

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Treatment Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2019

SSPPS Room 2000A and by GoToMeeting

#### **PRESENT**

Laura Martin, MD, (Co-chair) CeDAR  
Linda Martin (Co-Chair), Office of Behavioral Health  
John Battisti, PhD, Indivior, Inc.  
Katie Wells, Office of Behavioral Health  
Mike Nerenberg, MD  
Kim Bechthold, Sundance Diagnostics  
Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Front Range Clinic  
Sarah Morley, Face it Together  
Brooke Lee, Summit Stone Health  
Qing Li, Epidemiologist  
Jenny Nate, Colorado Access  
Haley Foster, Tri-County Health Department  
Gaye Croft, Telligen  
Tracy Cruz, AmeriCorps  
Gina Olberding, Consortium  
Whit Oyler, Consortium  
Susanna Cooper, Consortium  
Jen Place, Consortium  
Jessica Eaddy, Consortium  
Jamie Feld, Consortium  
Rosemarie MacDowell, Consortium

#### **ABSENT**

Stephen Axelrod, MD; Marc Condojani, Office of Behavioral Health; Daniel Pacheco, UC Denver; Joanna Martinson, RN, North Colorado Health Alliance; Ellen Price, DO, Mesa County Medical Society; Emily Cheshire, Sheridan Health Services; Jennifer Ziouras, MD, Regional Chief of Internal Medicine, Kaiser Permanente of Colorado; Sania Celio, King Soopers; Lisa Clements, Office of Behavioral Health; Connie Valdez, PharmD, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy; Joseph Sakai, MD, University of Colorado School of Medicine, ARTS Program; Clark Lyda, PharmD, University of Colorado Hospital; Patrick Fox, MD, Interim Director, Office of Behavioral Health; Frank Cornelia, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC); Stephanie Menke, University of Colorado School of Medicine, ARTS Program; Judith Miller, PhD, Addiction Recovery Treatment Provider; Ken Summers, Colorado House of Representatives; Lisa Raville, Harm Reduction Action Center; Mary Ciambelli President, Colorado Nurses Association; Bev Marquez, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners; Cyndee Lutz, Lay Person; Kaylin Klie, MD; Matthew Ponder, MD; Stephanie Faren, RN, Boulder Valley School District; Mark Costello, Licensed Acupuncturist; Emily Schrader; Candi Ader, Millennium Health; Michelle Ryan, Behavioral Health Group; Brandon Utter, HCPF; Amanda Bent, Drug Policy Alliance; Audrey McKinney, Signal Behavioral Health Network; Alia Al-Tayyib,

PhD, Denver Public Health; Joe Frank, MD; Tom Denberg, MD, Pinnacle; Mancia Ko, UC Denver; Kiley Floren, Health District of Northern Larimer County; Daniel Bebo, MD; Josh Blum, MD, Denver Health; Roland Flores, MD, UC School of Medicine; Jose Tomas Prieto, Denver Health; Wollelaw Agmas, MD, Denver Health; Jose Esquibel, Attorney General's Office; Brian Ferrans, Health District of Northern Larimer County; Mary Reeves, MD, National Faculty for Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative; Elizabeth Pace, Peer Assistance Services; Bethany Pace-Danley, Peer Assistance Services; Lindsey Kato, Health Management Associates; Denise Vincioni, Denver Recovery Group; Steven Wright, MD, Porter Primary Care; Tiffany Tuetken, Cordant Health Solutions; Terri Schrieber, Research & Consulting; Jess Fear, Health District of Northern Larimer County; Kristina Green, CDPHE; Karen Chappelow, Valley Hope; Carl Anderson, Arapahoe County; Meredith Davis, Office of Behavioral Health; Rob Valuck, Consortium; Michael Davidson, Consortium; Steve Young, MD, UC School of Medicine; Rachel Wendt, DC, Colorado Chiropractic Association; Tanya Sorrell, RN, UC Denver School of Nursing; Amy Wachholtz, PhD, UC Denver; Mary Weber, PhD, UC Denver School of Nursing; Tina Beckley, Behavioral Health Group; Joel Miller, OBH; Soraya Jallad, Peer Assistance Services; Rachael McLaughlin, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners; Shannon Miller, Crossroads Turning Point; Terri Hurst, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Co-chair Laura Martin called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the September 2018 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

**Review and Discussion of Work Group Objectives:**

The following work group goals and objectives have been identified:

**Objective #1: Develop/Support Expert Workforce**

- Provide expert testimony during 2019 legislative session
- Promote workforce development efforts
- Support MAT delivery

**Objective #2: Support Parity Efforts**

- Identify existing efforts designed to support/promote parity
- Identify cost-breakdown for treatment services
- Create parity toolkit for consumers
- Develop a grading system to rate insurance companies

**Objective #3: Identify and Address Gaps and Barriers to Treatment**

- Partner with agencies collecting data to identify treatment barriers and gaps

**Objective #4: Develop State-wide Resources**

- Create an updated reimbursement guide (which licenses are reimbursed for which services, etc.)
- Support the development of a treatment provider database
- Support identification of open/available treatment beds
- Provide guidance for agencies regarding Medicaid residential reimbursement

Laura asked if anyone had any ideas on how the work group could move forward with the stated objectives.

Expert testimony: Laura asked how the work group could provide support and information to anyone testifying before the legislature. Jamie Feld said she had experience doing so and would be glad to assist others. She mentioned an upcoming legislative session regarding the recovery residences bill and asked that members contact her directly if they need any assistance with providing testimony. Jamie and Gina Olberding will discuss setting up a schedule to contact members when subject matter expert testimony is required for upcoming bills. Jamie can be reached at: [Jamie.feld@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Jamie.feld@ucdenver.edu)

Kim Bechthold mentioned issues related to cannabis and the treatment of substance use disorders. Cannabis issues are not within the work group parameters. However, Jessica Eaddy mentioned that she could put Kim in touch with someone in Colorado Springs who is working on this issue. Gina indicated that the Consortium focus has been on prescription drug use. Jen Place mentioned that CeDAR has carried out some cannabis research. Tracy Cruz also mentioned that there is an Institute of Cannabis Research at Colorado State University in Pueblo and they are planning an international conference some time in the spring.

Workforce development and MAT delivery: Jenny Nate said that development of technical-level staff is critical. She said it would be important to increase “matchmaking” between the behavioral and physical health providers. Colorado Access receives a number of queries from physical health providers seeking behavioral health providers. Telehealth could also be a means to connect providers. A statewide database of behavioral health providers could also be developed. Susanna Cooper mentioned that the Provider Education Work Group has been providing interdisciplinary training seminars for providers. Both Tri-County Health and Jefferson County Health Departments are also working on this type of program.

Whit Oyler mentioned that the Regional Health Connector Program is working on a similar project to bridge the gap for IT MATTRs prescribers in Regions 4, 9, and 13. CDPHE also has an incentive and reimbursement program.

Consortium communication methods were discussed, including emails sent via the Consortium listserv and the new Consortium newsletter. Time sensitive information is sent by email.

Support of parity efforts: Existing efforts need to be identified. Mental health legislation is currently being crafted. Laura indicated that she had communicated with both the Colorado Society of Addiction Medicine and the American Psychiatric Association. They are crafting legislation in support of a parity bill that would eliminate prior authorizations for substance treatment. They would like to obtain information from Treatment Work Group members regarding potential violations of previous parity efforts and other prior authorization difficulties currently encountered by providers. Other areas for discussion would cover consumer protection, transparency, and updating substance use disorder language.

Linda mentioned that it is important to understand all of the elements required prior to the pre-authorization request submittal, and that identifying these elements could help people navigate the system. She indicated she would be happy to assist.

Laura reviewed the Parity Resource Guide (copy attached) and asked members if they thought there might be a way to adapt and implement this toolkit for providers and patients.

There was a brief discussion regarding the medical necessity documentation required for pre-authorization and the benefit of having those with expertise in this area speak to the work group. Educational materials could then be developed for providers and patients. Materials could also point out the differences between commercial and Medicaid insurance. The state has established a new ombudsman position to assist with parity issues.

Identify and address gaps and barriers to treatment: Dr. Nerenberg said that Pueblo currently has between 2,500 and 3,000 treatment openings available and that they are only treating 500 individuals. Issues include patient recruitment, retention rates, transportation, stigma, cost of treatment, lack of insurance, and other bureaucratic barriers. Program availability is not the only issue.

Laura asked if there was any effort being made through the hub and spoke model. Whit Oyler indicated that efforts have not been unified.

Linda Martin spoke about available grants and gap funding available through SAMHSA, particularly for individuals not covered by Medicaid or a private insurer. The grants pay for medication and residential treatment. Peer navigators have been hired to communicate this information to providers throughout the state to let people know that funding is available for these services. Grant dollars are disbursed through managed service organizations located in various regions of Colorado.

Whit said that over 1,500 individuals have been provided MAT within the first two years of the STR grant. Additional information is provided in the attachment (Colorado STR Grant Progress Report).

Pharmacy data for suboxone is lacking. Whit mentioned that a treatment locator is in development. He will provide an update at the next meeting. Members also discussed statistics related to decreases in substance use disorders in general.

#### **Announcements:**

- STR Grant: Whit reported that there have been over 800 naloxone reversals.
- Dr. Nerenberg said that his organization has started dispensing fentanyl test strips within the past month. Another Pueblo organization dispensing the test strips has reported a decrease in overdose rates.
- Other statistical data from 2017 is available on the Consortium website dashboard and from the CDC website.
- Laura asked Dr. Nerenberg if the Pueblo organizations could provide reversal documentation for next year's call for posters.

#### **Adjournment and Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 12:27p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 11 – 12:30 p.m. in SSPPS Room 3001 and by GoToMeeting.

#### *Attachments:*

Parity Resource Guide

Colorado STR Grant Progress Report

