

## Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

9:30-11:30 am

Zoom Meeting: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1606655089>

### 9:35 SUAG Over the Years

*Jamie Feld, MPH, Deputy Director of Opioid Response Division of Community Engagement, Office of the Colorado Attorney General ([jamie.feld@coag.gov](mailto:jamie.feld@coag.gov))*

*Indira Gujral, MS, PhD, Communicable Disease and Emergency Management Division Manager, Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) ([igujral@bouldercounty.org](mailto:igujral@bouldercounty.org))*

#### SUAG Timeline:

- During the year of 2016, a landscape analysis was created because there was a significant increase in syringe access needs through the Works Program...which led to being the catalyst for the beginning of the Opioid Advisory Group (OAG) planning. OAG would be under two frameworks: the collective impact framework and shared leadership model
- In 2017, the OAG had over 130 individuals, 70 agencies listed and around 40-50 people attending
- 2018: OAG turned to SUAG and there was additional funding that led to successes in naloxone distribution/awareness and legislative advocacy

#### Harm Reduction Grant Fund HB22-1326 Expansion:

- BCPH has worked with community partners for their Fentanyl Response Plan this past year
  - This plan will respond to RFP with four strategies: community naloxone distribution, training, anti-stigma campaign, and data collection (OD Mapping)
- Total grant funds available: \$330,000 and implementation starting on July 1, 2023 (available for three years)

#### Questions:

- Is the grant only for naloxone or for other harm reduction resources?
  - The existing harm reduction grant would help with fentanyl test strips. The expansion has to be different than the existing direct service pieces.
- If the supply is secured, what is the timeline for distribution?
  - That is an important question. We have started thinking about whether we fund small pots of the community for distribution or do we look at it at a larger scale (healthcare). Overall, this leads to a greater question in terms of how we can increase access in the most equitable and inclusive way.

## **9:45 Story of Recovery**

*CJ Oliveira, Community Services Hub Coordinator, Boulder County Community Services*  
([coliveira@bouldercounty.org](mailto:coliveira@bouldercounty.org))

## **10:00 SUAG Workgroup Reports**

***Bridging the Gap - Mila Long and Jessica Zehm***

### 2022 Activities:

- Allyson LaRocca (Lead case manager for JMAT) & Denise Vincioni (DRG) have discussed with the group about furthering the coordination between the jail and MAT to ensure people are getting their MAT meds and all forms of those medications ...how to ensure methadone medication and treatment continue when they are incarcerated.
- Ensure that people who are being released are having referral sources and getting them transportation upon release so there isn't an additional gap.
- Overall connecting them with other case management, mental health and other treatment programs
- Completing intakes for inmates while they are in jail before they are released (DRG has discussed with Allyson and Aubrey)

### ***Community Outreach and Engagement - Meghan Razimoff and Ryan Christoff***

### 2022 Goals:

1. Increase our community presence and community membership in SUAG
2. Increase naloxone distribution and narcan training through Overdose Awareness Day
3. Grow our business recovery project to enhance opportunities for employment among those in recovery
4. Promoting overdose prevention in community and schools

### 2022 Activities:

- The group increased SUAG's community presence and membership through outreach & engagement events and website REACH. Over 30 additional individuals have joined our coalition and newsletter during 2022.
- During our OAD event, our group and volunteers passed out 275 kits in total during the two-day event and trained over 200 people in administering nasal naloxone during the Creek Hometown Festival. Other collaborations with the Works Program have been useful for Parent Education and naloxone trainings (more to come)
- There have been conversations with Workforce about how the group can house their BRP initiative. This project will continue into 2023

### ***Grief Support - Trina Fatz and Debbie Platts***

### 2022 Activities:

- This workgroup has been trying to find a sustainable approach to providing grief support sessions to those who have lost a loved one to SUDs.
- A Way Forward and GRASP will be collaborating moving forward to help provide grief support to the Boulder County community.
  - The upcoming grief support sessions in 2023 will be on the 4th Thursday of every month from 6:30-8pm (closed meeting to ensure safe space for participants). People need to pre-register in order to be a part of the group

### **Youth Services - Meghan Razimoff and Trina Faatz**

- ★ The overarching vision for the group was to bring together individuals who are leading different efforts to address youth substance use as well as caregivers and youth who have lived experience in this space.

#### 2022 Goals:

1. Create more, and support current, sober safe spaces and connections for youth
2. Develop, coordinate and amplify public awareness campaigns and efforts for youth and caregivers specific needs
3. Identify opportunities to address youth stress, anxiety, and self-harm
4. Promote better understanding of Boulder County youth substance use and service needs among the larger SUAG, our partner agencies, and community

#### Group updates:

- Trina and Meghan will be facilitating email updates to keep the group involved until co-chairs are replaced. If you are interested in being a co-chair for Youth Services, please reach out to either Trina or Meghan!
- The last activity the group left off with was to create a mapping effort to identify what is being done for youth and by whom. After the mapping effort, the group would then identify opportunities to either better leverage what is already being done, increase capacity and impact of what is already done, and identify what is still missing...From there recommendation for action steps could be made.

### **Methamphetamine Use Disorder - Dr. Carlos Estrella**

#### 2022 goals:

- Increase and apply for medicaid beds for treatment for substance use
  - This is now determined as a goal that would benefit through collaboration among other groups (ex: Outreach and Engagement) or legislative and advocacy.
- Provide more education for medical providers in the treatment of methamphetamine
  - Currently, a meeting has been scheduled (Dec 27) for provider education with Dr. Shuler to speak to treatment of methamphetamine use disorder and methamphetamine use as a whole
  - During 2023, the group is planning to extend an invitation to other County treatment orgs

### **Peer Recovery Coaches in the ED - Amanda Wroblewski**

The group will take a break in order to answer logistical and foundational pieces to put this into fruition

### **10:30 Boulder County - 3 Year Overview of Fatal and Non-fatal County Overdoses**

*Commander Nico Goldberger, Boulder County Drug Task Force*

#### County Overdoses 2020-2022:

- [2020 Emma Hall Report \(Coroner's Office Report\)](#)

- 62 drug related fatalities: 52 designated as accident, 6 as suicide, and 2 as undetermined (includes 5 fentanyl-only deaths)
- [2021 Emma Hill Report \(Coroner's Office Report\)](#)
  - 63 drug related fatalities: 50 designated as accident, 11 as suicide, 2 as undetermined (includes 7 fentanyl-only deaths)
- 2022 Data (Coroner's Report will be coming out in 2023)
  - Currently from Dec 8 there are: 68 drug related fatalities...47 accidental, 9 suicide, 1 as undetermined, 11 that are pending toxicology.
  - There are still some other suspected overdose cases since Dec 8, but these counts are unofficial as of now.

#### Drug Task Force Updates:

- There are 20 active investigations and suspected overdoses (including fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other substances)
- Additionally, there are active cases in both state and federal jurisdictions
- The Opioid Operations Group has been working to send programming for ROC to approve funding --- it was just announced that all 20 projects will be funded, including some DTF programming such as better investigative equipment for drug traffickers.
- HB 22-1326 has pushed more grant money for law enforcement purposes. All law enforcement entities will be included so that everyone in the County has these resources (ex: digital forensic labs)
- OD MAP: map program that law enforcement and first responders can add where overdoses have occurred or whether naloxone was administered
  - [OD MAP](#)
- 45 lbs of Cocaine and Fentanyl was found in North Longmont. It is a current investigation for the DTF, but these amounts of drugs are within our community.

#### **Questions:**

- Could you share an example of how a response has occurred from the OD MAP information? What are the next steps on this information?
  - This information is visible to the Coroner's Office, Sheriff's Dept, DTF, etc. They begin to start thinking about hot spots where overdoses are happening. It aids in better planning for treatment, services/resources, and assessing needs that are provided to community members. When we enter information into OD MAP, we just enter address (no specific info to the individual)
  - We are assessing: Naloxone uses, fatal v non-fatal, suspected drug use, no drug use, hopefully it is a save. This is more for investigative purposes and future planning

#### **10:45 Outstanding Service Awards**

2022 Outstanding Service Award Recipients were: Mila Long and Ryan Christoff!

#### **10:50 Moment of Remembrance**

#### **11:00 Introduction and Community Announcements**

#### Community Announcements:

- For those that are interested in having their organizations' achievements/work highlighted in the 2023 SUAG newsletters, please fill out the [Partner Spotlight form](#)
- Posting open for [Peer Case Manager](#) for the City of Longmont, through the LEAD/Angel Initiative. Please reach out to Emily Van Doren if you want to share this opening to an individual you think would fit best ([Emily.vandoren@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:Emily.vandoren@longmontcolorado.gov))
- Good Samaritan is working to get a Peer Recovery Coach into their ED --- Signal Behavioral Health doesn't have any funding, so if anyone knows about funding to get coaches in, please let Peggy Jarrett know ([peggy.jarrett@sclhealth.org](mailto:peggy.jarrett@sclhealth.org))