or criminal judgment against the applicant or licensee regarding the consumption, possession, cultivation, or processing of marijuana, if the underlying actions were lawful and consistent with professional conduct and standards of care within Colorado and did not otherwise violate Colorado law; or previous professional disciplinary action concerning an applicant's or a licensee's professional licensure in this or any other state or United States territory, if the professional disciplinary action was based solely on the applicant's or licensee's consumption, possession, cultivation, or processing of marijuana and

the applicant or licensee did not otherwise violate Colorado law. The bill was approved by the governor on May 24 2023. [Colorado Senate Bill 23-265](#)

Assisting Jail-based MAT Services:

Dr. Coyle introduced the following guests and asked them to describe services offered by their organizations as well as the challenges that exist in providing services within the jail system: Carl Anderson, Arapahoe County Jail, Dr. Nicholas Longnecker, CorrHealth, Lydia Garey, ARTS, and Adam Cabrera, Denver Recovery Group.

Carl Anderson, Deputy Director of Medical Care Services, Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department, described current withdrawal prevention protocols. He said that patient populations within correctional facilities represent one of the highest risk populations, including the risk of overdose post release, and incarcerated patients with substance use disorders must be provided appropriate care like any other patient with a medical issue.

Dr. Nicholas Longnecker, Chief Medical Officer for CorrHealth (Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas). Current services in Colorado include the Larimer and Garfield County jails. Larimer has a comprehensive MAT program. The only service not offered at the Larimer County jail is methadone induction, which is administered by nearby Behavioral Health Group. Counselors are also on site at Larimer. Expanding services in Garfield County are currently under consideration. <https://mycorrhealth.com/>

Lydia Garey, ARTS Outpatient Clinics Program Director. ARTS works closely with a number of jails (including Arapahoe County) to provide methadone treatment. ARTS is currently the only organization delivering methadone to Colorado prisons. <https://www.artstreatment.com/our-services/adult-outpatient/>

Adam Cabrera, Clinic Coordinator, Denver Recovery Group: DRG delivers methadone to a number of counties, including Arapahoe and Douglas. <https://www.denverrecoverygroup.com/>

Discussion:

Carl Anderson: Methadone is essential; there are unintended consequences involved in discontinuing medication.

A question was raised about policies for managing acute and chronic substance use disorders.

Dr. Longnecker commented that intakes are unpredictable. He said well-defined protocols are in place to manage medication and withdrawal.

Lindsey Simbeye asked what could be done about the lack of resources in rural jails.

Carl Anderson mentioned mobile MAT vans; however, patients often do not show up.

Becky Huckaby said Ryan Mueller could address available options. Jackson County is in the process of obtaining JBBS funding. Becky offered JBBS assistance with any issues and asked work group members to contact her directly. Email: rebecca.huckabyraphaelson@state.co.us

Ryan Mueller agreed that mobile units are not always effective.

Work group members discussed the lack of accessibility for all medical issues due to rural locations.

Dayna DeHerrera-Smith said Front Range Clinic is working in several rural county jails. Access is an issue and many have to take inmates to ERs for more complex medical needs. In addition, dosing is administered by jail staff, not by medical personnel, which is challenging and presents a potential liability. Some areas of Jackson County are an hour away from a pharmacy. These challenges are beyond just the jail's willingness to provide these services. Dayna questioned the ethics of continuing patients on daily dosing given such challenging circumstances.

Tyler Coyle mentioned constraints related to federal laws and attempts to make legislative changes in order to facilitate methadone access. Tyler offered to discuss the subject further with Lindsey Simbeye.

Meeting participants discussed protocols involved in transitioning patients to buprenorphine from methadone. Dr. Longnecker said he would follow up with additional information.

Amber Quartier, CommonSpirit Health (formerly Centura). Amber spoke about ERs not starting patients on medications for opioid use disorder before they are discharged to a criminal justice location. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Colorado Hospital Association (Richard Bottner). The CHA is looking into appropriate messaging to inform hospitals. She asked if other meeting participants would like to be involved in the discussion. Carl Anderson volunteered. Amber's contact information: amberQuartier@Centura.Org

Tyler Coyle said he recently spoke with Jessica Krueger, Department of Corrections, and that an ER or hospital-dispensed prescription might not appear in the PDMP record. Tyler said it was his understanding that a prescription would not appear in the PDMP if it was never picked up at the pharmacy by a patient.

Creation of Ad-hoc Group:

There may already be existing guidelines, policies, and protocols that could be useful. The Department of Justice issued a handbook in June that provides guidance on how to manage substance use disorders and withdrawal in a correctional setting. Tyler said several medical students will be working with him, and he plans to ask them to create a one-page clinical guidance based on the Department of Justice document.

Steve Young mentioned that the California Bridge program has good references. He also suggested the Colorado hospital specialty guidelines specific to MAT.

Amber Quartier will be meeting with the California National Bridge program representative in several weeks. CommonSpirit affiliated hospitals are using the Bridge model.

Jen Place reported on the status of the pending treatment bill (copy attached). A number of amendments were discussed by legislators during a meeting held on September 27th. It is expected that a draft of the amended bill will be completed by the end of October. Comments regarding the bill can be submitted to Jen Place: Jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

Consortium Announcements:

The Consortium annual meeting will be held on October 26th both in-person and via Zoom. There will be a poster session. Jen encouraged meeting participants to consider submitting a poster to share programs and/or initiatives. The annual meeting plenary session will focus on MAT in jails. Preliminary agenda and registration link: <https://corxconsortium.org/2023-annual-meeting/>

Peer specialist training will be held on November 7th and 14th. The program was developed by the Benzodiazepine Action Work Group to educate peers, counselors, and caregivers about benzodiazepines. [Recovering from Benzodiazepine Use for Peer Specialists – Choices Recovery \(choicesrecoverytrainings.com\)](https://choicesrecoverytrainings.com)

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023.

Attachments: Work group roster, draft treatment bill

Relevant links posted in Chat:

DEA proposed rules for permanent telemedicine flexibilities:
<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2023/02/24/dea-announces-proposed-rules-permanent-telemedicine-flexibilities>

S.644 – Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act:
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/644/text?s=1&r=20>