

Wednesday, January 19, 2022
9:30-11:30 am
Zoom Meeting

9:35 Acudetox - The Facts and Myths. How it Works: A Virtual Live Demonstration

Avani Dilger, LAC, Certified Acudetox Specialist, MI Instructor; Founder and Director of Natural Highs of Boulder County - avani@naropa.edu

Natural Highs of Boulder County

1. Substance Abuse Prevention Peer Mentor Program focusing on mental health and addiction taking a different approach to addressing these challenges
2. Provide individuals with alternative resources to overcome these challenges such as:
 - a. Herb allies, positive relationship building, working with herbs/emotions simultaneously, AcuDetox/AcuWellness

AcuDetox/AcuWellness & Peer Mentor Programs for Resiliency

- What is Acu-Detox?
 - Acudetox is a 5-point acupuncture protocol that was brought to the US in the late 60's as an alternative treatment to heroin addiction. The treatment helps the chi (energy) in your body to move and balance. The philosophy is that your body is designed to health itself
 - Effects:
 - Decreases cravings, withdrawal, anxiety & depression
 - Increases emotional well-being
 - Supports pain management
 - Improves PTSD
 - Supports sleep
 - Increases motivation for treatment
- Offering AcuDetox for the Boulder community, twice a week for FREE (all ages)
 - Every Tuesday from 5:30-6:30pm at MadeLife: 2691 30th Street, Boulder (please bring N95 or KN95 mask & water bottle)
 - Every Monday from 5:30-6:30pm at Flatirons Recovery: 2770 Dagny Way Suite 202
- Anyone in Colorado who goes through 3-day training can become an Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist (ADS) if they are connected to a program through peer mentorship
- How to get trained as an Acupuncture Detoxification Specialist (ADS) in Colorado:
 - Boulder, Colorado: April 8-10 2022
 - Registration info on www.acudetox.com
 - [Info for future AcuDetox Training](#)

Questions:

- Are you using AcuDetox at the Harm Reduction Centers?

- We are offering at Denver to unhoused people on the streets. Have not formally connected to Harm Reduction Centers in these areas.

9:50 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Grant and Implementation of MAT within Jails

Kristen Compston, LCSW, LAC, Grant Programs Coordinator, Boulder County Community Justice Services

- ★ Behavioral Health Assistance Program (BHAP)
 - BHAP is a voluntary program for current inmates, individuals eligible for diversion, or individuals identified by law enforcement/co-responders as at risk of arrest
 - Funded under 2 separate grants
 - Goal: reduce the number of arrests for people with behavioral health needs through increased community-based supports and stabilization
 - How this is done: relationship building in the jail, seamless jail to community support, continued support if/when client returns to jail
 - What we do: re-entry preparation in jail and intensive community-based case management after release
- ★ BHAP Clients
 - Eligibility: likelihood of moderate to severe behavioral health disorders
 - Ex: co-occurring disorders, homeless, criminal history, internal disorganization (delusion, psychosis, brain injury, dementia, substance induced psychosis, IDD)
- ★ BHAP Tracks
 - Severe and Persistent Mental Illness
 - No sex offenses, First Degree Assault, or Murder charges in adult history
 - Partnership with Mental Health Partners (MHP) to provide medication management, peer support, therapy (plan to launch partnership in Jan 2021)
 - Substance use disorder
 - Moderate to severe substance use disorder
 - No charge-based restrictions
 - Partnership with MHP to provide peer support in the jail and community (plan to launch partnership in Jan 2021)
- ★ BHAP Services
 - Supportive Case Management
 - Relationship building/alliance with client identified needs
 - Problem solving and multidisciplinary approach to systemic barriers
 - Common Supports
 - Transportation
 - Medication Assistance
 - Coordinated entry
 - Medicaid & SNAP Enrollment
 - Probation/parole compliance
 - Support client in acquiring needed documents (ID, social security, birth certificate)
- ★ Send referrals to: BHAP@bouldercounty.org
 - Include:

- Name, DOB, Release Date, Mental Health Dx/Hx, Substance use Hx, Motivation for services, other notes

BHAP Contacts:

- Kristen Compston, Program Supervisor: kcompston@bouldercounty.org
- Magali Maldonado, Bilingual Mental Health Case Manager: mmaldonado@bouldercounty.org
- Sarah Wiebelhaus, SUD Case Manager: swiebelhaus@bouldercounty.org
- Elodi Aguirre, Bilingual SUD Case Manager: elaguirre@bouldercounty.org
- Bekah Arnold, Screening & Intake Specialist: rarnold@bouldercounty.org

Questions:

- What are your sources of referrals? (ex: hospital EDs)
 - We will take a referral from anywhere. Have not gotten referrals from hospitals but we get a majority of referrals from the medical team at jail, mental health team at jail, law enforcement, community members, etc.
- Do individuals need to be incarcerated in order to be a part of the program?
 - They do not need to be incarcerated but they need to be involved or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system; so referrals can come from law enforcement before they are arrested (trying to make bridge this gap)
 - Referrals have to be 18 and older
- How do you make a referral if you know someone that would benefit but unsure if they would want to commit?
 - We typically reach out and ask if they would be interested in the program. Because BHAP is voluntary, it is ultimately their choice. If it is a community member that has been referred, we would do outreach and let the individual know that someone sent us their name/number and leave them to say yes or no.
- If someone has warrants can they still qualify?
 - Yes, if they have a warrant in Boulder County.

10:20 Legislative Updates from State Representatives

Judy Amabile, Colorado House of Representative, District 13, SUAG Steering Committee

- ★ Behavioral Health Transformational Task Force strategically planned on how to allocate 450 million dollars for funding
- ★ Fund allocations:
 - There will be 100 million dollars going to community grants. These grants can go to counties, cities, government, community based organizations working within a behavioral health space
 - IMPORTANT: Pay attention to this process/when the bills get introduced and passed because criteria for use of funding will be established
 - 70 million dollars will be used for more beds at the state-level (125 beds that are residential step/downs), sober living homes, residential spaces
 - 40 million dollars will be used for schools and school based mental health
 - 125 million dollars will be focused on youth and families (ex: facilities, crisis, in patient, outpatient targeted for youth/families)
 - 200 million dollars will be coming from the Economic Task Force

- 100 million for beds/facilities in Watkins Colorado, as well as a facility in the Denver Metro Area = targeted for homeless people struggling in substance misuse disorder
 - In Watkins, the beds will be used for any substance use (including methamphetamine addiction)
 - Fort Lyons, Watkins, and Denver Metro area facilities will have an estimated 400 beds
- ★ Criminal Justice and intersection of Mental and Behavioral Health
 - Part of the 100 million in grants will go to diversion programs, co-responder programs, social service response as opposed to police response (ex: [STAR Program](#) in Denver)
 - Working on bill for mental health hold statute to get better treatment and less traumatic experiences that can occur during holding/waiting time

Questions:

- Do you know of anything comparable going on in the Western slope?
 - The 125 step-down beds are supposed to be in 10-bed facilities all over the state of Colorado (including rural towns). Sober living home
 - We are hoping that the smaller counties will group up with bigger counties and apply for these grants together so that we are being the best we can for communities that are spread out
- DEA campaign, One Poke Can Kill - what are your thoughts on this? We are trying to create a public campaign on the dangers of fentanyl?
 - Not sure what the best approach is. A great use for these dollars would be to hire someone who is a public messaging expert to figure out what the best way to do this would be. Rather than just throwing money for these campaigns (anti-drug campaigns) that may not have an effect on communities, we should gather more information on which campaigns were successful and why so that we can tailor our approach to those.
 - Make sure the information is widely disseminated among the communities that are impacted - Daily Camera has a lot of useful information, statistics, and updates on these events about substance use/fentanyl but we have to tell kids about these challenges and make messaging more direct to engage different populations so that everyone becomes aware.

Jose Esquibel, Executive Director of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

- Behavioral Task Force Recommendations for settlement funds:
 - Report about to come out that will outline what the money will and can be used for (particularly for substance use/opioid use crisis)
 - It will be likely put into multiple bills
- Current standings for where money will be allocated:
 - There will be additional money for Naloxone (bulk fund continues to run out) so approximately 5-10 million dollars will be given for the year
 - Increasing money for harm reduction services
 - MAT services/programming and increasing access to treatment as a whole
 - Workforce development funds - these funds will help to retain staff, decrease turn-over, reduce burn out and incentivize people to get out into the communities

- Diversion programs
- Next Steps:
 - The Task Force has covered the continuum very well but currently there are not enough details on the priorities these funds will be overlooking
 - Once the report is out, we will share this to community members in order for people to make sure that the bill entails all that is being asked for in communities

Question:

- Is there a link and/or process for individuals that are interested in getting scholarship reimbursement/need to get certified on how to do this?
 - This program is operated out of CDPHE, dollars would add more money for scholarship support for those in the behavioral health field and choosing to work in rural areas - more details to come!
 - [Rural Health Professional Loan Repayment](#)

Kevin Priola, Colorado State Senator, District 25

Takeaways:

- Once bills are released it will be important to stay engaged, show up and testify, and help promote the significance of these bills for those that have been affected.
- Main mission of the Task Force was to refine and transform the focus of our work so that it can be long-term and sustainable from prevention, rehabilitation, recovery and beyond

Fentanyl Bill:

- Main intent with the bill is to begin to disrupt the distribution and creation of lethal substances such that of Fentanyl
- 2 prong approach:
 - Go after the large players in the supply chain
 - Educate and dry up/reduce the demand (including increasing access to test trips and overdose products like Naloxone)

Enterprise Bill:

- There are 4 enterprises
 - Opioids/schedule I drugs, marijuana, alcohol, and tobacco
- The vision is to have a fee per MME (per pill/per serving/per pack), this would amount to 1 cent per item (rough estimate)
- Each of those 4 enterprises would raise 25 million per year; 100 million per year. With this revenue, after federal funds are spent over the next 2-3 years, there will continue to be a consistent source of funding that can be spent on education, recovery, rehabilitation for both people that are insured or those that are uninsured on the streets
- The idea / mission for this bill is due to the fact that there have been a lot of budgetary constraints with decisions to be made from limited funding. This bill would have its own board that would help make decisions on where the money should be spent and disseminated each year in order to reach the best outcomes for individuals in recovery.

10:55 SUAG Workgroup Break-Out Rooms

11:15 Large Group Discussion & Community Updates

★ Updates

- Boulder County Managed Services Organization (MSO) operated by Mental Health Partners has some grant funding available for recovery support services in our community.
 - Go to MHP's website and find an RFA for Recovery Support Services and a Capacity and Budget Template. Your nonprofit organization can apply for funds for a variety of recovery support services (such as Acudetox)
 - For more information, reach out to Ann Noonan at Noonan.consults@gmail.com
- Free Narcan for teens and adults. For more information visit [Natural Highs website](#)
- Free resources including school curriculum for [Fentanyl Awareness](#)
- Centura Hospital in Louisville has re-opened!