Colorado State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) Strategic Plan for 2021-2025

The Colorado SEOW Steering Committee developed this strategic plan to provide a five year roadmap for planning, processes, and deliverables for the SEOW. The Steering Committee will review progress quarterly and will review and update the plan annually as needed.

The SEOW Steering Committee has ten members, including individuals from the Office of Behavioral Health (OBH), Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), The Colorado Department of Public Safety, The University of Colorado Denver, The Evaluation Center (TEC) and the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention. The Steering Committee met multiple times to reflect on the mission, vision, core operating values, and assumptions underlying the SEOW's work, which resulted in this strategic plan.

Background Statement

The Colorado SEOW formed in August of 2015 to build state-level capacity and infrastructure to address substance use issues. The Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) supports the SEOW through Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).The SEOW was previously funded by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) through the 2014 Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS). SABG funding will continue the SEOW's goal of strengthening capacity and infrastructure at the State and community levels.

The SEOW is a network of state agencies and data experts brought together to examine the patterns, context, and impact of substance use. The state and stakeholders may use data and analyses provided by the SEOW to guide decisions about the allocation of resources, including the funding of primary prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement efforts, and to inform the public about the prevalence of substance use and associated consequences.

The Colorado SEOW has primarily carried out its work through four workgroups: the Alcohol Policy Workgroup, the Epidemiological Profiles Workgroup, the Data Brief Workgroup, and the Training Workgroup.

In 2020, the Data Committee from the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention transferred to the SEOW. Transferring this committee to the SEOW deduplicates efforts by both groups and allows the SEOW to further strengthen its focus on the identification, collection, and communication of data and research regarding prescription drug misuse and abuse in Colorado.

The Colorado SEOW is associated with the Colorado Office of the Attorney General as the data committee for the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force (SATF). This unique relationship

allows the SEOW to provide key leaders and legislators with information on substance use trends and to help inform the allocation of resources.

Organizational Structure

The Colorado SEOW is led by Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs serve one-year terms, participate in Steering Committee meetings, facilitate the SEOW meetings, represent the SEOW at the Attorney General's Substance Abuse Trends and Response Task Force (quarterly) and review all SEOW-branded publications.

The lead agency for the Colorado SEOW is the Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health. The SEOW is managed by Sharon Liu, Program Manager and Gregor Rafal, Evaluation Manager.

The University of Colorado Denver, The Evaluation Center is contracted to support the development of SEOW-branded publications and provide coordination support through a SEOW coordinator. The Co-Chairs and managers are supported by the SEOW Steering Committee members and SEOW Coordinator.

Co-Chairs for FY 2020-2021

Allison Rosenthal, MPH
DUI Statistical Analyst
Colorado Department of Public Safety
P: 303.239.4496
allison.rosenthal@state.co.us

Elyse Contreras, MPH
Program Manager
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Marijuana Health Monitoring & Research Section
P: 303.692.6455
elyse.contreras@state.co.us

SEOW Managers

Sharon T. Liu
Program Manager, Community Prevention and Early Intervention
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health
P: 303.866.7507
sharon.liu1@state.co.us

Gregor Rafal
Evaluation Manager, Community Prevention and Early Intervention
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health
P: 720.457.2126
gregor.rafal@state.co.us

SEOW Steering Committee Members

Jeff Proctor
Executive Director
University of Colorado Denver, The Evaluation Center
School of Education & Human Development
P: 720.476.6235
jeffrey.proctor@ucdenver.edu

Peter J. Rumbach
Senior Evaluation Specialist
University of Colorado Denver , The Evaluation Center
School of Education & Human Development
P: 720.476.6241
peter.rumbach@ucdenver.edu

Aracely Navarro, MPH
SEOW Coordinator
University of Colorado Denver, The Evaluation Center
School of Education & Human Development
aracely.navarro@ucdenver.edu

Barbara Gabella, MSPH
Senior Epidemiologist
Violence and Injury Prevention - Mental Health Promotion Branch
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
P: 303.692.3003
barbara.gabella@state.co.us

José Esquibel
Director
Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Associate Director
Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
P: 303.724.9031
Jose.A.Esquibel@cuanschutz.edu

SEOW Workgroups*

Alcohol Policy Workgroup
Kacy Crawford (Work Group Lead)
Alcohol Epidemiologist, Substance Misuse Evaluation Supervisor
Violence and Injury Prevention - Mental Health Promotion Branch
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
P 303.692.6440

kacy.crawford@state.co.us

Julia Stullken, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiology (CSTE) fellow with CDPHE
Barbara Gabella (see Steering Committee members above for contact information)
Peter Rumbach (see Steering Committee members above for contact information)
Allison Rosenthal (see Co-Chairs above for contact information)

Data Brief Workgroup
Heather Tolle, PhD
Substance Use Disorder Evaluator
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health
P 303.866.7578
heather.tolle@state.co.us

Meredith Davis, BA, MS
Grant Coordinator
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health
P 720.717.6543
meredith.davis@state.co.us

Ari Stillman
Data & Evaluation Manager, Community Prevention & Early Intervention
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health
P 303.866.7550
ari.stillman@state.co.us

Jerry Evans, PhD
Director of Research & Evaluation
Community Health Initiatives
P 970.948.5788
jrevansphd@gmail.com

Peter Rumbach (Workgroup Lead - see Steering Committee members above for contact information)

Epi Profiles Workgroup
Haley Sammen (Workgroup Lead)
Evaluation Specialist
University of Colorado Denver , The Evaluation Center
School of Education & Human Development
P 720.476.6239
haley.sammen@ucdenver.edu

Heather Tolle (see Data Brief Workgroup above for contact information)
Meredith Davis (see Data Brief Workgroup above for contact information)

Prescription Drug Data Workgroup
Tyler Payne (Workgroup Lead)
Program Manager
Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
P: 720.218.8362
tyler.payne@cuanschutz.edu

Barbara Gabella (see Steering Committee members above for contact information)
Peter Rumbach (see Steering Committee members above for contact information)

Training Workgroup
Sharon Liu, Workgroup Lead (see Steering Committee members above for contact information)
Jeff Proctor (see Steering Committee members above for contact information)

Detre Godinez, PhD
COACT Research and Evaluation
Colorado Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health
P: 303.866.7712
Detre.Godinez@state.co.us

*Sharon Liu and Aracely Navarro sit on all SEOW workgroups.

Purpose

The Colorado SEOW increases awareness, understanding and access to data and data publications that address substance use, abuse and related health issues in Colorado. The Colorado SEOW is a multidisciplinary working group that promotes the collection, analysis, and clear communication of data to support and inform substance use, prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, enforcement, and broader policy.

<u>**Guiding Principles**</u>
- Conduct proper, unbiased analyses and interpretation of data
- Provide opportunities for broad participant engagement and networking
- Maintain a focus on social and health equity
- Establish a clear purpose and set of objectives that work toward goals;
- Establish action plans that identify specific workgroup publications, schedules, and milestones;
- Establish and maintain regular contacts with appropriate State advisory group(s), key State decision-makers and community stakeholders;
- Ensure an ongoing and meaningful exchange of data and information between the SEOW, State, Federal, Local and Tribal leaders.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Colorado State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW) is to provide partners, communities, and policymakers with comprehensive data on the patterns, context, and impact of substance use in Colorado to inform interventions at the local, tribal, state and federal levels.

Function Statement

The SEOW functions as a work group of key stakeholders in substance abuse primary prevention and data monitoring in Colorado to inform the state and stakeholders about substance abuse promotion, prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, enforcement, and broader policies.

The SEOW core tasks include:
- Identify, organize, analyze and share key data on substance use patterns, contexts, health risks and protective factors;
- Create data-guided publications that inform substance abuse promotion, prevention, intervention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement planning/policies;
- Emphasize outcomes and support data-driven decision making at the Federal, State, Local, and Tribal levels;
- Provide community-oriented data for use in community planning, monitoring, and evaluation purposes;
- Build state and local level monitoring and surveillance systems;
- Build community capacity in understanding, using and presenting data in an effective manner;
- Promote continual improvements in data gathering for assessments;

The state and stakeholders may utilize the data and analyses provided by the SEOW to devise strategies and solutions to guide decisions about the allocation of resources, including the funding of primary prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement efforts, and to inform the public about the prevalence of substance use and associated consequences.

SEOW Goals

Goal 1: Characterize substance use across the state:
- **Objective 1.1** Understand and interpret existing data on trends in substance use and other significant behavioral/public health trends, related health risks and protective factors in Colorado
- **Objective 1.2** Describe and summarize these trends clearly and accurately, using appropriate statistical principles
- **Objective 1.3** Include description and summary of data on all substances
- **Objective 1.4** Determine appropriate deliverables through collaboration with key stakeholders, including, but not limited to, CDPHE, CDPS, RMHIDTA, SATF, service providers, local public health, and law enforcement.
- **Objective 1.5** Publish and disseminate findings to stakeholders in a meaningful and timely manner.
- **Objective 1.6** Identify substance abuse priorities based on data and observations.

Goal 2: Identify and address gaps in substance use data:

- ▪ **Objective 2.1** Identify gaps in current and emerging substance use data and knowledge on use trends, health risks, and protective factors in Colorado.
- ▪ **Objective 2.2** Leverage resources to respond to identified data, knowledge gaps, and review data results produced by other groups.
- ▪ **Objective 2.3** Build professional capacity through increased data sharing, usage, and literacy.
- ▪ **Objective 2.4** Provide recommendations and address substance use data and knowledge gaps

Goal 3: Increase substance use data availability

- ▪ **Objective 3.1** Promote existing substance use data sources
- ▪ **Objective 3.2** Present substance use data findings to SATF and other policy groups.
- ▪ **Objective 3.3** Present substance use data in community forums to universities, professionals, conferences, etc.
- ▪ **Objective 3.4** Identify relevant data for current partners/participants on existing and emerging substance abuse trends in Colorado

Goal 4: Continue to inform prevention and treatment efforts

- ▪ **Objective 4.1** Manage change and maintain optimal group performance so that activities supporting outcomes-based planning can continue (e.g., gathering and analyzing epidemiological data, setting substance use prevention priorities based on data, addressing gaps in data).
- ▪ **Objective 4.2**   Realign, restructure, or expand the role of the Colorado SEOW to strengthen the position within the state substance abuse infrastructure.
- ▪ **Objective 4.3** Clarify and promote the added value of data publications and processes into the work of the individuals and organizations that use the publications.
- ▪ **Objective 4.4** Ensure that financial sustainability is sought through a variety of resources**.**
- ▪ **Objective 4.5** Ensure orientation documents are in place for new members and organizations.
- ▪ **Objective 4.6** Establish workgroups as needed with clear roles and responsibilities.
- ▪ **Objective 4.7** Ensure documents such as the charter and strategic plan are updated as part of the overall infrastructure of the SEOW.

Evaluation – Outcome Monitoring Process

1. The SEOW Steering Committee will oversee all activities related to data collection, including assigning work, and developing reports.

2. The SEOW Steering Committee will inform the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force (SATF) and other key stakeholders regarding SEOW activities and publications to guide and establish policy direction.

3. In addition, the SEOW will provide regular updates to the SATF to ensure work is consistent with the needs of the member agencies and organizations and to make certain that changes are made to the goals and outcomes as necessary.

4. The SEOW's progress is tracked, including the completion of action items using the SABG Colorado Prevention System (CPS).

SEOW Logic Model

The SEOW Steering Committee will update annually the SEOW Logic Model, which includes SEOW activities, indicators, and long term outcomes.