

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

**January 17, 2020
Denver**

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

Participants

Angela Bornerman, Shannon Breitzman, Maria Butler, Lili Carillo, JK Costello, Lila Cummings, Heather Dolan, Christina Dolan, Jennifer Gilbert, Kelli Gill, Terri Hurst, Jalyn Ingalls, Carly Larson, Darren Lynch, Kayla Martin, Charlotte Whitney, Maureen McGinn, Beth Miller, Adam Nowicki, Christine O'Neill, Gina Olberding, Alyssa Rose, Stephanie Sanders, Lauren Snyder, Nancy Steinfurth, Abigail Tucker, Andrea Turk, Susan Turowski-Reher, Christina Walker, Angi Wold.

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 5 (Denver) Capacity Challenges and Opportunities

- Deficiencies in treatment services:
 - Social detox - some social detox programs available in Denver/surrounding area, but not enough to sufficiently meet existing demand.
 - Continuity of care and care coordination when someone transitions from a higher level of SUD care to a lower level of, especially if the release falls right before the weekend.

Current system is described as “hug and release” without ensuring they will go to another level of treatment.

- Non-emergency transportation (NEMT). Current challenges in service delivery including the need to schedule rides 48 hours in advance and a Member can be restricted from access if they cancel or no show a ride.
- Treatment specifically for stimulant use disorder.
- The closure of Arapahoe House created a huge gap in services, especially IOP.
- Adams County: Lack of affordable housing and no homeless shelters. This means people go to Denver to access shelter and must commute back to Adams County for treatment, creating logistical and transportation challenges.
- Concern raised that the public's understanding of SUD treatment as “going to rehab” (even when not clinically appropriate) may drive demand for residential treatment when it is not indicated for all patients.
- Inpatient and residential treatment providers are needed outside of the Denver metro area due to the importance of being able to access treatment in one’s own community to better support transition.
- There has been a rise in hepatitis C, hepatitis B, and HIV related to SUD--how can people in SUD treatment be diagnosed and access treatment for these diseases? Suggestion was made to add testing for all 3 diseases to blood draws, and provide treatment for these diseases while in SUD treatment.

Challenges with delivery of SUD services currently covered by Medicaid

- Some programs require 72 hours of sobriety before admitting a patient, which can be a significant barrier.
- Workforce issues: CAC certification requirement can be an administrative burden; no perceived difference in service between well-trained non-CAC and CAC. This is feedback for OBH, who is responsible for licensing.
- Cliff effect and Medicaid: people may not strive for upward economic mobility if they lose payment for their treatment.
- IOP can be unpopular due to the high number of treatment hours per week combined with transportation and housing challenges. This leads to unnecessary referral to higher levels of care.

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.