

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

**February 6, 2020
Colorado Springs**

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

Participants

Ryan Smith, Anne Beer, Kelli Gill, Beth Roalstad, Megan Millesbach, Joel Siebersma, Denise Warren, Mason McDonald, Joyce Huerta, Susan Chambers, Edmund Miranda, Anna Rodriguez, Rachel Fowler, Haley Driskell, Jessica Hardwicke, Victoria Allen-Sanchez, Eric Wu, Doug Greenberg, Susanna Velie, Brandi Haws, Jessica Mars, Terri Massingill, Amanda Smith, Robyn Odendahl, Shannon Breiteman, Erik Weitzel, Cristina Kolln, Megan Marx-Varela, PJ Higgins, Leslie Patterson, Brandon Askew
Department: Kim McConnell, Shingo Ishida, 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 7 (Colorado Springs) Challenges and Opportunities

- There are no residential and inpatient providers in the region
 - When this level of care is required, patients are sent to Denver.
- Lack of affordable housing exacerbates SUD issues in the community. Specifically, there is great need for:
 - Permanent supportive housing

- High quality sober living
- Specialized housing (for example, for people with co-occurring mental health conditions)
- Lack of detox beds
 - Only 20 in CO Springs (Crossroads- 3.2 WM)
- No appropriate step-down and recovery management services after stays in detox
- These are all high priorities; no one is emergent over the others
- 202 funding is insufficient to cover the costs of providing specialized housing
- Recovery residences must be certified by CARR (Colorado Association of Recovery Residences)
- Interim services for individuals awaiting a higher level of care include IOP and peer support services
 - MSO-contracted providers are required to provide interim services when awaiting a higher level of care
 - New recovery service organization provides peer support before and after treatments as well as telephone services in English and Spanish
- Some stated IOP placement is sufficient and has enough capacity, though others disagreed
- Challenges with non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT)
 - Also challenges with other resources for transportation, including from jails to sober living. After release, people are on the streets and begin to use again, sometimes they are incarcerated again. “Revolving door” situation.
- Challenges with local entities such as jails. Discharge dates are often not communicated or people are released between 1am-5am.
- Workforce shortages, especially for Certified Addiction Counselors (CACs) and Licensed Addiction Counselors (LACs)
- There are some workforce surpluses, such as trained peer coaches. There are more peer coaches than jobs available
- Local officials often unsupportive of harm reduction measures
- There is concern that providers will prioritize beds for people whose payors have higher reimbursement rates

Capacity Mapping Feedback

- Representation of SUD prevalence in Colorado Springs seems low
 - Are providers not diagnosing due to lack of treatment options or a belief that the diagnosis will negatively impact the patient?

Challenges with delivery of SUD services currently covered by Medicaid

- SUD Medicaid population often struggles with keeping Medicaid active due to challenges such as unstable housing. When a member comes in whose coverage has lapsed, they cannot get into treatment when they are ready and eager for treatment.

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.