

## Boulder County Substance Use Advisory Group

**Wednesday, December 15, 2021**  
**9:30-11:30 am**  
**Zoom Meeting**

### **9:35 Update on Opioid Litigation Settlement Funds for Colorado from Attorney General's Office**

Heidi Williams, Director of Opioid Response, Office of the Attorney General  
([Heidi.Williams@coag.gov](mailto:Heidi.Williams@coag.gov))

#### ★ Prevention and Education

- Reduce Stigma through:
  - Community based programs
  - Health education
- Improve pre/neo-natal and youth education and prevention programs
- Expand evidence-informed programs in schools and other youth programs to educate administrators, teachers, athletic personnel, parents, and students about responsible opioid prescribing and consumption.
- Expand public service initiatives to educate prescribers, dispensers, first responders, and the public about responsible opioid prescribing and consumption
- Provide education about MAT and support prescribers in obtaining the necessary licensure to prescriber MAT
- Naloxone/Narcan and Fentanyl Strips: Prevention/Harm Reduction
- Improve data tracking for opioid prescribing, dispensing, overdosed reversals and treatment/recovery services

#### ★ Treatment

- Increase access to treatment to groups such as: neo/natal and youth, young adults, adults, families, underrepresented populations
- Expand medication assisted treatment (MAT) services
  - Mobile
  - Pop-up clinics
  - Brick and mortar
  - Tele-health
- Support recruiting and retention of addiction and mental health professionals
- Expand trauma-informed treatment programs
- Support employer-sponsored treatment and recovery programs

#### ★ Recovery:

- Expand and improve programs for people to continue their recovery after treatment
- Expand residential treatment and recovery services
- Improve inpatient and outpatient recovery services
- Expand transportation services for treatment and recovery
- Expand sober/supportive leaving opportunities
- Support the creation of recovery high schools and higher education recovery programs
- Expand testing for infectious diseases caused by IV drug use

★ Harm Reduction

- Expand access to Opioid overdose reversal medications (naloxone/narcan)
- Provide community reinforcement and family training (CRAFT)
- Support staffing, supply and space needs for harm reduction services

★ Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement

- Eliminate barriers to providing treatment and recovery for persons in the criminal justice system
- Expand drug courts and other early intervention programs prior to incarceration (check out what Longmont is doing!)
  - Addiction and mental health resources
  - Intensive case management services
  - Crisis outreach and response
  - Law enforcement assisted Diversion (LEAD)
  - Reach out to Michelle Webb, Program Manager of Longmont's Public Safety Diversion Programs, if you have any questions on what they are doing ([michelle.webb@longmontcolorado.gov](mailto:michelle.webb@longmontcolorado.gov))
- Expand MAT in jails
- Improve support systems for incarcerated individuals and during their

★ Other Uses:

- Related to the opioid crisis
  - Leadership
  - Planning
  - Coordination
  - Legal Fees (subject to certain laws and restrictions)
  - Training
  - Research programs
- Up to 10% of Opioid Crisis Recovery Funds may be used for reasonable administrative expenses
  - Approx 95% of the funds will most likely be used for opioid abatement

**Questions:**

- Can you use this for capital expenses? So like building space for a youth program? Or purchasing a vehicle to help transport youth to wraparound programs
  - Yes you can. Your regional council will put together a 2-year plan and detail the amount of dollars that would be used for purchasing a vehicle or building such a space so that there is a direct link to the needs within the opioid crisis. As long as the program is addressing opioid abatement, you are more than welcome to use this money. Looking into the future, there needs to be a way for such programs being built to be sustainable...so, individuals and program managers will want to work with medicaid, other grants, other funders to keep initiatives going in the long-term.
- What role do you see our community playing in identifying the funding strategies?
  - MOU states that there can be advisory members as a part of the regional councils. The way the funds work the municipalities are ultimately responsible for how the funds are spent, along with the AG's Office. Most of the regional councils will have affected individuals, providers, community members, etc.

within the advisory role. Make sure to connect to your County Commissioners in order to stay involved with this work and allow your voices to be heard.

- ★ Announcement: Jamie Feld will be the new Deputy Director at the Attorney General's Office on January 10th. For further questions on sustainability, substance use prevention, and other opioid related intervention funding, please reach out to Jamie Feld and Heidi Williams (

## 10:05 Updates and questions for Commander Goldberger

### Questions:

- Would you be interested in facilitating conversations among law enforcement and public health agencies about what is being done in terms of the fentanyl outbreaks? What other strategies do we need to be utilizing in order to start addressing this issue?
  - Email Trina ([trinafaatz@gmail.com](mailto:trinafaatz@gmail.com)) if you would like to be a part of this conversation with Commander Goldberger/Indira Gujral moving forward.
- Would it be possible to get the total number of overdoses in Boulder County for 2021, as well as the number of Narcan uses by law enforcement, including the number of reversals?
  - Emma Hall will put an 'end of year' report that comes out a few months into the new year. If we get a late overdose on Dec 31st, the whole investigation has to go through (toxicology reports). Should be around March/April that she will have these reports. We do know that there are currently 19 fentanyl overdoses, this could change by the end of the year. In Colorado, there have been 625 overdoses so far. These numbers may not represent the direct losses that have happened in our community because of the fact that people travel/move around and may be in different areas when an overdose happens.
  - Total overdose death investigations in Boulder County year to date is around 60.
  - Longmont officers had 33 reversals 2021 year to date; Lafayette PD has had 12 narcan uses with 4 reversals
  - For every documented reversal, there are 20+ reversals that are not documented.
- Does every high school in BVSD have Narcan onsite?
  - They are working on this. They are currently training their staff on Naloxone uses. We are asking BVSD to come back in January to discuss this.

## 10:10 Outstanding Service Awards

Commander Goldberger & Mila Long

## 10:35 Story of Recovery, Methamphetamine Use Disorder

## 10:50 Moment of Remembrance

## 11:00 Workgroup Reports

### Methamphetamine:

- Co-chairs: Joel Ricklefs & Eric Armenta/Dr. Jim Shuler
- Main goals:
  - Finding ways to get more medicaid beds in treatment centers
    - Looking at legislation and how medicaid is assigned to different treatment centers - covers up to but not including medication centers
  - Investigating problems in care (primary care providers), treating for those with addictions (more provider education)
- Looking forward: the group is looking to have a full reboot, change their meeting time in order to accommodate for more members
  - Looking for member participation
  - If you are interested, please reach out to Joel ([jricklefs008@gmail.com](mailto:jricklefs008@gmail.com))

### Bridging the Gap:

- Co-chairs: Mila Long & Jessica Zehm
  - Main goals/achievements:
    - Helping OUD access treatment and resources upon their release
    - Created videos on jail treatment on MAT (methadone and suboxone), including what the truths are around MAT
    - Peer program, free peer support for individuals in jails
  - Looking forward:
    - Need new representatives from the jail, please contact Mila Long or Jessica if you are interested ([milalong14@gmail.com](mailto:milalong14@gmail.com) / [jessica@denverrecoverygroup.com](mailto:jessica@denverrecoverygroup.com))
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### Community Outreach and Engagement

- Co-chairs: Athena Burkard & Michele Ryan
- Goals/achievements:
  - Engaging in local business project - started working on recovery friendly employment project and finding ways to recognize those who are hiring individuals in recovery
  - Increasing visibility for SUAG - completed Overdose Awareness Day, working to remodel the SUAG website, finalized welcome packet of SUAG to orient people
  - Promoting overdose tools in schools and community -  
<https://corxconsortium.org/naloxone-resources-available-for-school-districts/>
    - Online Toolkit for Naloxone in schools can be accessed [here](#)

### Peer recovery coaches in the ED -

- Co-chairs: Amanda Wroblewski & Madeleine Evanoff
- Goals:
  - Still in preliminary phases of building this work group.
  - Moving forward, they have identified an agency that they will be working with to recruit, employ, and supervise coaches in the ED: Advocates for Recovery
- Looking forward:
  - Investigating more long-term funding resources to continue and sustain this work

### Grief Support

- Co-chairs: Trina Faatz & Joni Jackson-Malavasi

- Goals: focus on grief support programs for people who have lost someone to substance use
- Looking forward:
  - More attention to get the word out about the group, how we can better get the word out

### Youth Services

- Co-chairs: Audrey Schroer & Shannon Bryan
- Goals:
  - Just started this past summer - focusing on the need to approach treatment services, recovery support, and harm reduction for individuals 18 and under
  - Connect partners, identify gaps in youth services continuum & fill those deficits, and recommend/apply youth services interventions to those gaps
- Looking forward:
  - Will continue filling out youth matrix to understand where interventions and resources for youth lie in order to better tailor their strategies moving forward.

### **11:20 Introductions and Community Updates**

- ★ SUAG Newsletter will be released end of January 2022! If you have any important announcements, events, resources, job openings, etc. please send them to Meghan by January 19th ([mrzaimoff@bouldercounty.org](mailto:mrzaimoff@bouldercounty.org))
- ★ Consortium contact updates:
  - Please reach out to the Consortium at [ers@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:ers@cuanschutz.edu) for general community education info; and [leg@corxconsortium.org](mailto:leg@corxconsortium.org) for legislative info.
  - Jose Esquibel ([Jose.A.Esquibel@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Jose.A.Esquibel@cuanschutz.edu)) will be covering Legislative Items if you have questions
  - Jessica Eaddy ([Jessica.Eaddy@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Jessica.Eaddy@cuanschutz.edu)) will be attending these meetings. <https://corxconsortium.org/>
- ★ If you are interested in participating in a focus group or key informant interview as a parent/caregiver or youth service provider with Latinx and/or LGBTQ+ youth, please indicate your interest through this form and someone from the To the Root team at BCPH will reach out to you soon! All interviews and focus groups will be compensated for your time. <https://tinyurl.com/Alaraiz>
- ★ The Denver Post recently did an investigative piece on the state of mental health care in Colorado: <https://www.denverpost.com/2021/12/05/colorado-mental-health-centers-investigation/>