

Opioid Symposium: Reducing the Impacts of Opioids in Colorado

**Thursday
March 5, 2015**

**8:30am Registration and Breakfast
9:15am Opening
3:30pm Reception**

**History Colorado Center
1200 Broadway
Denver, Colorado**

**Hosted by the Drug Policy Alliance,
the Harm Reduction Action Center,
and the Center for Public Health Practice**

drugpolicy.org
harmreductionactioncenter.org
publichealthpractice.org

Special thanks to Denver Health
denverhealth.org

Co-sponsored by:

Colorado School of **Public Health**



Statement from Sponsors

On behalf of the Drug Policy Alliance, the Harm Reduction Action Center and the Center for Public Health Practice –

Welcome to the Opioid Symposium.

This daylong symposium will assess the impact of opioids in Colorado and explore cutting edge interventions proven to reduce opioid-related harm. Opioid related deaths are increasing nationally and statewide, but proven strategies are available to reduce the harms associated with heroin use, treat dependence and addiction, and prevent overdose fatalities.

Today will convene experts from harm reduction, prevention and treatment, and public health to assess opioids' impact in Colorado and examine recent legal changes intended to address opioid-related harm. The symposium will explore the benefits of evidence-based interventions intended to reduce opioid overdoses and to help those individuals who are unable to benefit from current methods of treatment for opioid dependence.

We've made significant progress in addressing opioid-related harm in Colorado, but much more needs to be done to change Colorado's approach in responding to opioids' impact on our communities.

Symposium Objectives:

- Convene community members, experts, and stakeholders to assess the impact of opioids in Colorado
- Evaluate the impact of recent legal changes on opioid-related harm
- Examine the potential benefits of evidence-based, public health interventions
- Outline actionable steps for saving lives and reducing opioid-related harm in Colorado

Conference Program

8:30 am – 9:10 am

Registration and Breakfast

9:15 am – 9:20 am

Welcoming Remarks

- **Tim Byers, MD, MPH,** Director, Center for Public Health Practice, Colorado School of Public Health

9:20 am – 10:30 am

Opening Panel

Opioids: History, Current Impacts and Trends

This introductory panel will provide an overview of opioids' impacts in Colorado, discuss relevant history related to opioid use and opioid-related legislation and examine opportunities for action. We'll also outline the ongoing work of Colorado agencies and organizations working to reduce opioid-related harm. What are the most pressing challenges related to opioid use in Colorado? How can the diverse agencies and stakeholders involved work together to address opioid-related harm in Colorado?

Moderator: Liz Evans, Executive Director, Community Insite

- **Richard Dart, MD, PhD,** Director, Rocky Mountain Poison and Drug Center
- **Shannon Breitzman,** Branch Chief, Violence and Injury Prevention—Mental Health Promotion Branch, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- **Angela Bonaguidi, LCSW, LAC,** Director of Adult Outpatient, Addiction Research and Treatment Services, UC Denver

10:30 am – 10:50 am

Break

10:50 am – 12 pm

Panel Two

**Harm Reduction Rising:
Current Challenges and
Pending Legislation**

Harm Reduction is becoming more and more mainstream. This panel will examine recent and pending harm reduction policies in CO and nationwide intended to reduce opioid-related harm and opioid overdoses in Colorado. What are the benefits of adopting harm reduction strategies in response to the challenges presented by drug dependency in general and opioids specifically? What state and federal opportunities are there to expand the definition of treatment and services provided to people who use opioids and other drugs?

*Moderator: Meghan Ralston,
Harm Reduction Manager,
Drug Policy Alliance*

- **Lisa Raville**, Executive Director, Harm Reduction Action Center
- **Kevin Kaucher, PharmD**, Emergency Medicine Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, Denver Health
- **Terri Hurst, MSW**, Policy Coordinator, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

12:20 pm – 1 pm

Lunch

*Addiction psychiatrist
Dr. Jane Kennedy will introduce
Sen. Irene Aguilar, MD.*

Keynote Address

- **Senator Irene Aguilar, MD**, Colorado State Senate

Special Guest

- **Robert Valuck, PhD**
Colorado Consortium on Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

1:10 pm – 2:10 pm

Panel Three

**Evidence-Based Interventions:
Supervised Injection Facilities**

There are times when the stigma created by decades of just say no and moralizing drug use collides with a proven public health intervention. Supervised injection facilities are an evidence-based public health intervention intended to reduce harm related to injection drug use. What kinds of results have existing supervised injection facilities had in reducing opioid related harm? What are the public safety and health benefits to the surrounding community? What are the challenges associated with establishing and maintaining a supervised injection facility?

*Moderator: Art Way, JD, Senior
Colorado Drug Policy Manager
Drug Policy Alliance*

- **Liz Evans**, Executive Director, Community Insite
- **Danna Richkun, RN**, Colorado Representative, Moms United to End the War on Drugs
- **Blair Hubbard**, Methadone Clinic Client

2:10 pm – 2:20 pm

Break

2:20 pm – 3:20 pm

Panel Four

**Evidence-Based Interventions:
Heroin Assisted Treatment**

This panel will examine heroin-assisted treatment, a public health approach intended to help those who are unable to benefit from traditional forms of treatment for heroin misuse. We will review the results of existing heroin-assisted treatment programs, with a focus on the Providence Crosstown Clinic in Vancouver. Providence maintains the only clinic in the western hemisphere that provides pharmaceutical grade heroin as a means of maintenance therapy. Who has the potential to benefit from heroin-assisted treatment? What are the challenges associated with establishing and maintaining a heroin-assisted treatment program?

*Moderator: Gabriel Sayegh,
Managing Director, Policy &
Campaigns, Drug Policy Alliance*

- **Scott MacDonald, MD**, Physician Lead, Providence Crosstown Clinic
- **Denise Vincioni**, Controlled Substances Administrator, Office of Behavioral Health
- **Tim Byers, MD, MPH**, Director, Center for Public Health Practice, Colorado School of Public Health

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Reception

Co-Sponsors

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