

Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, January 18, 2022
9:30-11:30 am
Zoom Meeting

9:35 Introductions

Community Announcements:

- There are in-person town halls this week! RSVP required for an address - please [sign up](#) if you're interested in joining
- The Works Program is applying to the Naloxone Harm Reduction Grant Program currently
 - Hoping to expand naloxone training/parent education by adding more staff through this grant
- Behavioral Health Roadmap has been working with a group focused on Harm Reduction to come up with solutions. There are other focus areas being explored. Information will be coming soon on the upcoming community meeting date for those interested in being a part of this.
- PILLAR Program is applying to BHA grant applications to help expand hospital outpatient services in the behavioral health service line.
 - Please send referrals for any clients that are needing treatment services/resources to Amanda Wroblewski (awroblewski@bch.org) in the PILLAR Program.
- Signal Behavioral Health Network is officially in place as the County's MSO taking over from MHP. Ann Noonan (anoonan@signalbhn.org) is the liaison for Signal and Boulder Community Organizations for any concerns that individuals may have.
- SMART Recovery Group is open to the community, every Wednesday from 6:30-8pm at Recovery Cafe. There will also be a Spanish Language Craft Group for people who have loved ones suffering with SUDs.
 - SMART Recovery group is looking for new facilitators to start their new meetings, email John Franko if you're interested (johngeosmart@gmail.com)
- Blue Rising is continuing to work with college campuses across the state to address and create more thorough protocols around education/prevention of fentanyl deaths
- [Mental Health Related to Substance Use Grants](#) -- if you apply to these opportunities, please keep Ellianna Lederman in the loop!
- CMS opened their Aurora, CO location on Oct 27th and they already have 135 patients! They are open from 5am-8pm, 7 days a week and take walk-ins.
- The Behavioral Health HUB Team is hoping to launch their Pilot/Rollout of the HUB by April 17th with updates to come!
- Parent Overdose Training through the Works Program went well and seemed to be pretty impactful with great participation from those that attended! There'll be two more upcoming education sessions: 1) April 10 at 5:30pm in Boulder, 2) April 12 at 5:30 in Longmont

10:00 2023 CO Legislative Updates: Fentanyl, SUD, and Behavioral Health Bills

CO House Representative Chris Kennedy (repchriskennedy@gmail.com)

Fentanyl and Larger Legislative Updates:

- Fentanyl Bill broke the Good Samaritan Law, simply from a drafting error -
 - The correct reading of the Good Samaritan Statue is that if you have 10 grams of fentanyl, Good Sam applies. If you have 3 grams, it does not.
 - There will be other potential charges where immunity is not protected by the law. This includes someone sharing drugs with a friend (subject to distribution charge) or the sale or distribution of smaller quantities.
 - We are hoping to expand this conversation in order to try to provide some amount of immunity for sharing or distribution of substances, so that we're encouraging people to stay on the scene and hopefully save more lives.
- The team is currently wrestling with finding out how much support they can build with the distribution piece and whether it is worth it to risk coupling these two pieces together (possession and distribution). If the focus was on possession, this could easily be passed with no controversy. If it was just distribution, though, it may not be a winnable fight. There's concerns on both ends for providing immunity for distribution, BUT there may be some middle grounds to explore with stakeholders and legislators.
- Investments in Behavioral Health have been huge, with larger conversations at hand about SUDs and their interaction with the Criminal Justice System within this year
- Please be monitoring the implementation of MAT policies and if there are problems that arise, please report back to Chris Kennedy with this input so that changes can be made!
- DA Perspective: No person will be prosecuted in the 20th Judicial District for cases falling into the 2.5 omission in 18-1-711. You are not at risk if you are in possession of fentanyl and call for help.
 - Boulder County Drug Task Force: In order for the DA's to say that they won't press charges it means that law enforcement in scene has to present that. Law enforcement level does not present these cases to the DA strictly by following the law.

Questions:

- Was this error due to lack of attention or a lack of a sufficient knowledge base (in terms of Good Samaritan Statue)?
 - There's certainly a deficit in understanding of SUDs and this may have led to the problematic errors in other situations, but this was just a drafting error mainly from last minute negotiations on how the felony was going to be structured.
- Wondering about the possibility of changing the ability for Medicaid to cover those in jail that might also address the methadone issue. That is something that has come up in conversation with staff from our County jail as a hope.
 - Trying to get medicaid coverage while people are incarcerated is a federal problem. We tried to do this through a state level, and it was not successful.

- Do we have any examples at this point of any cases that have been prosecuted through this Good Samaritan loophole / draft error?
 - There are others who have more concrete data but in the stakeholding conversations no one can point to events of Good Samaritan Law being used. We are more concerned on trying to communicate with those actively using drugs on how this statute operates. As of currently, though, we've not heard of anyone being prosecuted for drug possession yet.

Jose Esquibel, Executive Director, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
(jose.a.esquibel@cuanschutz.edu)

Opioid and Other SUD Bills: 2023 Legislative Session

- [SB23-009: Limit Opioid Prescription and Exception for Intractable Pain](#)
- [SB23-041: Prescription Drugs for Off-Label Use](#)
- [HB23-1009: Secondary School Student Substance Use](#)
- Update: a legislative policy survey will be released in early February from the Consortium regarding the need for feedback on policies that have been passed on substance use/opioid related treatment and services (the full continuum). The Substance/Opioid Committee will be meeting to create a report during the summer to guide future policy creation based on this feedback! Link to come soon.

Recent OD data from CDPHE

- Total drug overdose deaths (including all prescription and illicit drugs):
 - 2020: 1,477 deaths
 - 2021: 1,881 deaths
 - 2022 (provisional): 1,223 deaths
- Total opioid-involved drug overdose deaths (all forms of opioid, including prescription, fentanyl, and heroin):
 - 2020: 956 deaths
 - 2021: 1,258 deaths
 - 2022 (provisional): 778 deaths
- Total fentanyl-involved drug overdose deaths:
 - 2020: 540 deaths
 - 2021: 912 deaths
 - 2022 (provisional): 610 deaths

10:25 Boulder County Opioid Operations Advisory Committee update.

Kelly Veit, Behavioral Health Hub Manager, Boulder County Community Services
(kveit@bouldercounty.org)

Boulder County Opioid Abatement:

- Leadership council/Boulder County Regional Opioid Council (BCROC) approves 25 local programs for initial funding on January 13th, 2022!
 - Currently, BH team is working on funding for first round in terms of contracting and fiscal set up in funding portal with National Administrator
- The Opioid Operations Group will be leading strategic planning - such as finding what principles they want to carry forward in developing their strategic priorities, evaluation and impact assessment of these funds on programs, etc.
- FAQ's, timeline, and opportunities to provide feedback:
<https://bouldercounty.gov/departments/commissioners/opioids-council/>
- Next BCROC meeting will be on Monday, February 6 from 8-9:30 am via Zoom
<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1616825744>

10:40 Workgroup Breakout Discussion and Action Plans

Workgroup Updates:

- The Methamphetamine Use Support group will be joining our Community Outreach and Engagement workgroup in order to gain more attention on their projects/goals.
- Bridging the Gap: this group will be disbanding!
- Grief Support: has met all of their goals and will be transitioning ownership to GRASP.
- New workgroup: Policy and Advocacy