



# Introduction to the Consortium

2



The Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention (Consortium) coordinates Colorado's response to the crisis of misuse and abuse of prescription medications such as opioids, stimulants, and sedatives. Since the Consortium took its current form in 2013, it has been a place where stakeholders from diverse backgrounds and viewpoints work together and focus their efforts to address the opioid crisis, one of the nation's and Colorado's most damaging public health crises.

The Consortium receives funds from the state and federal government and grants from nonprofit foundations and businesses. The University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora is the administrative home of the Consortium.

## Purpose

The Consortium has nearly 700 members as of May 2019. They include representatives of grassroots organizations in small communities, major state behavioral and public health departments, and law enforcement officers at the state and federal level. The Consortium is open to anyone who wishes to collaborate.

The Consortium strives to provide assistance to a wide range of organizations and stakeholders, including community, state, and federal agencies and task forces, nonprofits, health care providers, public health officials, and other groups that address the prescription drug misuse and abuse crisis.

The Consortium's activities include educating health care providers, raising public awareness, conducting research, data surveillance, safe medication disposal, and supporting treatment expansion. The Consortium also advises policymakers on legislation and programming that can be implemented to address the crisis.

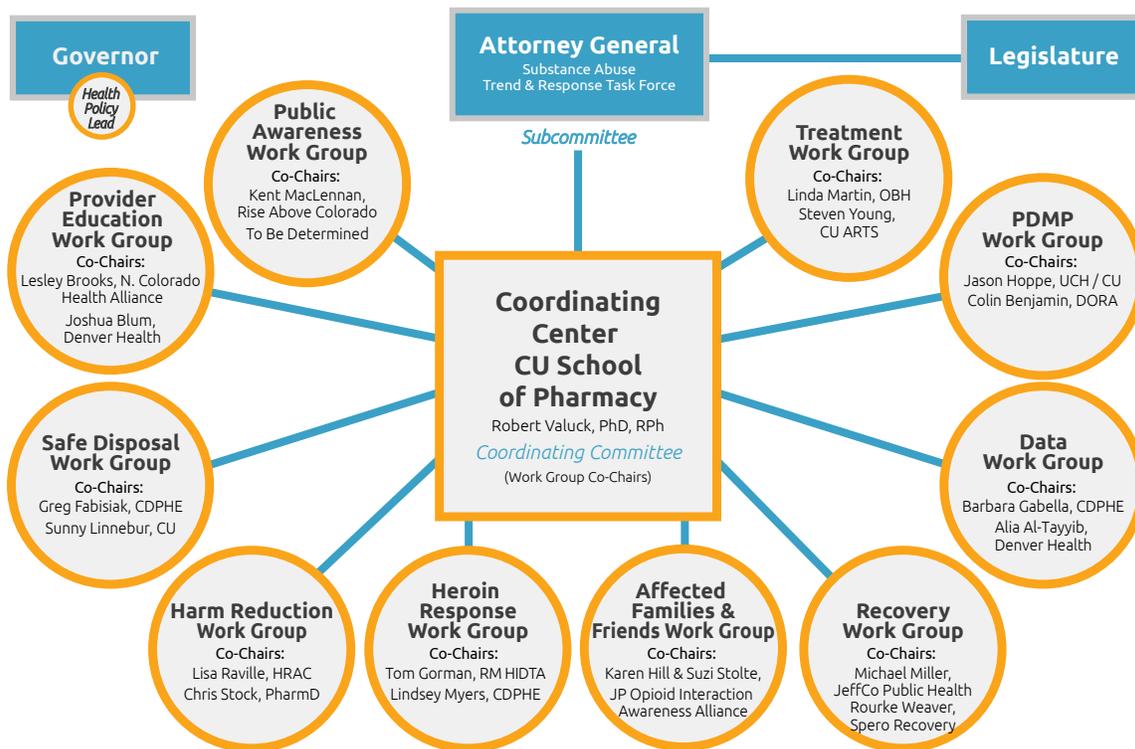
Supporting local efforts as coalitions, community groups, and government agencies develop and implement programs is a Consortium priority. The Consortium can:

- Link groups to resources and agencies focused on building community coalitions;
- Collaborate to help develop strategies and activities;
- Identify best practices related to prescription drug abuse prevention; and
- Help connect local efforts with resources.

If you have questions about the Consortium or would like its assistance, email [info@corxconsortium.org](mailto:info@corxconsortium.org).

## History and Work

The Consortium's story begins in 1986, with the establishment of the Colorado Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force. In 2012, it began to evolve into its current form, after then Gov. John Hickenlooper's administration began work on what became the *Colorado Plan to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse*. The plan was finished in 2013, and the Consortium was created with the mission to implement the plan and promote a collaborative, interagency and inter-professional response to the crisis.



In 2014, the purpose of the organization expanded to become the coordinating hub for activity related to the opioid crisis, including implementing statewide public awareness campaigns, partnering with agencies to expand access to naloxone, advising on a prescription drug monitoring program, increasing access to safe medication disposal options, and much more. Additional details about the Consortium’s work can be found throughout the *Community Reference* in each chapter. More information on the Consortium’s history and activities and the state strategic plan can be found online at [www.corxconsortium.org](http://www.corxconsortium.org).

In 2017, the Legislature approved the creation of the Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention at the University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. The Center will oversee the Consortium, as well as facilitate research activities, identify and promote evidence-based clinical practices, educate health care and public health practitioners, and test, implement, and promote new models of care for the treatment of pain and substance use disorders.

The Consortium will be the Center’s community engagement pillar and continue supporting organizations around Colorado.

## Organization and Collective Impact

The Consortium is a committee of the Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force, which is chaired by the Colorado Attorney General, and operates from the CU Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

The Consortium utilizes the Collective Impact model, whereby partners from many sectors of the community work together to address complex issues. Under this model, Consortium staff forms the “backbone organization” that supports the efforts of work groups and the coordinating committee, which collectively and collaboratively develop and implement the Consortium’s plans and activities. The engagement of a broad range of individuals and organizations is cultivated with a flexible approach. The Consortium encourages partners from any organization to join, and engagement in activities is

# Introduction to the Consortium

voluntary. It relies on experts from many sectors, including health care, public health, business, law enforcement, and the academic community.

More information about this organizational framework can be found online at [www.collectiveimpactforum.org](http://www.collectiveimpactforum.org) and at the Consortium's website, [www.corxconsortium.org](http://www.corxconsortium.org).

## Work Groups and Coordinating Committee

Organizationally, the Consortium consists of 10 work groups organized to address specific elements of prescription drug misuse and abuse. Two co-chairs lead the work groups, whose members are volunteers and have valuable experience and expertise in their fields.

Work groups set goals each year. They form as needed and can change or dissolve as needed. Each work group creates a meeting schedule that works for their members and attendance is in person or via teleconference. Typically, work groups meet once every two months. If you would like to learn more or join a work group, visit [www.corxconsortium.org/work-groups/](http://www.corxconsortium.org/work-groups/).

A coordinating committee comprised of the work group co-chairs, Consortium staff, and other key stakeholders

oversees the work groups and staff and sets the strategic direction of the organization.

## Consortium Staff

The Consortium's staff works to achieve the goals of the work groups. It also works with community members to help them develop and implement new programs and with state agencies such as the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health to support their initiatives.

Staff members include external relations strategists who work with local organizations and the state government to provide technical assistance; program managers assigned to each work group; and a communications professional who creates and develops digital and print assets for community engagement and works on public awareness campaigns.



University of Colorado  
Anschutz Medical Campus



**Skaggs School of Pharmacy  
and Pharmaceutical Sciences**  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

## Community Support and Technical Assistance

The Consortium has staff members dedicated to helping community partners develop and implement programs and to support their work. They are the Consortium's link to grassroots efforts and can provide a wealth of knowledge and technical assistance.

External relations strategists work on everything from helping individuals form coalitions to providing expertise to the state Legislature. They also share resources developed at the community level with other partners around the state to make sure effective programs and good ideas spread to the widest possible audience.

External relations strategists work with individuals and organizations based on their location in Colorado. To learn more about the strategists and contact the one for your area, visit [www.corxconsortium.org/communities](http://www.corxconsortium.org/communities).

Organizations that would like software to help them set and track progress toward goals can consider using a strategy management system developed by the Consortium. For more information, visit [www.corxconsortium.org/strategy-management](http://www.corxconsortium.org/strategy-management).

## Consortium Funding

The Consortium receives funding from multiple sources, including federal agencies, state departments, nonprofit foundations, and private companies. Current and past funders include:

- The Colorado General Assembly
- The Colorado Attorney General
- Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- The Colorado Health Foundation
- CoBank
- Colorado State University

The University of Colorado Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences provides administrative support and office space for the Consortium.

## Creating Community Organizations

Collective Impact is only one of many successful organizational models. Community or regional coalitions may find it advantageous to have a similar structure, and some local coalitions have adopted it. Some other common models and frameworks are listed in this chapter with links to additional information. Community coalitions should study the models to determine which is best suited considering their needs and resources.

## Resources for Organizing

There are a number of different evidence-based approaches for organizing a community group or coalition. Some have shown great success in helping people address serious community issues, such as the opioid crisis.

These links take you to pages that describe the different models or have educational information you should consider when developing or running a coalition. Follow the links to learn more. If you have questions, contact the Consortium at [pm@corxconsortium.org](mailto:pm@corxconsortium.org).

### Collective Impact

[www.collectiveimpactforum.org](http://www.collectiveimpactforum.org)

Colorado Department of Human Services,  
Office of Behavioral Health/OMNI Regional  
Prevention Coordinators  
[obhpreventionservices.org](http://obhpreventionservices.org)

### Communities that Care Model

[www.communitiesthatcare.net](http://www.communitiesthatcare.net)

### Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America

[cadca.org/products/1021/coalition-core-essentials](http://cadca.org/products/1021/coalition-core-essentials)

### University of Kansas Community Toolbox

[ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents](http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents)

### Institute for Healthcare Improvement Breakthrough Series

[www.centertrt.org/content/docs/Intervention\\_Documents/Intervention\\_Materials/OSNAP/Framework\\_for\\_Collaborative\\_Improvement.pdf](http://www.centertrt.org/content/docs/Intervention_Documents/Intervention_Materials/OSNAP/Framework_for_Collaborative_Improvement.pdf)

### Rise Above Colorado's Constellation Project

[www.riseaboveco.org](http://www.riseaboveco.org)

### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Strategic Prevention Framework

[www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sp-19-004](http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sp-19-004)

## Information About 2019 Legislation

In 2019, the Legislature passed a slate of new bills that will give Colorado more resources to fight the opioid epidemic and address substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery support services.

Read below for information about the bills. More information about new programs and funding opportunities will be in the Consortium's newsletter and posted on Twitter as it becomes available.

## About the Bills

### [HB19-1009 — Substance Use Disorders Recovery – leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1009](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1009)

Sponsors: Rep. C. Kennedy, Rep. J. Singer;  
Sen. K. Priola, Sen. B. Pettersen

This bill focuses on expanding housing vouchers for individuals recovering from a substance use disorder and licensing of certain recovery residences. It also creates an advisory group to advise the Colorado Attorney General on use of settlement funds from opioid-related litigation.

### [HB19-1287 – Treatment for Opioids and Substance Use Disorders – leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1287](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1287)

Sponsors: Rep. D. Esgar, Rep. J. Wilson;  
Sen. B. Pettersen, Sen. K. Priola

This bill directs the Department of Human Services to implement a centralized, web-based behavioral health tracking system to track available treatment capacity at behavioral health and treatment providers to support treatment access. The bill also directs the Department of Human Services to implement a care navigation system. Finally the bill expands treatment capacity in rural and underserved areas.

### [SB19-001 — Expand Medication-assisted Treatment Pilot Program – leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-001](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-001)

Sponsors: Sen. L. Garcia; Rep. Buentello

This bill concerns the expansion of the medication-



*Gov. Jared Polis with state legislators after signing new bills about substance abuse prevention and treatment into law in May 2019.*

assisted treatment (MAT) expansion pilot program and would expand the counties that may participate in the program; extend the duration of the program; and increase funding for the program. The bill is a continuation and enhancement of SB17-074, which created a pilot program that enabled the University of Colorado College of Nursing to train and coach Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants in delivering MAT services in Pueblo and Routt Counties. This bill intends to expand the work to the San Luis Valley and two additional counties with demonstrated need.

### [SB19-008 — Substance Use Disorder Treatment In Criminal Justice System – leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-008](https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-008)

Sponsors: Sen. K. Priola, Sen. B. Pettersen;  
Rep. C. Kennedy, Rep. J. Singer

The bill requires the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to study and make recommendations on criminal justice and substance use issues. The bill creates a harm reduction grant program to reduce health risks associated with drug use. The bill states that county jails that receive funding through the Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health have a policy in place before Jan. 1, 2020 that describes how medication-assisted treatment (MAT) will be provided in county jails. The bill provides funds for expansion of the co-responder program from eight to 12 statewide.

**[SB19-227 Harm Reduction Substance Use Disorders – leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-227](http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-227)**

Sponsors: Sen. B. Pettersen, Sen. Julie Gonzales; Rep. Chris Kennedy, Rep. Leslie Herod

This bill carries a variety of harm reduction measures including: allowing school districts to carry naloxone, specifying that hospitals can be a syringe access site, creating a naloxone bulk purchase fund, expanding the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment medication take back program to include sharps, allowing naloxone to be available where an automated external defibrillator (AED) is available, and developing a policy for verification of identity for individuals without identification needing substance use treatment.

**[SB19-228 – Substance Use Disorders Prevention Measures – leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-228](http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-228)**

Sponsors: Sen. F. Winter, Sen. D. Moreno; Rep. B. Buenteello, Rep. J. Singer

The bill provides funding for the implementation of several programs for the prevention of opioid and other substance use disorders in the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), local public health agencies (LPHAs), and the University of Colorado.

The bill requires certain health care providers with prescriptive authority to complete opioid prescribing best practice, PDMP, and substance use disorder training as part of the continuing education requirement for professional license renewal. The bill prohibits prescribers from accepting any direct or indirect benefits for prescribing a specific medication. The bill allows medical examiners and coroners to access the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP) under specified circumstances. The bill provides enhanced pharmacy reimbursement related to medication-assisted treatment. Finally, the bill requires opioid prescriptions for outpatient use to bear a warning label.

**Other Related Bills:**

- **[HB 1269 – Mental Health Parity Insurance Medicaid – leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1269](http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1269)**
- **[HB 1193 – Behavioral Health Supports for High Risk Families – leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1193](http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb19-1193)**
- **[SB 005 – Import Prescription Drugs from Canada – leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-005](http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-005)**
- **[SB19 079 – Electronic Prescribing Controlled Substances – Passed and signed into law on April 8](http://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-079)**

**COLORADO OPIOID-RELATED BILLS PASSED INTO LAW 2019**

<p><b>SB 228 PREVENTION</b> Sens. Winter, Moreno Reps. Singer, Buenteello</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires prescribers to complete opioid best practice, SUD and PDMP continuing education</li> <li>• Prohibits prescribers from receiving financial benefit from prescriptions</li> <li>• Requires warning label for opioid prescriptions</li> <li>• Funds several prevention efforts</li> </ul> <p><b>APPROXIMATE FUNDING:</b>                  \$2M Local and state public health                  \$600K Maternal child health pilot*                  \$500K Youth substance use prevention                  \$750K Public awareness activities*                  \$300K Perinatal data linkage project*                  \$250K Grant writer support</p>	<p><b>SB 227 HARM REDUCTION</b> Sens. Pettersen, Gonzales Reps. Kennedy, Herod</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creates naloxone bulk purchase fund</li> <li>• Funds public sharps disposal</li> <li>• Allows naloxone with AEDs in public settings</li> <li>• Specifies naloxone allowed at schools</li> <li>• Specifies hospitals allowed as syringe access sites</li> <li>• Addresses barrier of ID verification for treatment</li> </ul> <p><b>APPROXIMATE FUNDING:</b>                  \$600K Naloxone bulk purchase and public sharps disposal*</p>
<p><b>HB 1287 TREATMENT</b> Reps. Esgar, Wilson Sens. Pettersen, Priola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishes centralized web-based behavioral health tracking system for treatment</li> <li>• Funds care navigation system</li> <li>• Funds treatment capacity expansion in rural and frontier communities</li> </ul> <p><b>APPROXIMATE FUNDING:</b>                  \$5M Rural treatment capacity grant*                  \$260K Capacity tracking technology                  \$300K Care coordination*</p>	<p><b>SB 008 CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b> Sens. Pettersen, Priola Reps. Singer, Kennedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires county jails receiving behavioral health funding to have policy for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) by January 2020</li> <li>• Funds expansion of co-responder programs</li> <li>• Develops Harm Reduction Grant Program</li> </ul> <p><b>APPROXIMATE FUNDING:</b>                  \$1.5M Harm Reduction Grant Program*                  \$2.2M Criminal justice diversion programs*                  \$400K Dept. of Corrections MAT funding*                  \$750K MAT in county jails funding*</p>
<p><b>HB 1009 RECOVERY</b> Reps. Singer, Kennedy Sens. Pettersen, Priola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expands housing vouchers for individuals with substance use disorder</li> <li>• Requires certification of certain recovery residences</li> <li>• Creates advisory group to advise Attorney General on use of funds from opioid-related litigation</li> </ul> <p><b>APPROXIMATE FUNDING:</b>                  \$1M Housing vouchers*                  \$50K Recovery residence certification grants*</p>	<p><b>SB 079 ELECTRONIC PRESCRIBING</b> Sens. Priola, Todd; Reps. Esgar, Landgraf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires certain prescribers to prescribe schedule II, III, or IV controlled substances only via Rx electronically transmitted to a pharmacy, with exceptions</li> </ul> <p><b>EXPAND MAT PILOT</b>                  • Continues pilot in Pueblo and Routt counties to train and fund NPs and PAs to provide medication-assisted treatment                  • Expands funding to San Luis Valley and 2 additional counties</p> <p><b>SB 001</b> Sens. Garcia, Rep. Buenteello</p> <p><b>APPROXIMATE FUNDING:</b>                  \$2.5M Expand College of Nursing pilot program*</p>

Senate Bills 008, 227, and 228, and House Bills 1009 and 1287 were developed in the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee. \*Indicates potential multiple years of funding allocated at various levels. See bills for details.

Infographic online at [www.coxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-bills-infographic.pdf](http://www.coxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2019-bills-infographic.pdf).

## Communications and Public Awareness Tools

The Consortium has developed print and digital assets organizations can distribute and use for their campaigns. These assets include handouts and social media for the Take Meds Seriously public awareness campaign, promotional material for the Colorado Household Medication Take-Back Program, information about naloxone, an online newsletter, and more.

For information about public awareness campaigns and the Consortium's communications resources, please see the Public Awareness chapter in the Community Reference.

If you have questions about the Consortium's communications tools and strategy, feedback about the material, or ideas for new assets, email [pm@corxconsortium.org](mailto:pm@corxconsortium.org).

### Order Print Material

The Consortium and its partners have developed brochures, rack cards, and other print material that can be shared with community partners to distribute at events, in offices, or wherever you are. They include:

- Take Meds Seriously rack cards about safe medication use, storage, and disposal
- Material about medication safety for older adults
- Information about safe opioid storage and disposal
- A brochure about naloxone and how to reverse an opioid overdose

View and order brochures, rack cards, and other handouts on the Consortium's website, [www.corxconsortium.org/order](http://www.corxconsortium.org/order).

### The Consortium Online

The Consortium maintains a strong presence online, supporting websites and social media feeds for the Take Meds Seriously and Take Meds Back public awareness campaigns and itself.



### Community Reference With Additional Resources

- [www.corxconsortium.org/communityreference](http://www.corxconsortium.org/communityreference)

### Websites

- [www.corxconsortium.org](http://www.corxconsortium.org)
- [www.takemedsseriously.org](http://www.takemedsseriously.org)
- [www.takemedsback.org](http://www.takemedsback.org)

### Social Media

- Twitter: [@corxconsortium](https://twitter.com/corxconsortium)
- Twitter: [@takemedsserious](https://twitter.com/takemedsserious)
- [www.facebook.com/takemedsseriously](https://www.facebook.com/takemedsseriously)

### Videos

- [vimeo.com/corxconsortium](https://vimeo.com/corxconsortium)

### Newsletter

- Subscribe at [www.corxconsortium.org/newsletter](http://www.corxconsortium.org/newsletter)

### Annual Report

- [www.corxconsortium.org/annualreport](http://www.corxconsortium.org/annualreport)

### Blog

- [www.corxconsortium.org/blog](http://www.corxconsortium.org/blog)