

## Boulder County Opioid Advisory Group Meeting

Thursday, January 25, 2018

7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

522 Coffman Blvd. Longmont 115 S & N

### **In-Person Attendance:**

#### **Community Leaders**

Kristen Daily, community health advocate; Tom Smith, volunteer Angel Initiative; Trina Faatz, BVSD Parent Engagement Network; James Gould, Students for Sensible Drug Policy; Richele Mein, Parent Engagement Network; Kiyo, community member; Cynthia, Naranon, Sharon Keck, community member; Cynthia Tamesue, community member; Kasey Arrington, community member; Alexandra Tooley, Zober

#### **Prevention, University & Schools, & Early Intervention**

Jennifer McDuffie, University of Colorado Assistant Dean; Marcy Campbell, Boulder County Public Health; Sophia Yager, St. Vrain School District Jennifer Mackender, Broomfield Public Health; Chris Benjamin, Boulder County Public Health; Ana Swoboda, iThrive; Colt Smith, iThrive and Alternatives for Youth; Ann Baldwin, Department of Housing and Human Services Chris Nelson, Attention Homes

#### **Law Enforcement, Fire & Coroner's Office**

Mike Clement Broomfield Police Department; Dan Eamon, Longmont Safety; Chief Mike Butler, Longmont Safety; Jeff Satur, Longmont Safety; Michelle Webb, Longmont Public Safety; Michele Goldman, Longmont Fire; Janet Harty, Longmont Fire; Adrian Barron, Boulder County Coroner's Office;

#### **Clinical, Medical & Pharmacy**

John Stanton MD, Salud Clinic; Dawn O'Keefe, UCHealth; Chris Urbina MD, Boulder County Public Health; Tracy Lolio Longmont United Health; Sally D'Angelo, MD, medical provider; Linda Deeming, Salud

#### **Criminal Justice, Jail and District Attorney's Office**

Blaise Rastello, Boulder County Sheriffs Office; Courtney Kramer, Boulder County Community Justice Services; Marco Prospero, Boulder County Community Justice Services; Dea Wheeler, Boulder County Sheriff's Office Attorney; Alison Birchard, Community Justice Services, Melanie Dreiling Boulder County Sheriff's Office; Katharina Booth, District Attorney's Office; Ken Kuphner, District Attorney's Office;

#### **Treatment & Recovery**

Ann Noonan, Mental Health Partners; Anhtwan Pham MD, Denver Recovery Group; Karen Elias, Alkermes; Karrie Thomas, Recovery Village Palmer Lake; Nadine Kelliher, Boulder Integrated Detox; Tina Beckly, Behavioral Health Group; Jeff Jones, The Family Recovery Solution; Cody Gardner, Redpoint Treatment; Shena Milner, Rebecca Doyle, Jessica Bottorff, Treasure House of Hope

#### **State & County Backbone Support**

Susanna Cooper, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention; Lily Sussman, Jamie Feld, Indira Gujral, Carol Helwig, Lauren Marek, Boulder County Public Health; Alison Harvey, Regional Health Connector; Leslie Irwin, Boulder County Commissioners Office

## Meeting Goals

Learn how to support Colorado legislation

Celebrate local leadership

Share stories of hope

## Legislative update from Representative Jonathan Singer

Rep. Singer gave an [overview of the 6 bills](#) that came out of the Interim Study Committee:

- HB18-1003 Opioid Misuse Prevention
- HB18-1007 Substance Use Disorder Payment and Coverage
- HB18-1136 Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- SB18-022 Clinical Practice for Opioid Prescribing
- SB18-024 Expand Access Behavioral health Care Providers
- SB18-040 Substance Use Disorder Harm Reduction

A bi-partisan interim study group worked on the bills over the summer. Despite bi-partisan support for most bills, the Harm Reduction bill (SB 40) has been assigned to a committee where bills often die. There is opposition to the provision allowing a pilot supervised injection facility in Denver, and some stakeholders (such as Senator Sonnenberg) do not support the provision that allows schools to choose to provide school nurses with naloxone. The SUD Payment and Coverage bill is not popular with insurance companies and may be a heavy lift.

### *What can we do to support these bills?*

Representative Singer noted that state legislators deal with roughly 400 bills in 120 days. It's important to find out what motivates individuals, what moves them. Legislators are typically most concerned with input from constituents in their districts. Try to get folks outside of Boulder County to testify. Legislators listen to personal stories and information on the cost burden.

For SB18-040 on Harm Reduction, people in State Senate District 23 (Larimer, Weld and Broomfield Counties) should contact Senator Vicki Marble. He suggested messaging that reinforces facts from other cities showing SIFs have not increased crime and have connected many people with counselling and treatment, and reminding that the bill does not authorize any funding for the SIF. For naloxone in schools, that naloxone is safe, non-toxic, saves lives, and that the bill removes civil liability from schools.

Leslie Irwin from the Boulder County Commissioners' Office added to this presentation with some tips for advocacy to support bills:

- Write to your legislators! Find them and their contact information [here](#). Tell your story, give them facts, state your position. Stay on script.
- Meet with your legislators to discuss your concerns.
- Testify at hearings, or send your written testimony with someone.
- Mobilize your friends/colleagues in other districts.

- If you are advocating in an official capacity, check in with the leadership of your organization. If you're a Boulder County employee, check in with your leadership and with the Commissioners' Office to make sure your positions are aligned.

Leslie is available to coach Boulder County residents on legislative advocacy. Contact her:

[lirwin@bouldercounty.org](mailto:lirwin@bouldercounty.org)

### **Law Enforcement Leadership with Chief Mike Butler and Dan Eamon**

Chief Butler encouraged the group not to pin all hopes on legislation. He reminded of the importance of engaging people in the community, not those traditionally seen as leaders, and finding ways to harness the untapped social capital in our communities. Longmont Public Safety will be getting people to walk Longmont's neighborhoods and engage with residents, see how they would like to be more involved in the community. Foothills United Way will be a partner in this and help connect people with service opportunities.

Longmont is one of four cities/counties selected for a grant to pilot a program for Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, based on a program that was successful in keeping people out of the criminal justice system in Seattle. Longmont's team will include a dedicated law enforcement officer, peer support specialists, a case manager and a program manager. Peer support specialists will go to/with the law enforcement officer in the moment, to provide assistance pre-arrest. Intensive case management will work on an outreach model, meeting people where they are at physically and in terms of readiness for change.

Longmont also has received a Co-Responder grant, to build on their EDGE program and make it more dynamic and with a wider range of impact. Longmont and Denver are the only cities in Colorado implementing both these grants.

Contact Dan Eamon of Longmont Public Safety, [Dan.Eamon@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:Dan.Eamon@longmontcolorado.gov), about how to get involved.

### **Stories of Hope**

Kiyo shared her story of struggle and success with the group, reminding us that recovery is a lifelong process and viewing relapse as failure is not helpful. Withdrawal is not like the flu. For many people with substance use disorders, the fear of withdrawal is greater than the fear of death. She made a passionate plea for effective, affordable and accessible treatment for addiction, mentioning people who commit crimes so that they can go to drug court to access treatment. Kiyo made a powerful argument for improved access to medication assisted treatment, such as methadone, suboxone and vivitrol. She highlighted the limited affordable treatment options and how supervised use sites would decrease the rate of HIV and hepatitis C. She emphasized the important role that the policies moving through the legislation would make on individuals' ability to move to recovery.

**Meeting Summary**

- Future Opioid Advisory Group meetings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 9:30-11:30am in Boulder
- Next meeting will be February 21, 9:30-11:30am, 1333 Iris Ave, Boulder, Norton Rooms (East & West)