

Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, September 16th, 2020

9:30-11:30 am

Zoom Meeting

9:30 Work Group Progress Share-out

Work Group Co-Chairs and/or Designated Representatives

Outreach and Engagement

- Adapting public awareness events to virtual and/or socially distant platforms
- Submitted information packet to superintendent of Boulder Valley School District to advocate for Narcan in schools
 - Will work on outreaching to St. Vrain once feedback is received on this approach
- Picking up business project to recognizing businesses in our community knowingly employing people in recovery
 - Will be sending out a survey to assess businesses' desire to be given recognition, and support overdose prevention activities such as carrying Narcan on premises

Bridging the Gap

- Building connection and warm hand-offs from jail to treatment programs
- Group wants program to be open to others following different paths of recovery
- Instructional video being put together to go over brain chemistry, addiction in the brain, methadone and suboxone's effect on the brain
 - This video will be shown to groups in the jail
- Transportation services for when folks are released
 - Uber/Lyft transport system funded from Opioid Chronic Pain and Response Program: have started piloting with Denver Recovery Group but are looking to expanding transportation dollars to other treatment centers
 - Individuals can be transported to various locations, doesn't have to be just from jail to treatment center (could be from home or hospital to treatment) W
 - Looking to add more peers onboard
 - BC Jail has transport set up to help transfer inmates to their treatment services if they have no other means of getting there
- Email Mila to be involved: mila@denverrecoverygroup.org

Anti-Stigma Education

- Dividing up content into digestible pieces, looking at 45 minute training sessions
- Wanting to provide common language that can be used across disciplines in working with SUD population
- Hoping to get in front of test audiences in the next couple months

Grief Support

- A counseling group is starting up: the group will be facilitated by Joni Jackson-Malavais and Patty Brezovar and will be held the second Thursday of each month from 6-8 pm

- Register at TRUcare.org
- Group NOT limited to Boulder County residents
- Participants will need to do brief intake with group coordinator to be registered
- Specifically counseling and support group, not a therapeutic group (therefore are not limited by state licensing)
- Looking into the possibility of starting a group specifically for folks in treatment through MHP, as well as a grief support group specifically geared to adolescents who have lost a sibling from drug overdose

10:00 Speaker in Recovery

10:10 COVID-19 Impacts on Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery OMNI Study Results

Holen Hirsch, PhD Director, Public and Behavioral Health, OMNI Institute

Eden Griffin, PhD Researcher, Public and Behavioral Health, OMNI Institute

- Survey administered in April/May of this year
- 14 addiction treatment providers were included, distributed to 530 participants total
- Participants were surveyed nationally (east and west coasts, middle of country, some in CO)
- Qualitative data showed much more varied experience with impacts of COVID (both on positive and negative side)

Questions:

I'm wondering if you think there could be a selection bias because those surveyed were currently engaged in treatment resulting in more positive findings? Were any individuals that have dropped out of treatment surveyed? Do you think that would change your findings?

- This study is definitely not a representative sample of those across the recovery spectrum
- Original intention of the study was to gear results specifically for telehealth effectiveness and quality improvement for treatment providers.

Wondering if OMNI or any other SUAG partners have data showing how these kinds of impacts resulted in new/increased COVID-19 funding opportunities or actual allocation of COVID-19 \$ for treatment?

- Several healthcare providers have gotten dollars for telehealth, but overall decreased revenue

Did the survey results/reporting include any recommendations from OMNI for COVID19 funding for SUD prevention or treatment, or do you or other SUAG folk want to articulate any recommendations now?

- A recommendation from SUAG would be more telehealth appointments and adjustments to dosing. More infrequent need to stop in an office is good.
- Communication with SODA about possibility of expanding treatment dosing
- Advocacy should be engaged in from our community about experiences and what recommendations the group has to external partners/law makers
- Experiencing a lack of services as someone in recovery; really running into trouble trying to find appropriate supports.
- Having Zoom meetings is opening up opportunities of connection for some

10:45 Open Forum Discussion: Experiences with SUD Programming in our Community during the COVID-19 Pandemic

- 22 Recovery Café's across the country are struggling with attendance
- Hearing about higher relapse rates from some local OTP and MAT providers, returning COAP clients in the jail and then clients that go off the radar and we make assumptions about. It also seems like our local homelessness rate is much higher than the rate reported in the survey.

11:15 Group Member Updates and Announcements

Attention Homes

- Shelter operating at reduced capacity (5 individuals at a time vs previous capacity of 14)
- Street outreach is operating 2 days a week: table outside of band shell on Tuesdays 9-11 am and Thursdays 1-3 pm

RHC Community Connector

- Medicaid enrollment has been very increased in Boulder and Broomfield counties

Centura Health

- All area hospitals have started to engage in naloxone distribution
- Any patient identified with SUD (receiving medical intervention) will be given a take home pack of Narcan
- Initiative came out of Colorado Hospital Association's Narcan distribution in hospitals recommendation.
 - Criteria identified from patient health history
 - Patients are asked additional questions to identify personal risk
 - Asked if interested in Narcan/have access to Narcan, history of opioid abuse, etc.
- Nurses and doctors are receiving education and talking points to enable more meaningful and less stigmatizing interactions with patients

Colorado Consortium

- October 21st is Consortium's annual meeting
- Contact: <http://www.corxconsortium.org/contact-us/>

11:30 Wrap Up