

## Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

9:30-11:30 am

### 9:30 Sober Living Task Force

*Shannon Bryan Programs Coordinator, IMPACT, Boulder County Housing and Human Services*

*Heidi Grove HSBC Systems Manager, Boulder County Community Services*

- Task force first convened September 2020
- Noticeable gap in sober living solutions county-wide
  - Identified needs that align with best practices
  - Hope for increased communication and feedback loops
- Using SUAG as a resource to help inform the task force's process
  - Access to additional resources
  - Leveraging expertise, using professional lenses of SUAG members as sounding board on direction of task force

#### Q&A:

- Where would an individual go who's in recovery and experiencing homelessness?
  - They would move through the coordinated entry process.
- Is the HSBC Exec Team using the city/county racial equity tools at this stage of scoping/planning?
  - We've talked about the racial equity lens/county equity tool in incorporating it into our planning.
  - Equity is central to our conversations, will be bigger portion when pulling together our RFP.
  - Considering the various components to the equity process (language, access to information, etc)
- I was just on the Jefferson County Commissioners meeting yesterday which reviewed zoning for a recovery residence. It was interesting to hear the opposition from residents and HOA. There was still a lot of stigma expressed. Are you thinking of any pro-active needs to get residents/HOAs on board? Any way the SUAG can help?
  - Task force will be wanting to address stigma in the community in addressing housing opportunities
  - Task force will be connecting with Attention Homes' housing project, specifically surrounding how community push back was addressed
  - Possibility of tapping into the work of SUAG's anti-stigma education work group when training and educational materials are finalized

### 10:00 Colorado Attorney General's Office Opioid Response Efforts

*Heidi Williams Director of Opioid Response, Colorado Attorney General's Office*

- COVID intensifying the opioid epidemic in Colorado
- Attorney General's Office is offering training to faith-based organizations in conjunction with the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
- Emphasizing community-based prevention education: How do we work to address stigma within the criminal justice system, housing, education, etc?
- Opioid settlement money will likely come in over a period of 18 years
- Boulder County will likely be its own region for funding allocation
- Reach out to Heidi about engaging with input into state strategy for funding allocation,  
[Heidi.Williams@coag.gov](mailto:Heidi.Williams@coag.gov)

## Local Opioid Settlement Litigation Process

*Representatives of Keller Rohrback L.L.P.*

- Web resource on the Colorado Fair Allocation Plan: <https://www.coloradofairallocationplan.com/>
- Different funding models are being proposed in response to opioid settlement litigation; looking to settle on an allocation plan that works well for the state as a whole
- Proposed regions
  - Denver and Boulder usually separated by Management Services Organization (MSO)
  - Attorney General's Office proposed having fewer regions to reduce administrative costs, will encourage collaboration
- Contact [opioids@kellerrohrback.com](mailto:opioids@kellerrohrback.com) with any questions

### Q&A:

- Ongoing communication is occurring between Attorney General's Office and local stakeholders
- The regions will determine how funds are allocated/spent
- Determining relationships to leverage, tapping into coalitions to receive input from those in the field
- A leadership group has formed at the county level in response to planning for opioid settlement funding
  - Local government coalition examining how to divide up incoming resources
  - Will be looking at Consortium recommendations, and will be drilling down to local level input
    - Colorado Opioid Crisis Response Blueprint:  
[https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/sites/default/files/file\\_attachments/Opioid%20Response%20Blueprint%203-24-2020.pdf](https://www.coloradohealthinstitute.org/sites/default/files/file_attachments/Opioid%20Response%20Blueprint%203-24-2020.pdf)
  - SUAG serving as connection to folks with lived experience/community members themselves
  - First leadership meeting of government leadership group will be in December – still many questions about forming this oversight group that need to be answered
  - Intention is to keep SUAG in the loop as this leadership group develops

## 10:40 Behavioral Health Hub and Co-Responder Implementation

*Kelly Veit*

*Strategic Implementation Manager, Boulder County Community Services*

*Jennine Hall*

*Co-Responder Program Manager, Boulder County Community Services*

### Behavioral Health Hub Model

- Single point of entry
- Closing the loop with referral networks
- Kick off point to the Hub was the 2019 OMNI report assessing behavioral health needs for the county, which included feasibility in expansion of co-response/diversion county-wide and recommendation for coordinated behavioral health referral system
- Hub will operate through NOW POW referral platform
  - A universal ROI will be housed within NOW POW for service providers to access
- Where do we go from here?
  - Creating communication mechanisms between agencies and departments to smoothly integrate service and referral networks
- 3 Phases of Hub implementation
  - Opportunities for future collaboration between SUAG and Hub in Phase 2

East Boulder County Co-Response Team

- Co-Response program will be kicking off in December.

- New team will be responding throughout county: Lafayette, Louisville, Erie, Superior, Nederland and mountain communities. This program will not overlap with areas in which existing co-response programs are present (Longmont and City of Boulder have their own co-response programs).
- Team members:
  - Veris Simms, field supervisor and specialty case manager
  - Amanda Rumsey, co-responder
  - McKenzie LeTendre, supporting co-response program: assisted in developing training module for co-response team
  - Hoping to expand team by 2 additional co-responders in the field
- Contact program: [coresponderinfo@bouldercounty.org](mailto:coresponderinfo@bouldercounty.org)
- Process:
  - Community members call in and ask for “co-responder” rather than requesting police.
  - Current hours of operation are 12 to 8 pm, 7 days a week (possibility of moving to an on-call schedule)
  - Dispatch is informed when Veris and Amanda are on shift.
    - Co-responders communicate with dispatch through an app on their phones. This app tracks details on the nature of the call being responded to, notification when co-responder is out responding, location/ETA through GPS.
  - Co-responders do not drive with police officers. They arrive in their own cars following a secondary response model.
  - Co-responders will be piloting the NOW POW referral system live in the field with tablets.
- Specialty case management will be provided for high utilizers
  - When program goes live, calls can be made to Veris to refer clients. You will not need to direct the request through law enforcement, referrals can be made through any community partner.
  - Contact Veris: [vsimms@bouldercounty.org](mailto:vsimms@bouldercounty.org)
  - Linkage to appropriate services; Can have continuous contact with any clients (no time limit)
  - Building database to track growth for program, incorporating feedback from participants.
- Resources co-responders will carry:
  - Tactical bag will be carried by every co-responder in the field to meet client’s immediate basic needs: hats, gloves, stuffed animal, hygiene supplies, cell phones with pre-loaded minutes, first aid kits, food/water
  - Will be developing advertising materials (business cards) to hand out to clients for program contact information.
- Co-response team will perform services out in the community when not on call.
  - Goal to promote visibility in the community; making connection to community outside of an affiliation with law enforcement.
- Denver is piloting STAR model for co-response
  - Trained 911 dispatch to triage calls and divert any behavioral health or non-law related calls to co-response/paramedic (removing a law enforcement officer entirely from on-scene response)
  - The program is running successfully. None of these calls have had to be escalated to a police officer showing up on scene.
- Co-Responder program’s ask to SUAG: Build community awareness about co-response. Educate the community about this model, making the distinction that law enforcement will not be involved: “Co-responders are social workers, they can’t arrest or charge you.”

Q&A:

- Is there a future vision that takes a call from 911 straight to a Co-Responder? Thereby skipping unnecessary/unwanted police engagement?
  - This co-response model will circumvent law enforcement involvement

- How do we reach you all directly? Or does it have to go to the police directly?
  - Case management requests can go straight through Veris. He will respond within 24 hours to make contact with the individual referred and will also follow up with the person who initiated the referral.
  - Does not have to go through law enforcement. The only concern will be safety of co-responders- if safety is an issue, law enforcement officers could possibly be involved.
- How are you informing the community about your services?
  - Doing community scans to assess community resources able to be utilized/partnered with for co-response.
  - Co-responders will be making connections with these agencies before the program goes live
  - Co-responders will have identifying uniforms (different than law enforcement)
- Do you need donations from community?
  - Yes, will gladly accept donations for any supplies. Use program email to get in touch about supply donations: [coresponderinfo@bouldercounty.org](mailto:coresponderinfo@bouldercounty.org)
- Could you use volunteers or interns?
  - Yes, looking at building capacity for this a little later on. Wanting to build solid foundation with staff first.
- For City of Boulder, MHP is contracted for staffing EDGE (Early Diversion, Get Engaged) through 2020. Work is underway to transition the EDGE program to the City of Boulder in January/February 2020. Reach out to Elizabeth Crowe for information about the city's program: [crowee@bouldercolorado.gov](mailto:crowee@bouldercolorado.gov)

#### **11:00 Member Updates and Announcements**

#### **11:30 Wrap Up**