

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Inpatient and Residential Treatment Regional Capacity Stakeholder Meeting Summary

**January 22, 2020
Alamosa**

Meeting slides and additional information are available on the
[Department's Ensuring a Full Continuum of SUD Benefits webpage](#)

Participants

Traci Martinez, Jennifer Silva, Nazaray Albert, Lea Chavez, Melissa Acosta, Gabriela Ledezma, Gayla Lovato, Tammy Zamora, Dannette Avila, Vanessa Romero, Victoria Romero, Robyn Odendahl, Leova Villalobos, Jessica Eaddy

Department: Kim McConnell, Victoria Laskey

Goals for Regional Stakeholder Meetings

- Share information gathered by Department on treatment programs in the state
- Elicit feedback on the data and mapping
- Collect additional information about regional needs from stakeholders

Presentation by Kim McConnell, ACC SUD Administrator

- Overall goals for the Department's capacity work
- ASAM Treatment continuum
- Current and future Medicaid coverage of SUD services in Colorado
- Review of work to date - Section 1115 SUD demonstration waiver
- Data mapping
 - Demand represented by density of Medicaid members with SUD diagnoses
 - Supply represented by Providers per 10000 Medicaid members with a SUD diagnosis (by ASAM level)
 - Future work on capacity mapping

Discussion: Audience Feedback

RAE 4 (Alamosa) Challenges and Opportunities

- This region is heavily impacted by the opioid crisis. However, there is also a significant presence of substance use disorders beyond OUD (meth, alcohol). There has been a focus on providing MAT treatment for opioids, and less focus on treatment for other substances.
 - A care coordinator stated that she has clients who use both heroin and meth. They are treated with MAT for the heroin but still have a significant issue with their meth use.
 - MAT capacity is improving, but still not enough to meet the demand.

- Due to the medical community being more careful about prescribing pain medication, some people are using heroin to treat pain instead.
- When clients are waitlisted for inpatient/residential treatment, care coordinators encourage outpatient and IOP.
 - However, there are challenges with IOP, especially regarding **billing/coding** that get in the way of providing services.
 - There are also challenges pertaining to workforce. A CAC is required for some services that providers believe could be offered by non-CAC certified individuals.
- There is a lack of capacity of all levels of inpatient/residential services
- The Department inquired about the presence of peer support services in the area.
 - A concern was raised about the difficulties associated with being a peer support specialist in a small town.
 - It was suggested that placing peer support specialists at hospitals could be helpful to reduce the stigma and increase confidentiality, as many types of treatment are accessed in a hospital and it would not be as readily apparent what services someone is accessing when they come to the building.
 - Jessica Eaddy (Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention) shared that the SOR grant offers an opportunity to provide peer support training. A trainer will travel to an interested community and can take up to 30 participants in class.
 - San Luis Valley Behavioral Health Group employs peer specialists to support SUD and other treatment.
 - Valley Wide is using peer support specialists, and is planning on staffing peer support specialists who are mothers, specifically.
- Care coordinators are unsure how to refer individuals needing inpatient or residential care through the MSOs.
- Barriers to SUD treatment experienced by individuals in the area:
 - Transportation
 - Stable housing
 - Waitlists for providers
- Emphasis on need for recovery supports. One suggestion to provide gym memberships or recreational activities to people in recovery due to lack of sober recreational opportunities in rural areas.
- Employment, often a critical recovery support, is difficult to secure in this area because of lack of jobs, especially jobs that pay a living wage. Rent prices continue to rise. Housing insecurity is also a concern.
- Concern about the short-term nature of resources. Often, resources are provided, but they are grant-funded and only around for a short period of time, creating a lack of trust towards those trying to provide help.
 - Need to figure out how to build sustainable resources.

Questions about changes to coverage of SUD services

Additionally, questions about the changes to Health First Colorado's SUD benefits were recorded and will be included in a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) resource that will be posted on the Department website.