

Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

9:30-11:30 am

[Zoom link](#)

9:30 Introductions and Community Announcements

Community Announcements:

- Recovery Cafe is expanding their hours on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays and opening an hour earlier at 11 am!
 - Executive Director, Lisa Searchinger, will be retiring at June and will be around till the next ED is transitioned.
- Boulder County Behavioral Health HUB will be starting their focused pilot with specific county programs at the beginning of April. The team hopes that by the end of the year they'll be working on a full community roll-out.
- BCPH is in the process of finalizing their Public Health Improvement Plan which is focused on mental and behavioral health
- Reentry Initiative in Longmont - Boulder County Probation and the Diversion course for family integrated treatment courts, adult integrated treatment courts and others are now partnering with TRI as the medicaid provider for recovery and mental health services. If you work with people on probation or parole, TRI is officially Medicaid credentialed and are welcoming any referrals you may have. Please contact Emily Kleeman for more information (emily@reentryinitiative.org)
- Joe Neguse launched a Fentanyl Caucus within the US House of Representatives on March 9, which has resulted in a Bipartisan group of legislators hoping to work together on this issue. Please view this [press release](#)!
- Colorado Consortium is hosting a Virtual Peer Support Professional Symposium on March 31st from 8:15 am to 5pm - Click to [register](#)!
- El Centro Amistad is currently working with 5 different schools, a total of 99 kids. They're seeing progress with substance abuse, identity, appreciation of ancestors, etc. They'll be rebranding their organization to continue being more inclusive of populations because of this broader need.
- Denver Recovery Group will be extending their Colfax location hours till midnight, so intakes will go till midnight (M-F).
- Flat Irons Recovery in Lafayette will be expanding housing to include all genders
- BVSD just put an application to help fund 6 nurses to provide education, early intervention, and other mental health services in the school district

9:55 Legislative Updates and Tips on Navigating How to Follow a Bill

Robin Noble, Aide to Colorado House Representative of the 49th District Judy Amabile, Steering Committee Member, Cannabis Licensing and Advisory Board Member (robin@judyamabile.com)

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

2023 Legislative Updates:

- [SB23-041 Prescription Drugs for Off-Label Use](#)
- [SB23-109 Criminal Penalty Controlled Substance Supplier](#)
- [SB23-140 Fentanyl Study Deadline and Appropriation](#)
- [SB23-144 Prescription Drugs for Chronic Pain](#)
- [SB23-171: Large Entertainment Facility Substance-Free Seating Requirement](#)
 - These entertainment venues already have seating for families, but this bill would be able to build space free of alcohol for some of these venues (those above 7,000 people; would include 13 venues). Generally, reports are favorable.
- [HB23-1164: Opioid Harm Reduction:](#)
 - Hearing has been rescheduled for March 29th. There are likely to be amendments, such as removing provisions in fentanyl penalties around the “knowingly” provision.
 - Rep Amabile does not support this bill
- [HB23-1167: Reporting of Emergency Overdose Events](#)
- [HB23-1169: Limit Arrest for Low-Level Offenses](#)
 - Low level offense includes possession of drug paraphernalia which would not be subject to arrest
- [HB23-1202: Overdose Prevention Center Authorization](#)
 - This bill would enable legislation that would allow communities to open overdose sites. This bill was heavily debated, it did pass the House on a vote of 43 to 21. It is introduced to the Senate and will be assigned to a committee soon. This bill will be needing testimony.
- [HB23-1204: Recovery Residence Discharge Policy](#)
 - Determines how individuals will be discharged from recovery residences
 - SUAG members and community organizations should determine if this will have an [impact on our community](#)
- [HB23-1009: Secondary School Student Substance Use](#)
 - This would use funds to identify adolescents that are starting to have problems with substance issues in secondary schools. This bill passed house appropriations and will be debated by the whole House, but should pass the house with bipartisan support. This is a bill that would allow testimonies.

How to follow a bill:

- Search a bill in the search tab - <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills>
 - When you open up the bill, you can read the summary of the bill. Read/download the most recent of the bill because there are continual changes added to the bill.
 - Always look at fiscal notes to get a jist of the bill without having to read it in its entirety.

- On the right hand side of the page you'll find the sponsors of the bill, those who are in support of the bill. Additionally, you can find the Committees that the bill has been assigned to and where it's going.
- Use [Committees Tab](#) to follow the bill and see what members are represented on the committee. If there's an individual in the Committee that represents you, you can have conversations with them to either send support or against a bill. These considerations/conversations before a hearing are crucial in informing your legislature on the bill about to be heard. Click on the Committee and you can listen into these hearings and find recordings.
 - Example: [Public & Behavioral Health & Human Services recordings and hearings](#). This tab will show when the bill will be heard and at what time (choose the Committee you're interested in).
- Please view [SUAG recording](#) (password: MbEW8R.D) in order to follow along on how to listen into hearings and how to find recordings.
- [Public Testimony](#) - this is the link you'll use to sign up for your public testimony and how you'll testify (remote, in-person).
 - Direct letters that are personal, short, and specific to the individuals who are sponsoring a bill you're interested in will help them as they're considering bills.
- [Colorado Drug Policy Coalition](#) - great resource to understand bills related to opioid / behavioral health, tracking them, where they're headed, etc.

Questions:

- How far in advance can you do this ?
 - Ideally you want to be registered for a testimony the day before so you can have a link to the hearing. If you find out about a bill the day before, get in touch with Bill Sponsors Aide and they'll help you get the link. You can find Aide available online.

10:25 Introduction and Report on the County Fentanyl Work Group

Indira Gujral, MS, PhD, Communicable Disease and Emergency Management Division Manager, Boulder County Public Health (igujral@bouldercounty.org)

Georgia Babatsikos, MPH, PhD, Harm Reduction Program Manager, The Works Program, Boulder County Public Health (gbabatsikos@bouldercounty.org)

Commander Nico Goldberger, Boulder County Drug Task Force (ngoldberger@bouldercounty.org)

Fentanyl Planning & Response Group Strategies:

- Applied for Harm Reduction Expansion Grant but NOT awarded. It was going to provide \$330,000 each year for three years and would've started on July 1, 2023.
- For anyone aware of any future fentanyl funding, BCPH will be looking out for other funding options to continue their work!
- Background:

- Landscape of opioid drug use is changing. Heroin/opioid pills were the drug of choice; today, people who are using drugs and opioid suppliers have changed and evolved to using synthetic opioids such as fentanyl and fentanyl analogues and other synthetic opioids that are more potent, addictive, and deadly than heroin.
- Vision: to train a geographically, racially, linguistically and socially diverse group of trusted messengers composed of youth, young adults, and trusted adults to support priority populations and community members in accessing naloxone in known and trusted locations throughout the County.
- Priority Populations:
 - People who use drugs, explore with drugs, and/or recreationally use drugs
 - Parents of youth and young adults who use drugs
 - The unhoused
 - People who are criminally justice involved
 - Service providers of priority populations
 - Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) who use substances
 - Individuals with language access challenges
- Plan contains 4 strategies:
 - Naloxone and HR training (Georgia) - coordinated by Boulder County Public Health CSAP & HR Programs
 - Data collection (Nico) - coordinated by Sheriff's Office & BCPH
 - Access (Georgia) - coordinated by SUAG
 - Stigma (Georgia) - coordinated by SUAG
- DATA:
 - ODMAP General Overview (www.ODMAP.org)
 - Participants of ODMAP: All law enforcement agencies in BoCo, DA's Office, Coroner's Office, BCPH working on it, in discussion with BCH and looking to expand to other hospitals and medical responders/paramedics
- 2022 ODMAP Numbers (majority of data collection started September of 2022: for specifics, look at Coroner's report in the near future):
 - City of Boulder: 22 total suspected, 8 fatal, 6 naloxone
 - City of Lafayette: 17 total suspected, 9 fatal, 6 naloxone
 - City of Longmont: 18 total suspected, 9 fatal, 13 naloxone
- 2023 ODMAP YTD Numbers:
 - City of Boulder: 6 total suspected, 2 fatal, 5 naloxone
 - City of Lafayette: No reports for 2023
 - City of Longmont: 5 total suspected, 1 fatal, 4 naloxone
- Training:
 - 78 trainings in the past 2.5 years (grant requires 6 per year)
 - Intro to harm reduction (professionals)
 - Narcan training of trainers (professionals)
 - Overdose Prevention for Parents (staffing/gap)
 - New training - effective engagement with people who use drugs (professional)

- Business Training - planned (staffing/gap)
- Peer allies (staffing)
- Bilingual/bicultural (hispanic, Native American - planned)
- Community (Gap)
- Access - strategies to increase naloxone access points throughout the community:
 - Small scale events like OAD but having relative events more frequently
 - Education, other community spaces to do outreach, more interaction with teachers in high schools, business outreach
 - Vending machine / locations
 - Communal network map
 - Mobile harm reduction unit
- Boulder County has a preliminary plan to address fentanyl overdoses but they need funding to support this plan!

Questions:

- What amount of funding is needed? Can it be funded in phases or by specific projects? What's the ballpark figure we are looking for?
 - We could definitely use a little more money than \$330,000 dollars to include the anti-stigma portion (as we collaborate with media firms). These should be state-wide initiatives, leading us to the main question as to how we can get all partnerships onboard.

10:45 Safe Rx - Locked Pill Bottles and Collaborative Substance Use Prevention

Crystal Goodiel, Director of Community and Government Relations, Locking Pill Bottles (LPB®)
cgoodiel@safe-rx.com

Collaborative Strategies in Community Prevention:

- Mission: to save lives and protect kids, families, and communities from harmful, addictive or dangerous substances by creating a safer world in which all products have adequate security. This includes working with legislators, payors, pharmacy boards, community members, organizations etc.
- The #1 source of prescription medications is found in the family medicine cabinet.
 - 63% of leftover pills remain in the home
 - Based on data research, there are 1.2 opioid Rx remaining in households with persons under 18 in Colorado
- Partnerships: youth education groups, community prevention coalitions, local/state health departments, harm reduction sites, universities, mobile healthcare, naloxone training, drug take back
- If you're interested in getting a Locked Pill Bottle, please reach out to Crystal (cgoodiel@safe-rx.com)