

Boulder County Opioid Advisory Group Meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

9:30-11:30am

1333 Iris Ave, Boulder, Norton Rooms

Meeting Goals

Celebrate successes
Review progress and plans of working groups
Share information about new legislation and initiatives
Make decisions regarding group development

Updates

Ann Noonan for Mental Health Partners: Have started to distribute 400 narcan kits. Starting CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Training) in partnership with BHG Longmont (group meets at BHG). Full-time recovery coach recruitment almost complete, will start soon. MHP suboxone clinic continues at the Ryan Wellness Center in Boulder.

Kat Dailey, University of Colorado - Health Promotion

- Had overdose awareness exhibit on 10/10 late afternoon with 60 people attending and several connections to campus resources for faculty, staff, and students.
- All day installation for prevention, response, overdose education.
- Received small grant for some Narcan at health center.
- Trained 900 new sorority women on substance abuse education and Narcan.
- Offering bimonthly trainings on how to respond to alcohol and opioid overdose. Currently about 35 people have attended in September/October.

Trina and Richele for Parent Engagement Network (PEN): PEN and Boulder County Public Health organized an Overdose Awareness [event](#) at Boulder High School on 11/6. More than 200 people attended to listen to the stories of people who have been affected by opioid addiction and overdose. Boulder High and Arapahoe Ridge schools are discussing follow-up with PEN. PEN is also developing handouts 'My Child was Prescribed an Opioid' to distribute when children are prescribed opioids.

Corey Candelaria for Options Treatment: They are working through the credentialing process, and looking for a female clinician, LPC LCSW CACII.

Boulder County Jail: Almost ready to begin Medication-Assisted Treatment in the jail! They have the meds and are now tweaking procedures and protocols.

Report back from working groups

- *Steering Group* notes are available online at the Opioid Advisory Group [meeting notes page](#). The next Steering Group will be December 4, 2017 from 12pm – 2:30pm at 3482 N. Broadway, Caspian Room.
- *Criminal Justice/First Responder (Marco Prospero, Community Services):* To advance work on “the funnel” that was discussed in prior meetings, Boulder County Public Health convened a systems mapping activity (October 13) to identify opportunities for diversion. The group agreed on gaps and opportunities, and other groups with whom to partner. The systems map was presented to the Community Justice Management Board (CJMB), who will lead strategy development from here. System Mapping notes available [here](#) as well as in [poster form](#). After the meeting, Scot Williams

shared a recent [report](#) from the Police Forum that highlights the impact of the opioid crisis nationwide.

- *Prevention:* Shared messaging around safe storage was developed through the ‘Drugs Out of Reach’ campaign (www.DrugsOutOfReach.org). Safe disposal information is available at www.BoulderCountyMedDisposal.org
- *Treatment:* The group has identified a need for a central repository of easy-to-access information on treatment and recovery resources. Exploratory conversations are being held with [Longmont’s Angel Initiative](#), the state Office of Behavioral Health about a statewide list, LinkingCare.org and updates to the list of resources held by the Colorado Crisis Line. It was noted that lists are not a panacea—even with a list; it takes a lot of effort to match someone with the appropriate, available resource. A subgroup led by Nadine from Boulder Integrated Health self-organized to review the [Crisis Line resources](#) and provide updated information to them.
- *Community (Tom Smith, Angel Initiative; Michele Ryan, Behavioral Health Group):* Tom Smith shared that Longmont’s Angel Initiative needs more volunteers to assist with transport. They are also recruiting volunteers for a community advisory group. Ted Bradshaw of Alfalfa’s is working to bring a group of downtown Boulder businesses on board, and will be putting some information in their next newsletter. Jamie, Ted and Nadine will try to get resources together for employee break rooms. Michelle Ryan will gather a group of people in recovery to advise the Opioid Advisory Group. Meetings will be at BHG in Longmont, if you know people in recovery who would be interested, please put them in touch with Michelle. The end goal is to integrate this group into the larger Opioid Advisory Group.
- *Data (Lily Sussman, Boulder County Public Health; Adrian Barron, Boulder County Coroner’s Office):* Boulder County Public Health staff has been reviewing data sources and indicators. We will discuss shared measurement in the December meeting. In preparation, please think about how you know opioid misuses is a problem in our county, how we will know our efforts are successful in addressing it, and what information/data you have to contribute. Adrian from the Boulder County Coroner’s Office said he has more data available than what is publicly available on the website. [2016 Coroner Report](#) includes drug overdose information. He will give a longer presentation at a future OAG meeting. If you have specific requests for data you’d like from the Coroner’s Office, please send the request to Jamie Feld.
- *Clinical (Dr. Chris Urbina, Medical Director, Boulder and Broomfield Public Health):* There has been greater attention to opioid prescribing by physicians nationally and statewide. Recent survey highlighted that some feel that they are already aware of guidelines. Boulder County Public Health received a grant to expand provider education. First step will be to conduct focus interviews with providers. Boulder County Public Health is looking into working with Chief Medical Officers of local hospitals.

Interim Study Committee on Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders

The bipartisan Interim Study Committee on Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders will run 6 bills in the 2018 legislative session. The Interim Committee voted on October 31 to support the following bills below.

Bill C, which includes schools carrying naloxone, came out of recommendations from the Boulder County Opioid Advisory Group.

Bill A – Prevention/Continuation of the Interim Study Committee

Bill B – Clinical Practice Measures for Safer Opioid Prescribing

Bill C – Measures to Address Opioid Crisis in Colorado

Bill D – Expand Access to Behavioral Health Providers
Bill E – Medicaid Inpatient and Residential Substance Use
Bill F – Payment Issues Relating to Substance Use Disorders

Full text of the bills is available [here](#). Meeting participants agreed that Boulder Opioid Advisory Group should take positions as a group, and support initiatives such as this legislation. Individual members may also testify on behalf of the bills.

Supervised Injection Facilities

Kat Humphries of the Harm Reduction Action Center talked about the importance of Supervised Injection Centers in reducing public overdose and communicable disease transmission. The proposed state legislation includes a provision that would allow a Supervised Injection Facility in Denver. The legislation is supported by a coalition of more than 70 businesses.

“In Colorado there is a fatal overdose every nine hours and 36 minutes. 174 people died of overdose just in the City and County of Denver in 2016. Nationwide, this statistic is counted in minutes rather than hours as overdoses have now surpassed deaths caused by both car accidents and gunshots. It is a serious challenge but, fortunately, one that has a solution. Supervised injection facilities, commonly known as SIFs, bridge the gap between people who inject drugs and public health interventions that are proven to reduce the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis and also prevent fatal overdoses. In fact, of 102 SIFs currently operating around the globe, not one has reported a single fatal overdose on its premises.

What does this mean to our business community? Denver currently lacks proper public health interventions to significantly reduce rates of public injection, something many businesses experience in the form of people utilizing public bathrooms to inject as well as open injecting in common spaces such as parks, sidewalks, and alleyways. These venues are neither sterile nor safe and, sadly, are often the very places where people, without proper supervision or intervention, die of overdose. A Denver SIF would significantly impact rates of public injection and would serve to help connect our marginalized citizens to evidence-based healthcare and support. In essence, a SIF would help remove people who inject drugs from parks and business bathrooms into a controlled, staffed, and medical environment.”

Decisions and follow-up

1. In 2018 we will continue to meet monthly, with a combination of working group time and whole group time.
2. Meetings will rotate between locations around the county, and include lunch. A poll will be forthcoming.
3. Please vote on the priority for the Boulder County Public Health Improvement Plan 2018-2023! [Vote online or in person at the community meeting November 15](#).
4. Steering Committee to discuss the following items and bring proposals to larger group:
 - How the group might endorse legislation, policy, etc.
 - A communications strategy for the group.
 - Organizing testimony during the legislative session.

Next meeting:

Weds December 13, 2017
9:30-11:30am
1333 Iris Ave
Boulder, CO 80304
Norton Rooms (East and West)

We will discuss markers of success, prepare for the upcoming legislative session, and celebrate the work done thus far together!