



COLORADO

Department of Health Care
Policy & Financing

MINUTES OF THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOSPITAL ENGAGEMENT FORUM

Virtual attendance only

August 12, 2022
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order

Sandra Grossman called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The following were in attendance:

Alisha Poole (Children's Hospital Colorado), Amy Luu (HCPF), Amy Yutzy (CCHA, RAE 6 & 7), Brittany Briggs (Children's Hospital Colorado), Elizabeth Freudenthal (Children's Hospital Colorado), Genevieve Fraser (HealthONE), Jen Hale-Coulson (NHP, RAE 2), Jennifer Holcomb (HCPF), Kari Snelson (NHP, RAE 2), Kaylar Rosenkrans (Denver Springs), Kelli Gill (CCHA, RAEs 6 & 7), Matt Middendorf (Banner Health), Megan Axelrod (Colorado Hospital Association), Michelle Blady (CCHA, RAEs 6 & 7), Michelle Gay (San Luis Valley Health), Mona Allen (Health Colorado, RAE 4), Patti Payne (CCHA, RAE 6), Robert Werthwein (HCPF), Shayna Kennedy (Denver Health), Steve Coen (Beacon Health Options, RAEs 2 & 4), Terry Romero (CCHA), Triciann Romero (SCL Health)

3. SUD Adolescent Detox Discussion

Jennifer Holcomb and Kelli Gill facilitated this discussion on adolescent SUD services. There have been discussions about the potential of expanding the SUD continuum within each of the hospital's spaces. The purpose of this agenda item is to have a discussion around what the environment currently looks like.

There is interest in hearing from the hospitals regarding their thoughts on providing detox services in the adolescent space, considering higher residential levels of care or intensive outpatient therapy (IOP) as possibilities. Feedback was requested for the following: 1) interest or willingness to look at this space and 2) what barriers are seen with making this happen. It is known that substance use is a significant issue within the state and that it is an increasing issue in the adolescent space.

A discussion occurred.

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- A hospital has looked at expanding adolescent services, specifically around IOP and dual diagnosis services, and one of the challenges has been with the workforce; in finding clinicians with the appropriate credentials to doing the dual diagnosis kind of work. Workforce has been a barrier to expanding these kinds of services.
- It was shared that hospitals have been impacted by factors like inflation and workforce challenges. They have had to make difficult decisions about the product lines and services they offer due to budget constraints.
- It has been seen that the increase of behavioral health needs among adolescents is acute and on an emergency level. An emergency department has seen many adolescents with substance ingestion associated with suicide attempts.
- In regard to obtaining any data or historical context on this topic, it was noted that the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment has an adolescent health survey that is self-reported. The survey is conducted every two years and asks questions about risk assessment, substance use, behavioral health and more. The methodology creates accuracy. The data is able to be broken down by gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, etc.

The Department of Health Care Policy & Financing will continue to work with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment and the Behavioral Health Administration.

4. Wrap Up and Housekeeping

Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request for persons with disabilities. Please notify Sandra Grossman at sandra.grossman@state.co.us or the 504/ADA Coordinator hcpf504ada@state.co.us at least one week prior to the meeting.

