

## Boulder County Opioid Advisory Group Steering Group Meeting

**Wednesday, Sept, 5, 2018**  
**12:45 PM – 2:15 PM**  
**1333 Iris Ave, Boulder, Norton Rooms**

### **Welcome, Review Agenda**

Introductions, Identify Note-taker and Review Agenda

### **Debrief the confidentiality communication process**

An OAG member found out that a speaker that spoke at our June Opioid Advisory Group received a call to the manager of his transitional housing residence that he had said something negative about the housing residence at an Opioid Advisory Group meeting. He was told there was more than one call to the facility about his comments. He did not state the residence's name in his presentation.

Upon finding this out, the OAG member reached out to the facilitator and another OAG member about the appropriate response. The facilitator recommended that it be addressed by the entire Steering Group. Some discussion occurred via email about the response. Some individuals also emailed/called the facilitator with their perspective.

The OAG member and facilitator met with the speaker who had the confidentiality violation. The speaker does not want to pursue an investigation until he is no longer housed at the facility. He had concerns that he may face retribution if an investigation (or even calling the facility) occurred while he was still housed there. He said he would appreciate the group knowing about the importance of the confidentiality, but that he did not want his specific instance shared with the larger group at this time.

Several Opioid Advisory Group steering group members met at the August OAG meeting to discuss the response to the group. It was determined that Marco Prospero would make a statement on behalf of the Steering Group on the importance of confidentiality.

Discussion occurred on August Opioid Advisory Group meeting about the importance of confidentiality. Michele Ryan shared her personal story and then Marco Prospero shared about how important it is that we respect peoples' stories. He stated that people can take what they learn in terms of concepts back with them to share, but that they not share details such as a person's name or agency with others.

He stated that is anyone did have a concern with what a speaker says, they can bring it forward to the Opioid Advisory Group Steering Group (everyone who was a steering

group member raised their hands.) Each steering group member may be asked to receive this information in confidentiality. If a steering group member does receive this info, please share it with the Steering Group, as we will be the body to resolve the issue.

It was determined at this time that we won't have a confidentiality agreement signed by the Opioid Advisory Group members, as it is a semi-public forum, however we will reiterate the importance of confidentiality each time a speaker presents. In addition, we will remind speakers not to mention names or agencies (which this speaker did not). If a member is found to be intentionally sharing details about a speaker with an intent to harm the speaker's reputation or personal situation (professional situation, housing etc.) we will look at addressing on a case-by-case basis, including repercussions, such as potential dismissal from the group.

The speaker does not want to pursue an investigation until he is no longer housed at the facility. Once he is no longer housed, the OAG member who originally was informed will let Carol Helwig know, who will call the facility to find out more information (as they have a pre-existing partnership). If the caller to the housing facility is identified, the group will re-group to determine if there are any repercussions for the caller.

It was brought up that the caller may not have had mal-intent. We do not want to shame individuals who may have been trying to advocate for our speakers. However we do want people to know that there can be some unknown unintended negative consequences to our speakers.

We would want to get more information from a variety of sources, before making claims. With the limited information at this time, and the speaker's desire to currently not pursue an investigation, we will not pursue an investigation at this time.

We will revisit this issue as need be. The group agreed that it is extremely important that our speakers feel that the space is a confidential one, where they can share without fear of retribution. This is important for our people who are bringing in speakers that we maintain this trust. A key strategy of the group is to decrease stigma of people in recovery and affected individuals and the group is committed to

It was agreed that Trina's approach in bringing up the topic to the Steering Group was appropriate. The speaker appreciated the responses from the Steering Group. He appreciated that the group was willing to advocate on his behalf.

Once he is no longer in the vulnerable situation, the Steering Group will re-evaluate.

### **Introductory discussion about moving toward more formalized group with governance structure**

This will be discussed more in detail at a future meeting.

**Discuss work groups progress and identify any concerns and suggested actions**

Provider Education work group is meeting on ad-hoc basis, working with BCH and Dr. Urbina. The provider education work group has merged with treatment. There is interest in the Hub and Spoke model.

Criminal Justice work group discussed merging with the Dea Wheeler's Behavioral Health Task Force. BCPH received some 1 time funding to allow for a consultant to provide facilitation around access to treatment and linkage to care.

Primary prevention is merging with Healthy Futures Coalition.

The Early Intervention Work Group is meeting roughly bi-monthly to address the early intervention continuum of care in Boulder County. It has been hosted a CU Wardenburg and received infrastructure support by the Healthy Futures Coalition.

**Updates**

Parent Engagement Network is having a town hall September 26 in Louisville.

Rep Singer is having a town hall in Longmont on September 17.

Boulder County Sheriff's Office is supporting a Drug Diversion Training on September 12.

**Next Meeting:** Weds, October 3, 12:45pm-2:15pm, 1333 Iris Ave. Boulder, Norton Rooms (East and West)