

Opioid Advisory Group

2018 Accomplishments



Supported Funding Opportunities

- Supported the application for the Bureau of Justice Grants for \$860,000 that was subsequently awarded for case management and navigation
- Received \$240,000 in Opioid Crisis Funding to fund current work and hire a consultant to continue work identified by OAG such as expanding LEAD, centralized referral to treatment, and developing a list of treatment providers
- Guided law enforcement to Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion grant funding opportunities
- Supported a feasibility study from a CDC opioid crisis funding grant to expand LEAD to the entire county
- Supported Longmont law enforcement grant application for LEAD, which resulted in implementation of LEAD in Longmont
- Supported grant to hire opioid case manager at Boulder County jail



Increased Community Awareness & Reduced Stigma

- Amplified the voice of people in recovery by providing speaking opportunities at OAG meetings (5 speakers in 2018)
- Supported community prevention activities by spreading the word about events
- Provided personal experiences and expertise at community events
- Supported training of 1500 students by Youth in Recovery and 320 middle school students by Not Prescribed, a prescription drug misuse prevention curriculum
- Provided education to 125 parents at Parent Engagement Network (PEN) network events
- Implemented Out of Reach campaign to encourage safe storage of substances (including opioids)
- Influenced the Boulder County Cultural Responsiveness and Inclusion Committee (CRIAC) to highlight people in recovery at two events



Facilitated Training & Increased Capacity

- Developed guidelines for opioid prescribing and made them available online
- Developed training module for athletic coaches to develop knowledge of substance use on athletic performance, and skills to talk to athletes
- Facilitated training for three Opioid Advisory Group members to be certified peer recovery coaches
- Increased capacity for community naloxone trainings by training Medical Reserve Corp members



Developed a Community of Support

- Developed a coalition culture of an open, safe, and welcoming environment, especially to those in recovery
- Scheduled opportunities for community members (including those in recovery) to share their personal story; 5 young people spoke at OAG meetings in 2018. Willingness of individuals to share personal stories related to substance use has increased
- Developed methods to preserve speaker confidentiality and provided tips for speakers



Identified and Aligned Resources

- Aligned resources and efforts with local and state groups to promote safe disposal of prescription drugs
- Identified early intervention services for youth and adults
- Conducted a landscape analysis to understand county-wide early intervention programs
- Aligned and prevented duplication of community primary prevention activities through information sharing
- Continued to support diversion efforts (e.g. Angel Initiative) across multiple diversion points
- Supported alignment of Community Services and the District Attorney's office with Longmont LEAD
- Partnered with law enforcement to learn about Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion



Facilitated Discussions to Improve Systems of Care & Referral

- Provided time and space for early intervention partners to discuss how to partner and create community-wide access
- Provided time and space to discuss issues experienced by service providers experience (e.g. challenges with access, capacity, staffing or seasonal changes) to create consistency county-wide
- Facilitated discussion with Boulder Community Hospital Primary Care, Behavioral Health Group, and Denver Recovery Group to plan and implement a Hub and Spoke Model to increase primary care provider treatment in Medically Assisted Treatment and to support referral for treatment services



Improved Access to Care

- Provided naloxone to landlords and property managers
- Increased access to Narcan among student population at University of Colorado
- Distributed 175 naloxone kits to Boulder County jail
- Added naloxone to AED (defibrillator) locations in all Boulder County offices
- Ensured all 8 law enforcement agencies in Boulder County carry naloxone (more than 375 naloxone kits initially provided)
- Provided naloxone to all Boulder County security staff
- More than 200 lives saved since October 2013 by increasing naloxone access (Reported to BCPH by law enforcement and syringe access participants)



Promoted Safe Disposal of Substances

- Distributed safe disposal worksheet to public and medical offices and made it available online
- Developed and maintained an online interactive map of medication disposal locations in Boulder County
- Distributed Boulder County specific brochure on safe disposal sites to local pharmacies
- Promoted DEA Take Meds Back days in October and April
- Hosted a safe disposal event resulting in collection of 5,000+ pills by 57 community members



Identified & Shared Data to Track Progress

- Identified local data indicators to track community progress and made data public on website.
- Strengthened relationship and data-sharing with Longmont Public Safety



Supported Policy Change

- Advised state legislators and testified regarding opioid bills
- Provided input to the Interim Study Committee on opioid and other substance use disorders



Researched and Shared Best-Practices

- Discussed opioid practices with Chief Medical Officers of all county hospitals, Boulder Medical Society, and select healthcare providers
- Developed summary of strategies for standardized opioid practices among healthcare systems
- Provided consultation statewide regarding incorporating those in recovery into local coalition activities
- Provided consultation statewide regarding incorporating the business sector into local coalition activities
- Shared best practices for using peer recovery specialists.
- Connected Longmont Safety with statewide audiences to share their activities



Supported Best-Practices

- Supported cognitive behavior therapy substance abuse treatment between Boulder County Jail (JET), Mental Health Partners, C4C , and Boulder County Probation
- Supported access to Medicine Assisted Treatment at Boulder County Jail
- Participated on the Longmont LEAD program implementation team