

Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, November 17, 2021
9:30-11:30 am
Zoom Meeting

9:30 Introduction and Community Updates & Announcements

★ Community Updates:

- [Survey](#) for new name ideas for Healthy Youth Alliance, reach out to Alyssa Amidei for further questions (aamidei@bouldercounty.org)
- New school for recovery classes at Recovery Cafe Longmont including AcuWellness, Acupuncture with meditation, Ted Talk Thursday, and meditative walks on Thursday as well
 - [Free Acudetox on Saturdays at 3pm](#)
- Substance Use Loss Support Group at Tru Care is meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 6-8pm. [Registration](#) to join this group available
- [External Relations Strategist](#) position open for Consortium
- HSR 17, Park, Clear Creek, and Gilpin Counties [Regional Health Connector job](#) listing with a \$1k hiring bonus
- BVSD has received their shipment of Naloxone from the Bulk Fund from CDPHE and is not focusing on training of nurses/emergency response teams on administering Naloxone
 - [BVSD Podcast](#) about Health and Wellness for youth-serving adults
- [Colorado Sun Article](#) about fentanyl overdoses
 - Questions can be directed to Commander Nick Goldberger (ngoldberger@bouldercounty.org, desk phone 303-441-3654, general office 303-441-1690)
- Inspire Youth Connections has created a map on [youth resources](#) available in the county - send to youth, if you have questions reach out to Liz Burham
- Behavioral Health Group
 - Central intake process where individuals can intake at one center via tele-health and be put on the calendar = no waiting times
 - Extending hours in Denver location till 8pm, Longmont center will extend their hours till 3pm
 - All centers are hiring for a range of positions such as administrative support, nursing, therapists, etc.
- [Colorado School of Public Health Cannabis Research & Policy](#) - workgroup available
- Apply for Housing Opportunities on December 14th! Boulder County Housing Authority's (BCHA) mission is expanding access to affordable housing in our community - [Applications](#) will only be accepted online

- Broomfield Public Health released a new campaign on [“Why Language Matters”](#) around topics such as mental health and substance use
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- Sober AF Entertainment event coming up on December 30th to go to a Nuggets Game - check their [website](#) for more event information
 - Sober support tailgate within Ball Arena in the Executive Board Room where peer recovery coaches will be promoted nationally
 - Sober Support Tent at Decadence (EDM Festival), 8 tickets available for volunteers needed! Reach out to Duke Rumely (duke@soberafe.com)
- Healthy Future Coalition is looking for new members (age 15-20) to join the youth coalition and are in the process of hiring a youth advisor. If you want to learn more, please reach out to Abby at abohannan@bouldercounty.org

10:00 Updates on Possession with SUD present / Diversion Cases

Boulder County District Attorney: Elaina Shively, Deputy District Attorney (eshively@bouldercounty.org) & Jenny Dusseau, Lead Diversion Coordinator (jdusseau@bouldercounty.org)

DA’s Office Diversion Programs Update

- Diversion is a pre-conviction alternative to traditional prosecution that reduces the damaging collateral consequences of a criminal conviction while holding participants accountable for the offense and supporting them to repair harm to victims and others affected
 - Diversion Principles:
 - Trauma-informed
 - Restorative & Victim Centered
 - Individualized
 - Equitable, accessible, and culturally responsive
- Diversion Expansion
 - 2017: Added unsupervised diversion, expanded to all ages, expanded volunteer RJ program
 - 2018: Co-responder/LE programs, BH Hub Planning, Increased Capacity, Focus on Harm Reduction
 - 2019-2020: Launched Mental Health Diversion, New Drug Reform, Drivers License Diversion

Restorative Justice

- Offender must be accepting responsibility
- Focus is on who was harmed, how they were harmed and what their needs are, and what can be done to repair harm from the offense (victim-centered)
- Must be voluntary for all parties

- A restorative justice process brings together the people involved in the incident - the offender(s), victim(s), support people, and other community members to decide what needs to happen to make things as right as possible after a crime has been committed
- Restorative conversations are incorporated into all diversion tracks

Drug Possession Cases & Diversion

- De-Felonization of most Drug Possession Offenses in March 2020 (Fentanyl not included)
 - The charge of possessing an illegal substance no longer includes felony offense, sentencing schemes are now different
- Collaboration with Public Health and MHP on Minor in Possession Tickets and Drug Possession Cases where Possession is the sole charge

Harm Reduction Practices

- Meeting people “where they’re at”
- Person-centered goals and treatment plans; case plan may prioritize something else such as trauma recovery and resiliency prior to addressing substance use
- Focus on matching connections with community supports outside of justice systems (diversion is a short-term program)
- Many of those in diversion are involved with MAT treatment

Restorative Diversion Outcomes

- 8% recidivism rate, reoffending after release
- 94-97% successful completion rate
- Decreased risk, procedural justice, increased sense of safety, community involvement, accountability, system savings, victim centered work and treatment, satisfaction of community members
- 50% decrease from 2019, 2020 on % of drug arrests

Questions:

- How do laws with DF Felonies affect previous offenders?
 - Charges going forward from that date. Possession laws have changed March 1, 2020. If a possession charge has been made after March 1, 2020, it will be the new after those laws when a crime is committed, it would be the new possession laws that will drive those charges
- Under a certain quantity that possession charges are committed under, what is this amount?
 - [Drug Possession Statue](#)

10:30 Perinatal Substance Use Disorder 101 & Legislative Updates, Illuminate Colorado

Jillian Fabricius, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Illuminate (jfabricius@illuminatecolorado.org)

Hattie Landry, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Illuminate (hlandry@illuminatecolorado.org)

Preventing and Addressing Prenatal Substance Exposure: Illuminate Colorado's Approach

- Illuminating Protective Factors through Strengthening Families
 - Parental Resilience
 - Social Connections
 - Concrete support in times of need
 - Knowledge of parenting & child development
 - Social & emotional competence
- Illuminates Two-Generational Approach:
 - This approach focuses on equally and intentionally creating opportunities for and addressing needs of the whole family, including both children and the adults in their lives, together
- Emerging trends: pregnancy & substance use
 - Individuals 24-39, 53.4% needed but did not receive treatment services
 - Reasons for this included: uncertainty about costs, unsure they could cover costs, did not have insurance, difficulty getting an appointment, wait lists, shortage of providers
 - Alcohol is the most used substance in women during their last trimester
 - People binge drink more after pregnancy
 - Greatest resource needs in the county:
 - Recovery supports: recovery housing
 - Substance use treatment: family involved treatment
 - Child care: child care for families in crisis and families in treatment
 - According to an NIH study, it is estimated that 1 in 20 first-graders have a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)
 - Pregnant or parenting people in CO who enroll in the Special Connections residential SUD treatment program face average waitlists of 8-12 weeks for short-term treatment programs, and an average of 20-30 individuals are on waitlist queues at any given time
- The Substance Exposed Newborns Steering Committee with Family Advisory Board (FAB)
 - Priority 1: reduce stigma around accessing substance use disorder treatment and recovery supports for pregnant and parenting people
 - One barrier to this priority is fear/fear of potentially losing a child
 - Priority 2: ensure systems, and the people who work within them, develop policies and practices with families that support warm handoffs and standardize practices to address equities
 - Priority 3: Build Colorado's statewide capacity to align efforts, apply lessons from our data, and recognize and respond to emerging needs
 - Priority 4: Build Colorado's statewide capacity to identify Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders and support impacted families
 - To get involved, get periodic updates, and learn more about workgroups - please go to their website: <https://www.illuminatecolorado.org/project/sen/>

Questions:

- Do you work with mothers who have given birth to an addicted infant / do you work with the mothers to regain custody?
 - We do not provide programmatic services ourselves, we provide partnerships to those who can actually help in these situations and support families. We look at policies/practices that are getting in the way of helping this population. If your client is enrolled in Medicaid, there are some services there that are available - for immediate attention on this topic, you can reach out to sbryan@bouldercounty.org to get more information
 - Toolkit, reports, provider lists are linked within the powerpoint slides
- For further questions and information on this topic and available resources, email Jillian (jfabricius@illuminatecolorado.org) and Hattie (hlandry@illuminatecolorado.org)

11:00 Behavioral Health Hub Discussion

Kelly Veit, Strategic Implementation Manager, Boulder County Community Justice Services (kveit@bouldercounty.org)

Behavioral Health Hub - <https://resources.bouldercounty.org/findrx/BoulderCountyBHAS>

- ★ The website is now available and open for you to view it!
- ★ Main Features - BHAS
 - Searching for services
 - Filtering services
 - Viewing agency profiles
 - Sharing services to self or others
 - Requesting updates to services
- ★ **ASK: Let us know the gaps - what is missing?**
- ★ Send initial feedback to kveit@bouldercounty.org