



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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Mission:

The mission of the Consortium is to reduce prescription drug misuse and abuse in Colorado by developing policies, programs, and partnerships.

Vision:

The vision of the Consortium is to eradicate prescription drug misuse and abuse in Colorado.

Values:

The Consortium’s values are based on the Collective Impact model:

- Transparent, inclusive, open
- Data-driven and evidence-based
- Consensus-based

Director's Letter

Dear Consortium members and friends,

I am pleased to share with you the 2018 Annual Report of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention. This has been a year of considerable growth and success as we work together as partners to fight the opioid crisis in Colorado. Many of our collaborative achievements are listed in the pages of this report.

The Consortium has grown this year, adding new staff members who will support our work groups and assist our partners such as the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health as they develop and continue their initiatives. In the past year our staff has, among other projects, worked with community groups in all parts of the state, consulted and advised elected officials on new policy, assisted public awareness and anti-stigma campaigns, and published "Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention: A Colorado Community Reference," a new resource for coalitions and community groups.

Our growth was made possible by the support of funds from the state of Colorado and the foundation community. We thank the Colorado General Assembly for allocating \$335,000 to distribute and train community members and law enforcement officers in the use of naloxone, the lifesaving medication that reverses opioid overdoses. Lawmakers also allocated \$250,000 to expand our provider education program, which now offers training in best practices to physicians in all parts of the state. We also owe thanks to The Colorado Health Foundation, who gave the Consortium a \$1.5 million grant to increase our capacity to support work group projects, continue to serve as the backbone organization for state collaboration, and to provide technical assistance and resources to coalitions and community partners. The funds also support the AmeriCorps Community Opioid Response Program, coordinated by our colleagues at the Central Colorado Area Health Education Center (AHEC), with support from the Attorney General's Office and Rise Above Colorado.

We continue to face a daunting challenge. Overdose deaths continue to rise, and the opioid crisis remains a public health problem that affects every Coloradan. I am encouraged by the progress we are making: we are creating innovative programs that are examples for the rest of the nation, we are building infrastructure that will enable us to sustain our work, and we are making a difference across our state. Members of the public and Colorado's elected leaders recognize the importance of this collaborative effort.

I know 2019 will be another year of growth for the Consortium. Our mission continues to evolve, and we explore exciting new opportunities with new partners. I look forward to sharing the details with you in next year's report!

I am honored to work with you and thank you again for your dedication. Please help spread the word about the Consortium and keep up the great work.



Robert Valuck, PhD, RPh, FNAP

Director, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention



Year in Review: 2017 – 2018


SUMMARY

The past year has been one of major growth for the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention, as we work with new partners, help develop new programs, and add capacity as we continue our work to address the opioid and prescription drug abuse epidemics.

Anyone following the news knows opioid abuse remains a public health crisis that devastates lives and communities. Most notably, overdose deaths continue to rise. According to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 1,012 people died from drug overdoses in Colorado in 2017; 560 of those deaths involved an opioid, including heroin or a pain medication.

Each of those deaths is a tragedy, and for every death there are many more people struggling with opioid use disorder. This is a challenge that affects all Coloradans, regardless of their location, socioeconomic status, race, gender, or age. The scale of the crisis requires a statewide response that involves people from a wide range of fields, including but not limited to public health experts, government officials, law enforcement officers, medical providers, lawmakers, and community members.

The Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention has been charged with coordinating Colorado's response to the crisis, and in the past year has led or supported many initiatives. A brief list includes helping lawmakers write and analyze new bills, working with partners at the federal, state, and local levels, and developing new relationships in the nonprofit community. Consortium members have helped train doctors about safe prescribing practices and members of the community about how to reverse overdoses. We continue to support the state's medication take back program and public awareness campaigns.



This report shows just some of the major initiatives the Consortium and its work group members have been engaged in during 2018. We believe that together, the Consortium and our fellow stakeholders can help Colorado turn back this crisis, and welcome Coloradans to support our efforts.

AT THE STATEHOUSE

The Consortium began focusing on the opioid epidemic in 2012, when Gov. John Hickenlooper convened a panel of experts who produced the Colorado Plan to Reduce Prescription Drug Abuse. Since then, the Consortium has been an important resource for policy makers.

In 2017, the Colorado General Assembly created the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee. The Consortium consulted with the lawmakers on the committee, which drafted five bills that were enacted in 2018. Collectively, those acts:

- *Provide funding for opioid use disorder treatment programs, prevention campaigns, provider education, and the purchase of naloxone, an overdose-reversing medication*
- *Pay for training of community members and law enforcement officers about how to use naloxone*
- *Expand access to medication-assisted treatment*
- *Require the creation of a recovery services strategic plan*
- *Require Medicaid to cover the cost of medication-assisted treatment*
- *Limit the amount of opioids medical providers can prescribe to patients who have not had an opioid prescription in the prior 12 months*
- *Increase the requirements for when prescribers must use the state Prescription Drug Monitoring Program*
- *Allocate funds to increase the number of health professionals with substance use disorder expertise*

The Consortium continues to consult with the Interim Study Committee and General Assembly. During the 2019 session, lawmakers will consider more bills that address the opioid crisis and preventing and treating substance use disorders. If you would like to learn more about this ongoing work, visit the Committee's website at <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/opioid-and-other-substance-use-disorders-study-committee/2018-regular-session>.

STATE AND FEDERAL PARTNERSHIPS

Both the federal and state government are involved in fighting the opioid epidemic. The Consortium has worked with the Colorado Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on a number of important state and federal programs.

In 2018, the Consortium continued work on the Colorado State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis Grant (STR), which is a federal program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Colorado received \$15.6 million for a two-year grant program managed by the Office of Behavioral Health. Consortium staff connected the program with other initiatives to help take advantage of potential collaboration and supported OBH's work. Through October 2018, the STR program:

- *Distributed 11,000 naloxone kits, which led to more than 450 overdose reversals*
- *Helped 1,400 people gain access to medication-assisted treatment, including 28 who began treatment in an emergency department*
- *Supported 148 people in residential substance use disorder treatment*
- *Trained 455 prescribers to administer buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder*
- *Launched the Lift the Label public awareness campaign, which focused on reducing stigma associated with MAT and opioid use disorder*

The Consortium worked with CDPHE to create a pilot program that trains doctors and pharmacists who can discuss pain management best practices with other doctors and pharmacists and inform them about the risks of long-term opioid use and medication interactions. The Consortium also provided resources for the Take Meds Seriously and Take Meds Back public awareness campaign

The Consortium also continued its involvement with the Community Opioid Response Program, a statewide initiative utilizing AmeriCorps State and National and VISTA members to provide support to local communities that are implementing strategies to reduce the impact of opioid abuse. The program is the result of a partnership with the Attorney General's Office, Central Colorado Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and the regional AHECs, and Rise Above Colorado.

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

Developing relationships with external partners and creating sustainable collaborations with local communities is a critical component of the Consortium's mission. Numerous funders, national research strategies, and federal entities emphasize the importance of local efforts in solving this national crisis. Accordingly, the Consortium has increased its focus on supporting local communities during the past year.

In order to leverage existing relationships across the state, the Consortium started a monthly Learning Community, open to key stakeholders in counties focused on addressing prescription drug and opioid misuse. During 2018, this Learning Community featured a series of subject matter experts on topics related to opioid misuse and overdose. Members worked together to compile a list of legislative requests from each of their geographic areas, which

was presented to the Opioid & Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee at the state legislature.

In 2018, the Consortium supported at least one activity related to prescription drug abuse prevention in 58 of the 64 counties in Colorado. The Consortium provided ongoing support to coalitions in 11 counties and coordinated events and activities in many counties without formal coalitions.

2018 also saw the publication of *Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention: A Colorado Community Reference*. This project, created with the support and assistance of OBH, collects the resources that have been created over the past few years into a reference guide that communities and coalitions can use to plan and execute new strategies and programs.

RAISING AWARENESS

While the devastation caused by the opioid crisis continues to grab headlines, members of the public need to be aware of what they can do to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their community. The Consortium continued its *Take Meds Seriously* public awareness campaign, which informs the community about the importance of safe medication use, safe storage, and safe disposal.

This year, the Consortium became involved in exciting partnerships to continue to spread its message. It provided Walmart 10,000 educational brochures about naloxone and how to use it to reverse overdoses. The Consortium also hosted "*Dreamland in Denver*," an educational event featuring prominent experts who discussed the origin of the opioid crisis and potential solutions.

The Consortium also expanded its education program for medical providers. In addition to holding more than a dozen provider education events across the state, the Consortium hosted its first statewide education symposium about addiction medicine and pain management best practices. More than 100 practitioners attended.

THE WORK CONTINUES

While much has been done at the community, state, and federal levels, the fight against the opioid crisis continues. The Consortium continues to engage community groups, governments, stakeholders, and concerned individuals. If you would like to learn more about the Consortium, visit www.corxconsortium.org. You can contact the Consortium at info@corxconsortium.org.

TIPS YOU CAN

Safe Use. Safe Storage

This card is designed to provide helpful quick tips on using and storing your prescription drugs. For full details on how to use and store your drugs, visit www.TakeMedsSeriously.org and on both sides of the card.

Prescription

Affected Families and Friends Work Group

The Affected Families and Friends Work Group focuses on raising public awareness among Coloradans regarding the crisis of prescription drug misuse and promoting the safe use, storage, and disposal of prescription medications.

2017–18 Accomplishments

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND OUTREACH

- Multiple work group members publically shared their stories at International Overdose Awareness Day events in the Front Range
- Hosted information tables at several community events related to substance use and opioid overdose awareness
- Provided consultation for Public Awareness Work Group's public awareness campaign for adults aged 65 and older

DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECT

- Funds secured in Senate Bill 17-193 were allocated to capture the personal stories of Coloradans who have experienced the devastation of the opioid epidemic firsthand
- Ten volunteers were recruited across Colorado to participate in a three-day workshop where each individual created and produced a three-minute video utilizing pictures, video clips, and personal narration of their own unique story
- The Denver-based Story Center was an integral partner in this project, providing the space, technology, guidance, and technical assistance in the creation of these stories

LOOKING AHEAD



- Promote utilization of digital stories among Consortium partners to further their local or regional prevention, education, and/or intervention efforts
- Continue to build a speaker's bureau of individuals willing to share their personal stories at live events throughout Colorado

MEASURING SUCCESS



The videos developed as part of the Digital Storytelling Project can each be an incredibly powerful tool used to increase public awareness, break stigma, unite communities in prevention education efforts, and encourage individuals to break their silence and isolation related to the impact the opioid epidemic has had in their life.

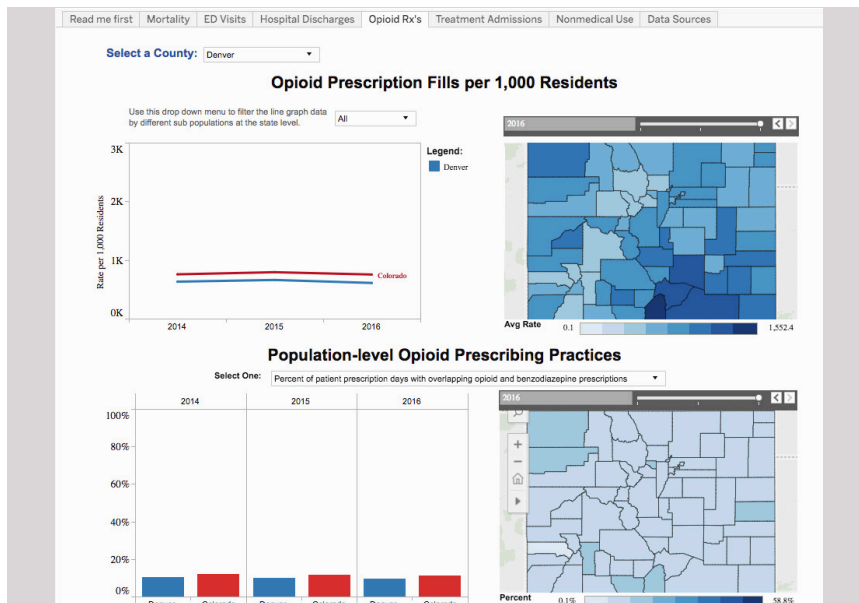
Data and Research Work Group

The Data and Research Work Group focuses on issues relating to the identification, collection, and communication of data and research regarding prescription drug misuse and abuse in Colorado.

2017–18 Accomplishments

INCREASED ACCESS TO RESOURCES

- 2018 Rise Above Colorado Youth Survey
- Population-level analysis of filled controlled substance prescriptions based on Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) data
- All-Payer Claims Data



LOOKING AHEAD



- Increase the availability and accurate dissemination of indicators related to the health effects of prescription and illicit opioid use in Colorado
- Provide data and research consultation for the Consortium's individual work groups and the Consortium as a whole
- Provide a network in which Consortium members can present and elicit feedback from data and research experts on surveillance, program evaluation, preventive strategies, and research

MEASURING SUCCESS



In 2018, the Data and Research work group focused on information sharing and invited several partners to present to the group. In 2019, the Data and Research work group will focus on identifying clinically relevant questions that can be addressed with the All-Payer Claims Data, such as the prevalence of pain-causing conditions and pain management.

Harm Reduction Work Group

The Harm Reduction Work Group (formerly the Naloxone Work Group) advocates for the health, well-being, rights, and dignity of people who use drugs by supporting organizational, clinical, and public policy approaches that have the potential to save lives and reduce harms associated with substance use.

2017–18 Accomplishments

OVERDOSE AWARENESS AND NALOXONE ACCESS

- Through a partnership with the Office of Behavioral Health purchased 6,500 naloxone kits; through October, nearly 3,600 have been distributed
- 439 successful naloxone reversals as reported through the OpiRescue smartphone app since May 1, 2017
- Trained and equipped 183 law enforcement departments in Colorado to administer naloxone
- Five county jails were equipped to dispense naloxone to inmates upon release
- Increased the number of pharmacies with standing orders to distribute naloxone
- Increased collaboration with Walmart, King Soopers, and Walgreens pharmacies

- Trained AmeriCorps members to become trainers to provide overdose awareness and naloxone education and distribution in their assigned regions
- Travelled extensively around state for community coalition building and overdose awareness education

NALOXONE TRAINING FOR COMMUNITIES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Received \$335,000 from the Colorado Legislature to expand community-based naloxone education and expand programs for law enforcement

LOOKING AHEAD



- Planning harm reduction conferences in El Paso and Weld counties
- Developing naloxone training videos for law enforcement agencies and laypeople, as well as public service announcements
- Planning educational trainings for pharmacists around safe opioid prescribing, overdose awareness, and naloxone dispensing
- Providing advocacy and hands-on support to broaden syringe access throughout Colorado
- Advocate for broader harm reduction services throughout the state: Support 10 existing syringe access programs and expand programs where needed. Work to increase access to syringes and supplies in pharmacies.
- Continue to work with Colorado Legislature's Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee on harm reduction policy approaches that have the potential to save lives and reduce harms associated with substance use throughout Colorado

MEASURING SUCCESS



By rebranding the work group as the Harm Reduction Work Group, this has given many partners across the state needed support, validation, and a legitimate forum to shift beyond opioid overdose prevention for their communities. As a result, the work group has grown in size to now include 16 pharmacists, 11 physicians, seven registered nurses, many pharmacy, nursing, and medical students, and has increased representation from the 10 licensed harm reduction programs in the state.

Heroin Response Work Group

The Heroin Response Work Group's purpose is to establish a coordinated statewide response to Colorado's emerging heroin problem. Work group members represent diverse backgrounds and include representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement, as well as prevention, treatment, and recovery organizations.

2017–18 Accomplishments

HEROIN IN COLORADO REPORT

- Released second edition of report outlining law enforcement, public health, and treatment data from 2011 to 2016 related to heroin including:
 - Heroin seizures and arrests
 - Heroin fatal and non-fatal overdoses
 - Naloxone use
 - Disease transmission and heroin use
 - Heroin exposure calls
 - Treatment admissions and client demographics



HEROIN IMPACT PROJECT

- Participated in media event at the United States Attorney's Office highlighting Colorado efforts
- Supported Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA) initiative to impede drug traffickers' ability to distribute heroin in Colorado
- Implemented Operation Helping Hands, linking law enforcement officers with Colorado Crisis Services counselors who are appointed to provide treatment referral information for requesting officers' education and distribution in their assigned regions

NARCAN® NASAL SPRAY
(naloxone HCl)

LOOKING AHEAD



- *The Heroin Response work group will continue to grow and strengthen relationships between law enforcement, public health, and treatment stakeholders at the state level*
- *Promote continued linkage of law enforcement with resources to assist individuals seeking treatment for opioid use disorders*
- *Promote substance use prevention efforts across Colorado*
- *Continue to monitor and report Colorado heroin data*

MEASURING SUCCESS



Focused law enforcement efforts led by RMHIDTA to impede heroin distribution in Colorado resulted in 504 arrests of heroin dealers and seizure of more than 61 pounds of heroin through October.

Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Work Group

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) Work Group focuses on issues relating to the use and improvement of the state's prescription drug monitoring program.

2017-18 Accomplishments

PDMP INTEGRATION ACROSS COLORADO HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE

- Integrated PDMP into the pharmacies at King Soopers, Walmart, CVS, and others
- Integrated PDMP at University of Colorado Hospital and medical centers around the state

PROVIDER REPORT CARDS

- Supported Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's application for supplemental PDMP funding to pilot test report cards showing prescribers' opioid prescribing practices and comparing them to their peers

- 83 percent of prescribers felt information was new
- 81 percent of prescribers found the information useful

SENATE BILL 18-022 IMPLEMENTATION

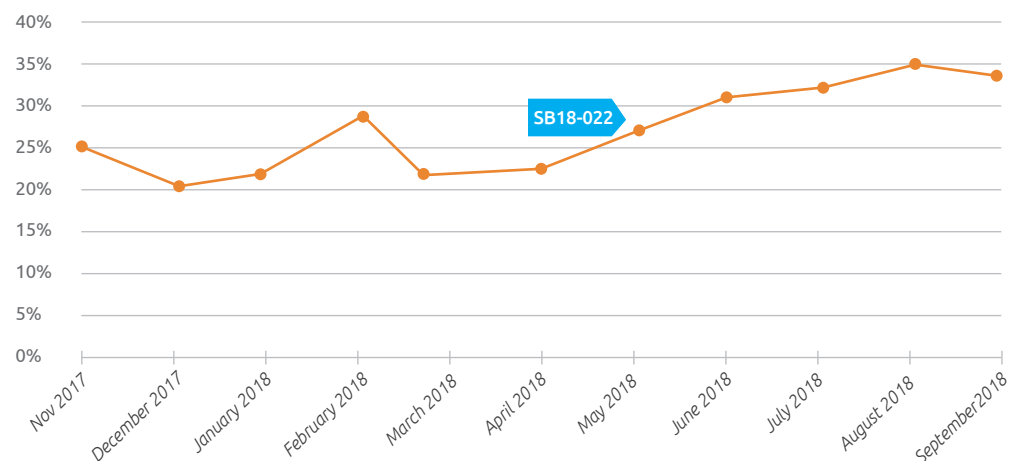
- Developed plan to evaluate legislation relating to PDMP use to improve prescribing decisions

PDMP USE

- Continued rise in the rate of PDMP use
- PDMP is checked 35 percent of the time controlled substances are prescribed



PDMP Utilization (# of Prescriber Queries/# of Controlled Prescriptions Dispensed):



LOOKING AHEAD



- Continue to collaborate with new health care systems to integrate the PDMP with their systems and search for new, cost effective ways of connecting to PDMP
- Provide technical assistance on any proposed legislation related to possible additions to the PDMP, such as tracking new medications, interstate sharing, and patient-protected data sharing
- Complete evaluation of prescriber report cards

MEASURING SUCCESS



Prescribers checked the PDMP about 35 percent of the time before prescribing controlled substances. That's up from about 25 percent a year ago.

Provider Education Work Group

The Provider Education Work Group focuses on issues relating to improving the education and training of health care professionals who prescribe, dispense, or otherwise provide care for those receiving prescription medications with the potential for misuse, abuse, or diversion.

2017-18 Accomplishments

PROVIDER EDUCATION EVENTS

- Hosted 17 in-person Colorado Opioid Education Symposium (COES) education events, including 57 hours of content
- Convened more than 100 health care providers and experts from throughout the state for the Consortium's first provider education symposium on best practices for pain management and addiction treatment
- Added ten new subject matter experts for Consortium education events, increasing number to 16
- Educated approximately 500 individuals across Colorado, including more than 200 physicians
- Received \$250,000 from the Colorado state legislature to increase capacity around statewide provider education

IMPROVING AND EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

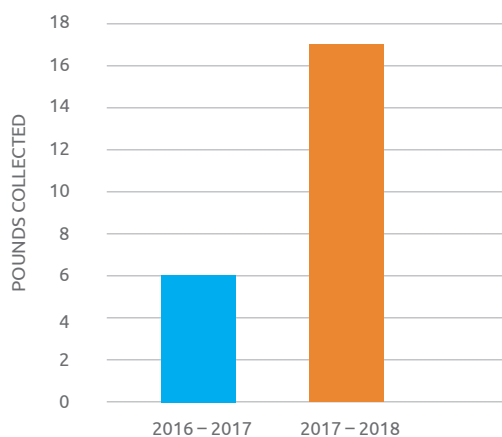
- Work group developed a new curriculum, expanding the number of available continuing medical education-approved educational modules from six to 25

LOOKING AHEAD



- Continue to expand educational platforms, including creating videos
- Develop a women's care-focused curriculum
- Connect with hospital-based providers who care for high-risk patients including hospitalists, pulmonary/critical care, infectious disease specialists, and orthopedists
- Plan collaborations with Colorado Pain Society, Centura Health, Colorado Medical Society, and Rocky Mountain Health Plan to promulgate safe prescribing guidelines and encourage adoption of medication-assisted treatment
- Increase number of expert speakers for our events and expand the geographic diversity of speakers

Number of Provider Education Events, '16-'18



MEASURING SUCCESS



The work group regularly coordinates live educational events across Colorado at health departments, hospital systems, AHECS, and other health systems. Work group members traveled across the state to educate colleagues on safe opioid prescribing, state and federal legislation related to opioids, medication-assisted treatment, non-opioid pharmacology, and many other topics.

Public Awareness Work Group

The Public Awareness Work Group focuses on raising public awareness among Coloradans regarding the problem of prescription drug abuse and promoting the safe use, storage, and disposal of prescription medications.

2017-18 Accomplishments

STATEWIDE OPIOID AWARENESS SURVEY

- Conducted phone and online survey to assess public awareness of issues related to safe use, safe storage, and safe disposal of prescription drugs
- Gathered data on attitudes about opioid use and their risks
- Worked with National Research Center and Webb Strategic Communications to administer survey

TAKE MEDS SERIOUSLY "YOU'RE THE SOLUTION" CAMPAIGN

- Developed campaign targeting Coloradans 65 and older to educate them about safe prescription use, storage, and disposal
- Launched campaign in Pueblo and communities in the San Luis Valley and Delta and Montrose counties
- Partnered with local agencies including Area Health Education Centers and senior centers to design and distribute material

TAKE MEDS SERIOUSLY PATIENT AND PROVIDER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- Developing new campaign to encourage Coloradans to take an active part in their treatment for pain and educate them about the potential risks of opioids and alternative treatments

PUBLISHED "PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION: A COLORADO COMMUNITY REFERENCE"

- In collaboration with the Office of Behavioral Health, completed and distributed "Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention: A Colorado Community Reference", a guidebook and resource kit for communities and coalitions developing or implementing prescription drug abuse prevention and response programs
- Sent copy of Community Reference to every city, town, and county in Colorado

ONGOING SUPPORT OF PARTNERS

- Worked with Serve Colorado to implement the AmeriCorps Community Opioid Response Program, which included youth prevention, provider education, and community education about safe disposal
- Supported Office of Behavioral Health's "Lift the Label" stigma reduction campaign and took the opioid memorial wall to awareness and memorial events in nine communities
- Provided assistance to 21 coalitions across 58 counties
- Supported community events such as International Overdose Awareness Day, Advocates for Recovery Rally for Recovery, and Shatterproof Rise Up Against Addiction 5K run
- Continued support for the Take Meds Seriously public awareness campaign by developing new print media and continued updates of the TakeMedsSeriously.org website and social media feed

LOOKING AHEAD



- Continue the Take Meds Seriously public education program, including the launch and ongoing promotion of patient and provider education campaigns
- Continue supporting the other Consortium work groups to assist their public awareness campaigns
- Based on evaluation of pilot, continue the "You're the Solution" campaign for seniors
- Identify new opportunities and partnerships to build awareness of the Take Meds Seriously brand and supporting resources

MEASURING SUCCESS



The Public Awareness Work Group continues to work with local governments and private industry to support the Consortium's mission and the Take Meds Seriously campaign. This year, the Consortium worked with Walmart to provide the retailer 10,000 brochures about naloxone that it could distribute at its pharmacies in Colorado.

Recovery Work Group

The Recovery Work Group aims to involve the recovery community in the conversation about prescription drug misuse and abuse, increase Coloradans' understanding of recovery, and promote and support the development and expansion of recovery support efforts throughout the state.

2017-18 Accomplishments

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PEER RECOVERY SPECIALIST INITIATIVE

- Received funding from the Colorado Health Foundation to fund two peer support specialists to serve in two hospital emergency department settings
- Developed and disseminated a needs assessment survey to hospital-embedded emergency departments to assess for readiness and need of this role in their hospital
- Strengthened relationships with peer recovery specialist training agencies that can provide trainings and supervisory support for these positions
- Requested technical assistance from Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance Center Strategy, a program of SAMHSA

STATEWIDE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Provided expert testimony during the 2017–2018 Colorado state legislative session regarding the role of recovery community organizations, existing recovery support services, and remaining gaps and opportunities in Colorado

- Passage of HB18-1003 delivered a legislative mandate for the Recovery work group to develop a strategic plan that addresses the full continuum of recovery services for individuals who experience substance use disorder; and develop a definition for recovery residences and issue recommendations regarding whether they should be licensed

SUPPORTING PRACTICE INNOVATION PROGRAMMING

- Doubled membership of the work group
- Members consist of individuals with lived experience, family members, allies, and professional stakeholders whose perspectives represent recovery community organizations, treatment agencies, recovery residences, the Office of Behavioral Health, Department of Public Health and Environment, peer coaches, law enforcement, foundations, and research institutes.

LOOKING AHEAD



- *Develop a Strategic Plan for Recovery Support Services in Colorado in partnership with the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health. This process will involve the completion of a landscape and gap analysis; stakeholder and key informant meetings; advisory committee meetings; and compiling data and recommendations into a published report for the Colorado State Legislature. Project completion date is expected to be June 30, 2019*
- *Award two hospital-embedded emergency departments with funding to hire a peer recovery specialist to work specifically with patients identified with a substance use disorder. Awards are expected to be determined in early 2019, with positions to be funded for 12 months. Ongoing data collection will inform strengths and opportunities to determine how to best implement peer recovery specialists in the continuum of care.*

MEASURING SUCCESS



The directive to develop a strategic plan for Colorado's recovery support services is an incredible opportunity. The Consortium and the Recovery Work Group are working with stakeholders in the recovery community and with the Office of Behavioral Health to develop a strategic plan that will provide more support for Coloradans recovering from substance use disorder. This will build a foundation for supporting the tens-of-thousands of Coloradans working to develop and maintain a substance use disorder recovery program.



Safe Disposal Work Group

The Safe Disposal Work Group focuses on issues relating to the safe storage and disposal of prescription medications with the potential for misuse, abuse, or diversion.

2017-18 Accomplishments

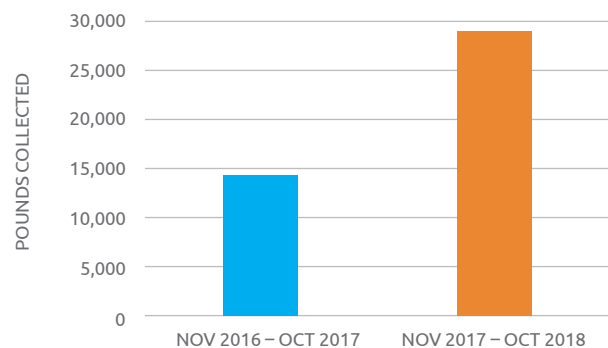
CONTINUED EXPANSION OF THE STATE HOUSEHOLD MEDICATION TAKE-BACK PROGRAM

- Worked with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to expand the statewide safe disposal program to 58 of Colorado's 64 counties
- Increased number of counties served from 43 to 58
- Increased number of collection sites from 77 to 121
- Continued to develop partnerships with local public health agencies, Area Health Education Centers, and other locally based agencies to increase collector enrollment
- Have collected more than 20 tons of medication

CONTINUED TAKE MEDS BACK PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

- Broadcast radio and television public service announcements as part of a campaign with the Colorado Broadcasters Association
- Participated in AmeriCorps community education meetings promoting the program and offering advice on safe use and storage of medication
- Disseminated materials to aid promotional efforts

Medication Collected by Colorado Take-Back Program



PROMOTED TAKE-BACK PROGRAM WITH EMPHASIS ON OUTREACH TO OLDER ADULTS

- Conducted an internet and social media ad campaign targeting adults 55 years old and older
- Teamed with Public Awareness Work Group to develop an educational campaign for adults 65 and older about safe medication use, storage, and disposal
- Hosted webinar for AARP promoting take-back program, giving background on opioid crisis, and describing how to use naloxone to reverse overdoses
- Presented program information to Area Agencies on Aging
- Promoted program nationally at *National RX Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit* and through webinar for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Training and Technical Assistance Center

LOOKING AHEAD



- Continue expansion of the Household Medication Take-Back Program
 - Establish at least one permanent collection location in every Colorado county by end of 2019
 - Increase number of cities with populations over 1,000 hosting permanent collection locations
 - Prioritize establishment of new collection locations in areas with high rates of prescription drug abuse
- Continue promotional efforts with emphasis on older adults
 - Utilize various online (digital and social media), broadcast, and print media to reach widest possible audience
 - Provide materials to community organizations and agencies for local program promotion
 - Investigate means to increase program utilization among seniors and others with limited mobility and pilot mobile take-back events with local law enforcement
- Increase options for disposal of household-generated used sharps
 - Gather information on local sharps collection efforts
 - Gather information on the costs and logistics of sharps collection
 - Team with the Harm Reduction Work Group to utilize available grant dollars for piloting sharps collection kiosks at syringe access programs and medication take-back program collection sites



MEASURING SUCCESS



Since being launched in November 2016, the Take Meds Back household medication disposal program has collected more than 20 tons of unused medication (42,999 pounds). When the state program is combined with collection boxes managed by pharmacies such as Walgreens and other programs, there are more than 160 take-back sites in the state.



Treatment Work Group

The Treatment Work Group focuses on identifying and addressing gaps in the treatment and continuum of care (i.e. prevention, treatment, recovery maintenance) for opioid and other substance use disorders by forming strategic partnerships with state agencies and organizations to bring about clinical, organizational, and public policy improvements to systems of care.

2017-18 Accomplishments

INNOVATIONS IN MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT

- Supported the medication-assisted treatment (MAT) pilot program funded by Senate Bill 17-074, which launched in January, providing MAT delivery in Pueblo and Routt counties
- Supported the practice innovation program Implementing Technology and Medication Assisted Treatment and Team Training (IT MATTTTS), which provides incentives to physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants to obtain their DEA X waiver required to prescribe MAT; more than 500 providers have been trained through this program to date, with more than 80 percent applying for the waiver

STATEWIDE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Provided expert testimony during the 2018 Colorado state legislative session for several proposed bills designed to develop, fund, and increase access to substance use disorder treatment
- Passage of HB18-1136, which requires state Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to submit a Medicaid waiver to the federal government to add coverage for medical detox, inpatient treatment, and residential treatment to the Medicaid program

DEVELOPED PARTNERSHIPS TO EXPAND RECOVERY OUTREACH

- Membership in the work group doubled
- Members consist of individuals with lived experience, family members, allies, and professional stakeholders whose perspectives represent recovery community organizations, treatment agencies, recovery residences, the Office of Behavioral Health, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, peer coaches, law enforcement, foundations, and research institutes

SUPPORTED TRAINING OF PROVIDERS FOR DEA CERTIFICATION

- Supported the training of more than 500 providers to qualify for DEA certification to prescribe medication-assisted treatment



LOOKING AHEAD



- Promote parity efforts in Colorado including, but not limited to, supporting the Office of the Ombudsman for Behavioral Health Access to Care and developing stronger relationships with insurers
- Develop a needs assessment to identify existing gaps and barriers preventing Coloradoans from obtaining substance use disorder treatment
- Support other grant efforts in Colorado involving medication-assisted treatment, practice innovation strategies for medical providers, screening and brief intervention in school-based health settings, and utilization of peer support specialists to facilitate treatment initiation

MEASURING SUCCESS



Expert testimony by Treatment Work Group members helped facilitate the passage of HB18-1136, thus creating an avenue for treatment providers to obtain Medicaid reimbursement for residential level of care. Work Group members will continue to support the implementation of this remarkable legislation by participating in stakeholder meetings and collaborating with state agencies.



Supported the
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to qualify for
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MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT



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