

Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, October 21st, 2020

9:30-11:30 am

[Zoom Meeting](#) | Meeting ID: 892 2904 2602 , Passcode: 912017

9:30 Settling In

Boulder County Coroner's Office: Toxicology and Drug Overdose Data

Emma R. Hall Coroner, Boulder County Coroner's Office

Katie Becker Pathology Supervisor, Boulder County Coroner's Office

- Autopsy reports are the only public facing documents coming out of the Coroner's Office
- Difference between Coroner's Office and law enforcement: Coroner has jurisdiction over the body and law enforcement has jurisdiction over the crime scene
- A lag in data reporting is due to capacity of Coroner's Office staff. The Office doesn't have full time statisticians on staff, which makes it more difficult to compile and complete timely data requests.
- 2020 fentanyl deaths so far this year, 14 total: 11 poly drug and 3 fentanyl only
- Benzodiazepines are included in polydrug toxicology results
- Additional demographic information (such as age breakdown of data) is included in the full annual report
- Annual reports can be found on the Coroner's Office website:
<https://www.bouldercounty.org/departments/coroner/>
- Mortality data reporting sequence:
 - Coroner's Office gathers annual data and compiles in report
 - CDPHE vital statistics compiles statewide reports
 - CDC puts together national mortality data. This report usually garners a long turnaround time- can take 2 years.
- Contact: coroner@bouldercounty.org
- Do you test for MAT drugs in tox screens?
 - MAT drugs would pop up on tox screen
 - Can test for Narcan as well. The result is not quantified—just a yes or no to it being in the system.

10:40 The Reentry Initiative and Overdose Reversal Story

Emily Kleeman, MSW, LCSW Executive Director, The Reentry Initiative (TRI)

- Visit <https://www.reentryinitiative.org/>
- TRI operates under WAGEES grant <https://wageesco.org/>
 - WAGEES grant covers 19 programs state-wide
 - Identified non-profit agencies receiving funding (Bridge House in Boulder is another WAGEES participant)
- Not running pre-release programs currently due to COVID

- Individuals on parole can be referred to post-release programming
 - Services include: employment training, housing assistance, transportation assistance (bus passes and gas cards), clothing/household items assistance (free through stocked supplies and closet), hygiene backpacks, identification and birth certificate acquisition, life skills on weekly basis (incentivized)
- TRI doesn't work with folks on probation, only parole
- Participants need to be living in Boulder County to qualify
- Eligibility for services based on grant requirements
 - Grant delineates medium to high risk individuals on parole as population to be served. TRI is really set up to serve anyone on parole.
- TRI is funded through grant dollars, community donations

- How has reduction of beds available affected participants experiencing homelessness and on parole?
 - Increase in transient population, decrease in affordable housing
 - Housing meet-up groups interviewing for roommates, trying to bolster housing assistance
- Are there supportive businesses in Longmont who provide employment opportunities?
 - Staff making connections with employment and certification programs
 - Second chance employers identified who support employing TRI clients
- How recent does their discharge have to be if they haven't been referred yet?
 - Can be referred at a later time; if still on parole they can qualify
- Is there any reason why you would remove someone from the program?
 - Removal of a client would have to be due to a pretty egregious offense. Staff try to address a behavior that could be a conduct issue and resolve this to allow clients to stay in programming; if the behavior causes a safety issue that could affect others this could be grounds for dismissal from program
- Are there any interactions between MAT status and program eligibility or services able to be offered?
 - TRI wants to be able to partner with any groups that offer MAT in the county. The program will refer clients who indicate that they could benefit from MAT. TRI has members who are still using and can make warm hand-offs based on these referrals.
 - No eligibility issues for participating in the program if someone is still using and/or on MAT.
- What kind of support could we provide to help prevent overdoses and/or overdose deaths?
 - More access is needed to longer stay treatment after detox or overdose. A week to 90 day stay is not enough for individuals needing prolonged support for their SUD.
 - Support is needed after the emergency department room visit/overdose event. Connecting/providing resources at this touch point.
- Is this only available for Longmont residents or could they be residents of other cities and then move out to your program in Longmont?
 - Clients can come into county at any time and work with parole to become a member (do not have to be residents of Longmont)
 - Program uses warm hand-offs so participants do not have to retell their stories.
- Where can we give donations and what could you use?

- TRI will be organizing a future socially-distanced donation event
- Email info@reentryinitiative.org for all donation questions

11:00 Updates and Announcements

Boulder Community Health

- Has started Narcan distribution in emergency department for certain patients with indications of SUD
- The Opioid and Chronic Pain Response program is now PILLAR, Prevention and Intervention for Life-long Alternatives and Recovery

TRUCare Overdose Loss Support Group

- First grief support meeting went well—
- Group meets online and is open to virtually anyone, no requirement for being Boulder County resident
- Definitely has room to grow; filling a much-needed gap in counseling and grief support services

Boulder County Community Permitting and Planning

- Updating the marijuana code which currently includes buffer requirements between marijuana establishments and treatment facilities:
 - Submit feedback by the 28th - <https://forms.gle/z4BdhWtpfhc3i6i6A>

Recovery Café Longmont

- Felicia Perez-Wright was hired as our bilingual/bicultural peer support specialist —we are thrilled to be able to offer recovery support services in Spanish.
- Have added Acudetox (auricular acupuncture therapy) on Saturdays from 2:30-3:15 pm, free for Recovery Café members
- Recovery Café Longmont hours: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 12:00 to 3:00pm and Thursdays, 5:00 to 7:00pm

11:30 Wrap Up