

Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, December 16th, 2020

9:30-11:30 am

Zoom Meeting

9:30 Meeting Welcome

Connecting with Legislators

Senator Brittany Pettersen

Colorado Senate District 22, Covers Jefferson County

- Desire to build system changes that are sustainable and cohesive, not so patchwork and one-time funding based. Emphasis needs to be placed on creating streamlined wrap around services (recovery, housing, etc) that are easy to navigate, as these wrap around services are critical to supporting individuals' recovery long-term.
- Legislative call for support: Need help advocating for funding, bringing stories of lived experience and what's happening "on the ground" to the legislature. Legislators are going to need those in the field informing and lending their voices to upcoming SUD and behavioral health policy decisions.
- One immediate goal is introducing a behavioral health recovery bill. Behavioral health is at the forefront of COVID dollars in Colorado, something exclusive to our state; many did not factor behavioral health needs into this emergency relief funding.
- The Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Interim Study Committee will be convening again this summer. Committee members would love stakeholder participation on this. Information will be shared closer to the summer.
- Reach out through email to Senator Pettersen's office, brittany.pettersen.senate@state.co.us

Representative Judy Amabile

Colorado House District 13, Covers Boulder, Clear Creek, Gilpin, Grand, and Jackson Counties

- Representative Amabile holds a personal priority in marijuana policy
- Judy hopes to institute a tax to fund mental health services
- Please reach out if you want to know more about the city's process around opting out (we hope) of social consumption and recreational marijuana delivery. Contact Robin Noble, Representative Amabile's Legislative Aide, aide@judyamabile.com

Senator Sonya Jaquez Lewis

Colorado Senate District 17, Covers Boulder County

- Senator Jaquez Lewis' priority to address Substance Use Disorder came from her time serving on the County Board of Health
- Very supportive of HB1085, Prevention of Substance Use Disorders
<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb20-1085>
- Recent 10 million dollar funding cut to SUD programming (5.5 million in cuts to DHS program for treatment in underserved communities). Wanting to restore funding to these programs.
- To reach Senator Jaquez Lewis' office, contact SD17staff@gmail.com and for Senator-Elect Jaquez Lewis directly, sonyajlewis@gmail.com

Erika Blum, Constituent Advocate for Congressman Joe Neguse

U.S. Representative for Colorado's 2nd Congressional District

- Congressman Neguse is pushing for direct relief to citizens for federal stimulus packages
- There may be upcoming opportunities to do more in Congress this upcoming session (many SUD related bills were previously blocked by the Senate)
- Neguse's support of SUD and mental health work:
 - Has sponsored legislation to provide grants to state and local entities to combat opioid crisis: State Opioid Response Grant Authorization Act
 - To provide 1 billion dollars annually for the next 5 years to expand new treatment programs, fix treatment gaps, hire larger workforce, and support prevention campaigns
 - Passed in House, awaiting Senate vote
 - Joined Representative Cummings' Comprehensive Addiction Resource Emergency (CARE) Act
 - Modeled on Ryan White Act, passed in 1990 to help state and local governments
 - Includes SUD supports as well as combatting HIV/AIDS
 - Expanding access to naloxone, providing kits for distribution to first responders
 - Has advocated for funds to support SUD within the Appropriations Legislation each year he has been in Congress
- Neguse was elected to a powerful leadership position to craft messaging for the Democratic Caucus
 - Erika will continue to be a voice on his staff in advocating to discuss SUD as the disease it is and not a moral failing
- Use Neguse's office as a resource: Can write letters in support of federal funding for county governments and provide direct constituent services for folks struggling to reach any federal agency. Contact Erika.blum@mail.house.gov

Questions

How do we get involved in the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorder Interim Study Committee?

- The hope is for the interim committee session to convene this coming summer (starting in July); schedule is a little unpredictable due to COVID. Information will be shared about participation in the committee later in the year as the interim session approaches.

What is the pushback on a policy level with allocating money to SUD services upfront? You'd think this would save the state money in the long run on expenditures on hospital stays, ER visits, etc.

- This perspective makes sense from a logical and fiscal standpoint. Stigma causes a barrier to allocating outright funding for these services as that would require garnering buy-in from those who do not recognize the medical/physiological basis of addiction. We still have work to do on changing minds in how Substance Use Disorder is framed.

Do we know about any bills to expand peer services and having those services covered by Medicaid, etc?

- The COSSAP grant that the county recently received and in its planning phase has a big emphasis on Peers, we just don't know yet exactly what that will look like yet

Feel free to reach the Policy Team at the Consortium at leg@corxconsortium.org with any questions. Policy developments at the state will continue to be shared with SUAG as they arise. Consortium policy resources: <https://corxconsortium.org/resources/legislature/>

10:15 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Data Outcomes

Audrey Schroer, CSAP Program Specialist- Healthy Futures Coalition

Yarrow Linden, AmeriCorps VISTA member

Key Takeaways – Substance Use:

- Prescription pain medicine is the most tried drug (excluding tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana) among BVSD high school youth, at 13%
- Hispanic youth more likely to have tried prescription pain medicine compared to their white peers
- Gay, lesbian, bi, and questioning youth more likely to have tried prescription pain medicine compared to their heterosexual peers
- Transgender youth more likely to have tried prescription pain medicine compared to their cisgender peers
- Hispanic youth more likely to have used prescription pain medicine in the past 30 days compared to their white peers
- Cocaine, meth, and heroin use has stayed fairly consistent since 2013, but meth and cocaine use has significantly decreased from 2017-2019

Key Takeaways – Substance Use Perceptions:

Ease of Access:

- Around 1/5th of students perceive drugs like cocaine, LSD, and amphetamines easy/very easy to access
- Around 1/4th of students perceive prescription drugs easy/very easy to access
- No statistically significant differences between drug groups or years

Wrong to use:

- From 2017 to 2019, students became more aware that prescription drugs are wrong to use without a prescription
- Over 90% of students believe it is wrong to use both prescription drugs and drugs like cocaine, LSD, and amphetamines

Key Takeaways – Mental Health:

Race/Ethnic Disparities:

- Hispanic students more likely to exhibit depressive symptoms than their white or "other, non-Hispanic" peers
- Hispanic students more likely to have considered suicide, and have attempted suicide, compared to their white peers

Gender/Sexuality Disparities:

- Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Questioning students more likely to exhibit depressive symptoms, self-harm, and consider, plan, and attempt suicide, compared to their heterosexual peers
- Transgender and not sure students more likely to exhibit depressive symptoms, and consider, plan, and attempt suicide, compared to their cisgender peers (no transgender data for self-harm)

Reach out to Audrey Schroer, aschroer@bouldercounty.org, if you or your program would like more information about the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey and/or additional analyses of 2019 data.

10:30 Work Group Share-Out
2020 Activities Summary

11:10 Recognition
Steering Committee Acknowledgment
Community Member Outstanding Service Awards

11:20 Updates and Announcements

Recovery Café Longmont

- Phone support hours extended to Monday through Saturday, 11:00am to 7:00pm. Call 720-815-2885.

Attention Homes

- Will be opening its drop-in center next week. This will look completely different from how it has looked in the past. We will officially be reopening for in-person services Monday 12/21 and Tuesday 12/22. Then starting the week of 12/28 drop-in will consistently be open Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm-5pm. Clients will only be allowed to come in for 2-hour increments either from 12pm-2pm or from 3pm-5pm. We will be closing from 2pm-3pm for cleaning, sanitizing, and restocking. We will only allow 5 clients per 2 hour increment. They can arrive late but will not get extra time. Once they leave the drop-in they will not be allowed to re-enter. Clients may call and sign-up for one of the two time slots. Services that will be available include to-go meals, showers, case management, laundry vouchers, clothing, mail, and phone/computer use.

Works Program

- Operating in Longmont and Lafayette all throughout the holidays, with Mental Health Partners site in Boulder also operating. All offer syringe exchange, along with naloxone.

Colorado Queer and BIPOC Equity Group

- For those working in the SUD/Mental Health space
- Email cbqequity@gmail.com to become involved in monthly meetings and educational opportunities.
- First meeting will be January 22nd, 12-1 pm

11:30 Wrap Up