1. Our immunizations department is working hard to make sure you have access to the shots you need! COVID-19, TDaP (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), hepatitis A and B, and soon flu too! Please let a Works Program staff help you figure out a time to get the jab(s) you need 😊😊.

2. Tell me a secret, whisper it here...
It's actually no secret at all, we've got pipes! Glass bubbles and straight pipes for meth, crack and hot rails. Did you know that sharing smoking equipment with chapped, burned or cracked lips can transmit hepatitis C and B? Now you do! Smoking is also a great way to reduce you're overdose risk, so come on into any of our locations (except 3180 Airport Road in Boulder) and grab a pipe for yourself or a friend in need.

3. We need you...
To fill out your annual demographic and injection practices surveys for 2021, especially if you usually use our mailing program and haven't been by to visit with one of our lovely harm reductionists recently. It just takes 5-10 minutes and helps a friend indeed!

WANTED!
The Works program needs your help! We think that we work better together. Do you have any art we can include in our next newsletter/display in our rooms? Are you interested in outreach and carrying the message of Harm Reduction to others in the community? Do you have an opinion on how we can improve our program? Do you have insight into what drug use looks like for Boulder County these days? Do you want to get outside and help take care of our parks and neighborhoods? Below is listed a few opportunities to DO SOMETHING. Please talk to us next time you come in, call us at (720) 864-6515, or email us at jtrawick@bouldercounty.org:
- Art Spotlight
- Community/Park Clean-ups
- Advisory Board Member
- Peer Distribution

The Works Program: Summer 2021 Newsletter

June, 17th 2021 marked the 50-year anniversary of President Richard Nixon declaring the War on Drugs: “public enemy number one”. In these 50 years, Drug War policies have led to mass incarceration, civil-liberties abuse, mistreatment of people of color, over policing, and human rights violations. At the same time, in our same country, the latest annual overdose death numbers tower menacingly at 93,000. 93,000 of our neighbors, children, brothers and sisters have lost their lives under these policies; these policies that drive an unregulated-illicit market, adulterated with unknown and unwanted substances. Our hearts go out to the incalculable moments of real oppression endured over the past half-century, the human lives spent behind bars (right this second!) over non-violent, Drug War offenses. The nation recently took witness as the murder of George Floyd was attempted to be framed as another routine-government sanctioned, Drug War casualty.

The Works program is on our feet, today, acting to lessen Drug War harms for our participants and neighbors: providing accurate drug education and advocacy, a safe supply of drug-use equipment, exemption from drug paraphernalia laws, and public health service to our participants and community driven by a fundamental value of human dignity. We invite all, in this anniversary, to reflect over the past 50 years of the War on Drugs - reflect on what it has looked like for yourself: your safety, your freedom, and your liberty. What has it looked like in communities? Where do we go from here? Could things be any better? What do you think?

Let us know.

You're important
And you deserve clean needles

Contact:
Joel Trawick, MSW
Harm Reduction Specialist
BoulderCountyWorks.org – 346.273.6611
Earlier this year, Columbia University’s tenured professor, Dr. Carl Hart, a leading expert in neuropsychopharmacology and behavioral neuroscience (look, if anybody knows about the science of drugs, it is this guy), expressed himself to the public as a responsible drug user. In fact, he has expressed himself, often with fierce condemnation from others, to be a responsible heroin and methamphetamine user. Dr. Hart chose to express this aspect of his life with careful consideration and encourages those who have the privilege to do so to come “out-of-the-closet” surrounding their drug use.

Dr. Hart is hoping to challenge our stereotypes of people who use drugs. According to the science, most people who use drugs are responsible, functional members of society, yet the overbearing stigma of drug use paints a picture of dysfunction and drama. Why is this? Could these myths about drug use, could our policies in place, could our mainstream zero-tolerance ideology be more harmful than the drugs themselves? Why is our narrative of drug use, in particular heroin and methamphetamine, so focused on dysfunction, when that is factually a small segment of actual use? Dr. Hart suggests this may be due to the majority of functional drug use being done in the closet, perpetuating the harmful stereotypes. Of course, we know why most drug use is done secretly: reputations can be tarnished, freedom can vanish, housing can be lost, children can be taken, relationships can be jeopardized at the mere suspicion of drug use. The stakes are so extreme; people who have the ability to keep their drug use private, choose to keep it private, maintaining the myths of drug use as an institutionalized way of punishing people for coping with trauma and mental health issues with substance use.”

-Athena Burkard

Think about how we learn about drug use – most media we consume portrays drugs as being solely dysfunctional and allowing for unjust policies to continue. Dr. Hart sees his life with careful consideration and encourages those who have the privilege to do so to come “out-of-the-closet” surrounding their drug use.

We just pulled some data, sounds fun right? It is, and it also told us some pretty neat stuff. One thing that’s not so neat - it showed us that Works participants using goodf
tal (heroin and meth in combination) more than doubled their risk of overdose over those who don’t! So here it is put simply: heroin decreases your body’s ability to produce oxygen, but meth increases your need for oxygen. Basically, your body wants more of something that it can’t make enough of. So, when we mix heroin and meth, they DO NOT cancel each other out, they make it more likely to overdose! What can you do? Here are a couple things...

- If you are going to use meth and heroin together, instead of mixing the two in a shot, use the heroin first and wait until it hits you before using the meth.
- Try smoking one of the substances and injecting the other (preferably smoking the heroin). - If you’re going to mix the two for injection, DO NOT use alone and DO take turns using, so if one of you overdoses the other one can still respond with Narcan (we have free Narcan).
- Use a tester shot of your mixture. Test your drugs separately for fentanyl (we have free fentanyl test strips).

We are so excited to be offering glass pipes, BUT do not want anyone stuck with a paraphernalia charge, SO always carry your Works Program ID card on you. This is the white bifold card with your Works code, program locations, and harm reduction laws on it. We can give you a replacement anytime. If you get stopped by police and given a paraphernalia charge, for pipes or anything else, please let us know so we can write a letter and try to get those charges dropped!

？”

-Barack Obama - Willie Nelson - Bill Clinton - Dave Chapelle - Joe Rogan
- George W. Bush - Billie Holiday - Stephen King - Betty Ford
- Athena Burkard

“The War on Drugs for me means that for longer than I can even remember, myself - and those closest to me have had to constantly look over our shoulders for using substances, that in some cases are being used for deeply spiritual reasons, for fear that someone that we sometimes might not even know might disagree with our choice to use them.” - Chris Benjamin

“The War On Drugs is embedded in a history of racial and social inequality, and until we examine how these issues influence society in the US, we cannot end this approach to drugs. It is obviously something that is not working. Any approach should be based on best practices as well as the spirit of love, equality, and compassion.” – Georgia Babatsikos

“The War on Drugs has highlighted the privilege that I hold in my community. When people make assumptions about me, they are often positive assumptions that are easier for me to live with then dispute. The history of criminal charges I have would likely be longer, and include felonies, if I were not a young, white female. If I did not have a family that loved me enough to support me through my hardest times, I would not be the mother, employee and wife that I am able to be today.” – Madeline Evanoff

Athena Burkard

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- Athena Burkard

“The drug war is rooted in racism and classism. It’s the continuation of oppressing people who already have little agency in this country. I see the drug war as an institutionalized way of punishing people for coping with trauma and mental health issues with substance use.”

-Athena Burkard

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