

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

### Safe Disposal Work Group Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2020 – via Zoom

#### **Present:**

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

Greg Fabisiak, Co-chair, CDPHE

Lynette Myers, CDPHE

Trisha Bush, The Center for Mental Health

Consortium: Gina Olberding, Tyler Payne, Jamie Feld, Jessica Eaddy, Susanna Cooper,

Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

NarcX: David Schiller and Doug Bowman

#### **Absent:**

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; 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; 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

Lorenzo, Pharmacy Student; Zach Urban, Wheat Ridge City Council; Ashley Hill, Region 17

Health Connector; Matthew Hess, Colorado AHEC Program Office; Erin Ferries, Humana;

David Ternus, Walgreens; Erika Alexander, Genoa Healthcare; LeeAnn White, Telligent;

Jessica Triplett, OBH; Quig Li, Epidemiologist; Carly Larson, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners;

Mike Nerenberg, M.D.; Miranda Thompson, Central Colorado AHEC; Beverly Hanstrom,

Colorado Medical Waste; Jonathon Bloomfield, Verde Technologies; Alice Casey, Pickens

Technical College; P.J. Higgins, Community Health Partnership; Matt Schafer, Deterra; Brandee

Butt, AllHealth Network Pharmacy; Consortium: Rob Valuck, Jose Esquibel, Jen Place, Judy

Solano

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

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made to approve the March 10, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

#### **NarcX Presentation (David Schiller and Doug Bowman):**

David Schiller, President/CEO, is retired from the DEA. He was a special agent in the DEA diversion control program where he oversaw diversion activities nationwide.

Doug Bowman, Vice President of Business Development, previously worked for Trilogy Medwaste (formally Assured Waste Solutions). He created Assured Waste's Med Drop kiosk medication collection system and managed the contract for its use by the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program.

NarcX is a liquid solution that renders controlled and non-controlled medications “non-retrievable” by dissolving and neutralizing them in under two hours. NarcX has developed a kiosk disposal system that utilizes the solution to achieve on-site destruction of medications. The neutralized substances do not require incineration or pick up by a contract carrier or DEA reverse distributor. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Comments:

- The person disposing of medications is responsible for recycling medication containers. Collection sites could choose to offer container recycling as a service to kiosk users.
- The interior of the kiosk contains a funnel to prevent bottles and other refuse from entering the NarcX solution. While there is an occasional build-up of medications in the funnel area, NarcX is now working on fixes and they do not anticipate issues.
- There is a viewing window to indicate when the solution container is full. The kiosk system has the capacity to neutralize 10,000 pills before requiring change-out.
- The NarcX solution will neutralize Fentanyl patches that have been removed from packaging.
- This type of collection system would be useful for senior centers.
- Illicit drugs collected by police departments and hospital emergency rooms can be quickly disposed of.
- NarcX also makes a bottle for medication destruction that can be used in homes.
- Colorado has already invested a considerable sum in standard disposal kiosks used by the Household Medication Take-Back Program. NarcX would take this into account in their proposed pricing if bidding on the program contract in 2021. NarcX believes they would save the state money over the long term.

**Take-back Program Updates:**

Greg noted that COVID-19 has had an impact on collections. There was a dramatic drop in the number of pounds collected in April as the public began sheltering in place.

Some collection sites have closed temporarily. The Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department is now offline at their four locations, but they plan to reopen June 1<sup>st</sup>. Kaiser closed nine of their fifteen collection locations. Five of the locations reopened on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Kaiser collections make up approximately 14% of all medications collected statewide. Scales Pharmacy in downtown Denver merged with another facility and dropped out of the program. The Durango Police Department also plans to leave the program due to site restrictions and staffing concerns. There may be a Durango pharmacy that could act as an alternative site. Gina Olberding suggested that Jessica Eaddy could follow up on this possibility. Trisha Bush suggested the local hospital might have a pharmacy where a kiosk could be located.

ET Digital will begin a six-week on-line digital and social media promotional campaign for the medication take-back promotion on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Michael Davidson is assisting on behalf of the Consortium. The “You’re the Solution” promotional campaign targeting seniors has been impacted by COVID-19. The Volunteers of America decided not to work with partners at this time and has postponed the Meals on Wheels outreach program they were planning with the Consortium. Promotional materials that were developed are still scheduled to be disseminated to the Alzheimer’s Association and hospices. Michael has also discussed a possible program for the public library that will target seniors. In addition, he is working on the possibility of outreach using video message screens in medical facility waiting rooms.

Tyler Payne reported on the AARP Colorado Health and Wellness Series that will focus on medication disposal and safety. A statewide webinar will be conducted by Greg Fabisiak and Sunny Linnebur the first part of June.

**Sharps Collection Expansion:**

An RFP was issued and contractor proposals were received and are currently being evaluated. A decision will be made in the near future. The state issued a purchase order for Webb Strategic to handle program promotion and branding. Promotions will include social and digital media. A planning meeting is scheduled for May 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Other Items**

Greg indicated that he is planning to retire as of August 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. The next work group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30 a.m.

Attachment: NarcX Presentation