

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2019 – School of Pharmacy & by Teleconference

#### **Present:**

Sunny Linnebur, Co-chair, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy

Greg Fabisiak, Co-chair, CDPHE

Beverly Hanstrom, Colorado Medical Waste

Denna UliBarri-Crespin, AmeriCorps

Rebekah Armstrong, AmeriCorps

Seth Johnson, AmeriCorps

Alexandra Simunaci, AmeriCorps

Sarah Dennis, Safe-Rx

Lisa Kwiecien, Safe-Rx

Gina Olberding, Consortium

Whit Oyler, Consortium

Tyler Payne, Consortium

Jessica Eaddy, Consortium

Jamie Feld, Consortium

Michael Davidson, Consortium

Rosemarie MacDowell, Consortium

#### **Absent:**

Kathryn Stewart, CDPHE; Alan Miller, Omnicare; Karen Price, Good Day Pharmacy; Kelli Metz, UC Denver; Doc Nyiro, Waste Management of Colorado; Jeff Harnsberger, Genoa; Daniel Goetz, CDPHE; John Bender, MD, Colorado Medical Society; Kathryn Stewart, CDPHE; Scott Sickafoose, Arapahoe County Sheriff; Joe Frank, MD, University of Colorado School of Medicine; Selin Hoboy, Stericycle, Inc.; Terry Brenton, Stericycle, Inc.; Jeff Woodhouse, Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America; Rep. Dianne Primavera, Colorado House of Representatives; Melanie Snyder, Attorney General's Office; Katie Sullivan, PhD Student, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy; Al Garcia, USEPA, Region 8; Jace Driver, CDPHE; Erin Baurle, Jefferson Center for Mental Health; Sarah Swan, BMS; Kavitha Kailasam, Rise Above Colorado; Randy Knutsen, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy; Debbie Trever, Boulder County; Craig McCarty, MD; Alyssa Moore, RN; Laurrie Lorenso, Pharmacy Student; Grady Harlow, RMHIDTA; Rob Valuck, University of Colorado School of Pharmacy; Lindsey Kato, Health Management Associates; Quig Li, San Diego State University; Zach Urban, Wheat Ridge City Council; Alice Casey, Pickens Technical College; Ashley Hill, Region 17 Health Connector; Matthew Hess, Colorado AHEC Program Office; Erin Ferries, Humana; Mary Steiner, Community Health Partnership; David Ternus, Walgreens; Erika Alexander, Genoa Healthcare; Jen Place, Consortium; Adrian Pascual, COS Vista; Susanna Cooper, Consortium; Jeremy Hill, Otero County VISTA; Trisha Bush, The Center for Mental Health; Cassidy Foster, AmeriCorps; LeeAnn White, Telligen; Tracy Cruz, AmeriCorps

Co-Chair Greg Fabisiak called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the November 2018 meeting minutes. Motion passed after Greg noted a clarification would be made in reference to a potential dropbox location in Walsenburg, which is a pharmacy, not a law enforcement agency.

### **Safe Rx Locking Pill Bottle Demonstration:**

Sarah Denis gave a slide presentation featuring the Safe Rx locking pill bottle. She also had sample bottles that she showed to work group members. Presentation highlights:

- The product was development by a Fort Collins anesthetist
- There is a need for a locking bottle to prevent diversion of medications that are still being used
- The company has a number of contracts already in place with smaller wholesalers; the product is also available on Amazon
- Prices depend on bottle size, i.e., \$14.99, \$9.99, and \$5.99; a 10-bottle kit is also available
- Bottles are available in different colors

### **Comments/Questions:**

Sunny Linnebur mentioned that some older adults may have difficulty unlocking the bottle top and that a lock box might be a better option for them. Sarah indicated they are making some product changes to make access easier.

The stock show is planning a take-back event. The show might be an appropriate venue for advertising the locking pill bottle. Farmer's markets might also prove to be an appropriate venue.

Gina Olberding said the Public Awareness Work Group is working on a seniors program and that information will be distributed to seniors participating in the Meals on Wheels Program.

Alexandra Simunaci told members that she had worked as a caregiver in the past and noted that medications were not always locked away in assisted living facilities. Many staff members were not registered nurses, which was also an issue when dealing with Alzheimer's patients who might refuse medication. Sarah said she would mail Alexandra some information.

### **Phi Lambda Sigma (PLS) Student Project:**

Sunny Linnebur is a faculty advisor for a student project, which is part of a yearly PLS leadership challenge. This year's theme is patient safety. The project entails a pilot for a mobile medication take-back event at a local senior living facility. A law enforcement partner will be required. Sunny has consulted with the university police. She has also reached out to Heather Gardens, and they expressed interest in the program. Grant funding is available in the amount of \$1,000. CDPHE is funding the medication disposal. The students would also like to collect sharps and are working with Beverly Hanstrom at Colorado Medical Waste to create a pilot sharps collection process. Law enforcement

involvement is not required for sharps pickup and disposal. Sarah Dennis offered to provide Safe-Rx bottles for the pilot.

While the student pilot is a one-time project, the program could continue on a twice yearly basis if it proves successful. A mobile program benefits patients who lack mobility.

Whit Oyler mentioned that Tri-County Health was also planning a mobile take-back program.

### **Take-Back Program Update:**

Greg handed out take-back collection charts to members present at the meeting. The chart showed the number of collectors actively participating in the program and the number of pounds collected per month. Collection numbers decreased in December, which likely represents seasonal fluctuations. Collection figures might be posted on the TakeMedsBack website. Greg will provide this information to Rosemarie.

Currently, there are 58 counties with at least one permanent collection site. Status of the six counties without a collection site was reported. A pharmacy in Kiowa County has applied. A community clinic in Dolores County is in the process of applying. The only option in Mineral County is the sheriff's department, which is now operating out of a temporary facility. Park County has a new sheriff who will be contacted about potential participation. Greg has a solid commitment from a Huerfano County pharmacy located in Walsenburg. Local agencies are assisting with finding a location in Baca County.

Whit noted that the Arapahoe County sheriff was not re-elected. He will follow up to see if there have been any changes to their collection sites.

Kaiser Permanente is ending their collection program; however, they have applied to join the state program. Ridgway's collection site was located in a pharmacy that closed. A new pharmacy in Ridgway will be applying for a dropbox. Greg will be assisting them with start-up. The Ridgway Marshall will assist with transport or disposal of the medications still in the dropbox in the closed pharmacy.

### **Sharps Disposal Opportunities:**

There may be potential grant funding from the SOR program for sharps collection. The SOR program requires that 80% of funding be allocated to treatment access, with the remainder allocated to prevention efforts. Funding could finance a number of sharps collection sites within harm reduction facilities. Dropboxes can be co-branded. Eight harm reduction locations have been approved by CDPHE. A pending legislative bill requires syringe exchange programs to have a disposal plan in place.

Work group members discussed counties that currently have sharps receptacles. Boulder County has four of them. They are serviced by Colorado Medical Waste. Denver County is planning four sharps locations within a five-mile radius of downtown. Colorado Medical Waste will be monitoring the receptacles and arranging pickups as necessary. Beverly Hanstrom explained the pickup and sanitizing process.

Beverly and Gina Olberding have been discussing safe needle disposal and the possibility of posting information on the TakeMedsBack website. Beverly also provided the work group with handouts. Copies of the information will be included with the minutes, along with a copy of the collection chart distributed by Greg.

**Review of 2019 Work Group Goals:**

Tyler Payne and Gina Olberding updated the work group on the plans to track work group activities using InsightVision, a strategy management software. Tyler explained the methods that will be used to establish targets and track the work group's progress in achieving goals. Coalitions will have access to the software at no charge. Results achieved will then be reported to funding sources. Tyler will be working with all work group co-chairs, with assistance from the Consortium program managers.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The March work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 a.m. in Room 3001 and by GoToMeeting.

**Attachments:**

- Household Medication Take-Back Program Collection Chart
- Colorado Medical Waste Walk-in Sharps Disposal Price Sheet
- Safe Rx Informational Flier