

**Heroin Response Work Group  
September 12, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Tom Gorman, RMHIDTA and Work Group Co-chair  
Lindsey Myers, CDPHE and Work Group Co-chair  
Alia Al-Tayyib, Denver Health  
Rick Brandt, Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police  
Chelsey Clark, RMHIDTA  
J.K. Costello, Steadman Group  
Jessica Eaddy, Consortium  
Haley Foster, Tri-County Health Department  
Rochelle Galey, CDHS  
Linda Hughes, Exit the Highway  
Lindsey Kato, Health Management Associates  
Quig Li, Epidemiologist  
Linda Martin, OBH  
Rachael McLaughlin, RM Crisis Services  
Shayna Micucci, CDPHE  
Gina Olberding, Consortium  
Krista Olsen, UC Denver  
Katie Olson, CDPHE  
Tyler Payne, Consortium  
Jennifer Place Consortium  
Emily Richardson, OBH  
Rob Valuck, Consortium  
Denise Vincioni, Denver Recovery Group

**Call to Order, Introduction & Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Lindsey Myers called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the July meeting minutes. A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the July meeting minutes.

**Updates:**

The North Colorado Health Alliance received a \$1.5 million grant covering Weld and Larimer counties. The principal person overseeing the grant is Mark Wallace. Lesley Brooks wrote the grant proposal.

Jen Place reminded participants of the upcoming Consortium annual meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Both Tom Gorman and Lindsey Myers will be presenting work group updates. There will be a provider education symposium on Wednesday evening, the day before the annual meeting, which will focus on opioid alternative treatments and recovery efforts.

Denise Vincioni spoke about a treatment group started by the mayor's office, which was modeled after the Consortium work groups.

Quig Li provided an update regarding the pre-natal SBIRT project she is working on, including communications she has had with representatives from the Interim Study Committee and the Consortium Treatment Work Group.

Lindsey Kato updated participants regarding the recent Attorney General's law enforcement summit she attended. Summit members identified the following for implementation:

- Addition of drug task forces and personnel throughout the state
- Addition of crisis support for law enforcement, including behavioral health personnel
- Expansion of resources and capacity in rural areas to address opioid issues and assist individuals requiring treatment
- Addition of administrative support for existing local law enforcement to help assist in applying for state and federal grants

Tom Gorman commented that this type of task force addition is heroin and opioid specific and will also target the "Dark Web" and traffickers. This model worked well for crack cocaine and meth issues. Jose Esquibel is supporting the program; funding will be \$5 million per year.

Linda Martin reported they were awarded the State Opiate Grant in the amount of \$15 million per year, more than they requested. The state targeted grant will continue until 2019. All of the programs in this grant will roll over into the opiate grant, with additional focus on needs in rural communities. They are also planning mobile treatment units (seven of them) to support treatment needs. They are now in the process of mapping and identifying which communities they will be targeting. The mobile units should be available by the spring of 2019 and will include a nurse and a substance abuse counselor. They are conducting a needs assessment for sober living and the recovery community. Positions are being added at the Rocky Mountain Crisis Center. The Consortium will be adding an additional outreach coordinator. Criminal justice is also adding more navigators.

Quig Li asked about MAT for pregnant women. Both IV users and pregnant women are given priority status for medication-assisted treatment.

Lindsey Myers reported on the CDPHE application for CDC crisis funding (\$2.6 million per year), which would provide an opportunity to work with emergency preparedness personnel across the state. They are in the process of formulating an opioid emergency response plan, which will include a workshop for stakeholders. The workshop will address fentanyl, and participants will formulate a set of exercises for community response to emergencies. Funds will also be used for the following: increase syndromic surveillance capacity in order to identify epidemics, enhance the Opi Rescue app to add Narcan ordering capability, connect to the PDMP, and integrate with emergency rooms. HIE expansion is also included in the project. Maria Butler and Allison Rosenthal are working on a management program for coroner's offices to identify barriers in toxicology testing.

Tom Gorman said that 500 heroin dealers were arrested at the end of August. All of those arrested had previous criminal records; 20% of them were armed. Fifty percent of those arrested were non-Hispanic; 25% were Hispanic; and the remainder were either not identified or of mixed nationality. Sixty pounds of heroin was seized. Tom also spoke about law enforcement assisting individuals with access to the crisis line or providing them with information on treatment options. It appears most are providing individuals with information rather than calling the crisis line. Linda Martin commented that the crisis center is in the process adding positions to improve follow up. Tom and Linda will discuss this further.

Denise Vincioni mentioned the Interim Study Committee and the potential legislation related to removing barriers to medication-assisted treatment within jails. Funding will also be addressed. There are other protocols involved in providing this type of treatment within a jail setting. Stakeholders are looking at other states and their experiences with MAT in jails. Arapahoe County has begun MAT in their jails and their experience could provide a useful template. Carl Anderson was instrumental in creating this program.

J.K. Costello mentioned that many counties do not have personnel capacity to handle MAT and that mobile units will be helpful. Stigma is still an issue as well. Other considerations include the length of time an individual will be incarcerated and the distance from a clinic.

Tom Gorman suggested drug prevention organizations form an “association” in order to work together and establish a “common voice.” He suggested this topic be discussed further at the next work group meeting in November. The State of Ohio, S. Carolina, and Pennsylvania have programs worth investigating.

Rob Valuck provided an update on the following bills currently being considered by the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee. The draft bills are:

1. Treatment
2. Recovery
3. Harm Reduction
4. Prevention
5. Criminal Justice

**Future Work Group Projects:**

Tom Gorman suggested that the next work group meeting focus on potential projects for 2019. Tom asked for work group ideas and will send a memo in that regard.

A participant spoke about the work group’s projects and how they have helped many people both directly and indirectly. He also spoke about sober living homes and their importance.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Friday, November 16, 2018.