



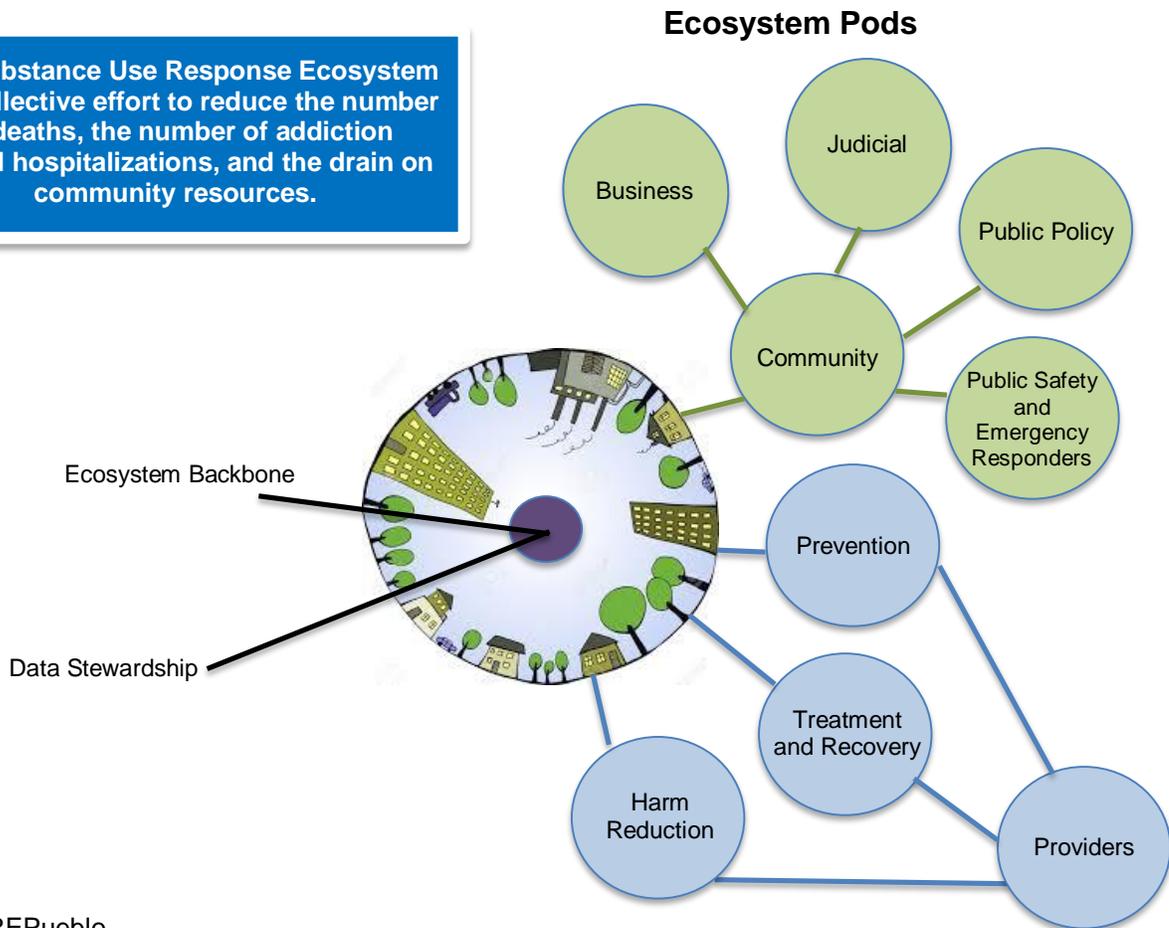
# Substance Use Response Ecosystem

## We are **SURE!**

## SURE Annual Report 2018

The Substance Use Response Ecosystem (SURE) is a Collective Impact modeled coalition working to reduce deaths, hospitalizations, and the drain on community resources related to substance (mis)use. SURE is comprised of work groups called Pods which are designed to address the entire spectrum of substance use from prevention to recovery. The Pods are organized based on the role they play and how they engage within the community to address substance use. These Pods are comprised of individuals representing various organizations (businesses, non-profits, community coalitions, etc.) and community members. SURE works to facilitate collective action between the Pods across the ecosystem in order to align and integrate the efforts to address and combat substance (mis)use in Pueblo.

The Substance Use Response Ecosystem is a collective effort to reduce the number of deaths, the number of addiction related hospitalizations, and the drain on community resources.



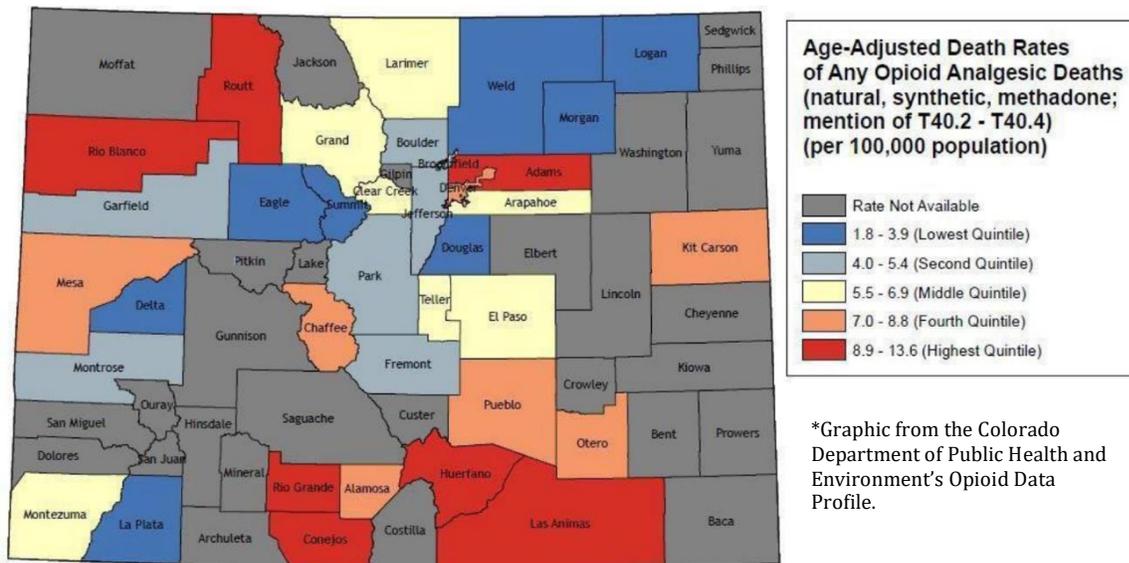
# Executive Summary

Ecosystem Backbone: Alexis Ellis

SURE was created on November 28, 2017 to combat the effects of the current opioid epidemic in Pueblo County, and to prepare the community to address any other substance use crises that may develop in time. This grassroots effort was the result of many organizations coming together to both build off Pueblo’s Heroin Task Force work and expand its reach to address the entire spectrum of drug use from prevention to recovery. SURE aims to reduce the number of deaths, the number of addiction related hospitalizations and the drain on community resources.

In 2018, SURE exceeded expectations and is an example of what can be done to address community issues when we effectively collaborate. Every participant in SURE – organization and individual – has been vital to the success of our mission. We are excited to share the results of our work over the past year in this report, as well as give a glimpse into the work we will be taking on in 2019. It is my hope that this report will both inform the public of what is being done to address this issue locally, as well as inspire more Puebloans to join SURE in our efforts to combat the opioid crisis in our community.

Prescription Opioid Related Death Rates for the State of Colorado by County  
(Pueblo County in the Fourth Quintile)



To join the SURE coalition and to get involved in the community effort to combat substance (mis)use, contact the Regional Health Connector at the Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment at (719) 583-4512. SURE is also on Facebook at SUREPueblo.

*The following summarizes the work of each Pod through 2018 and provides insight into the continuing and intended work through 2019.*

## **Business**

*Pod Facilitators: Taylor Voss - Pueblo Triple Aim, Kyle Keilbach - Rotary 43*

The Business Pod was engaged in outreach to local businesses through a surveying effort. The survey intended to collect information surrounding businesses' current knowledge of the Opioid issue in Pueblo, how businesses are addressing this issue, and what best practices are. The survey was distributed through the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Chamber of Commerce, the Pueblo West Chamber of Commerce, Rotary 43, the Pueblo West Rotary, the Small Business Development Center, and 30 Club. In total only 41 responses were received. This indicated that the business community is not very interested in engaging around this issue, most likely due to lack of awareness of the issue in general and more specifically the impact of the issue to their organizations. Out of the 41 responses, the overwhelming common thread was the need for more education on the subject matter and the impact on businesses. Therefore, the Business Pod plans to educate the business community on the impact that the opioid crisis has on them and how businesses can be involved as part of the solution.

## **Community**

*Pod Facilitators: Cheryl Reid - One CommUNITY, Ruth Nerenberg - League of Women Voters*

The Community Pod created SURE informational brochures that were made available for distribution to spread awareness of the Ecosystem. The Pod also continued to update the Pueblo Resource Guide (RG) and is developing a video training for utilization of the local Resource Guide. This training will be distributed widely to Pueblo partner frontline staff. Additionally, the Pod maintains the Pueblo Heroin Task Force Facebook page in order to sustain this avenue of engagement and promote awareness of community and coalition ongoing efforts. The community pod participated in community events where handouts were provided, including informational brochures and giveaways. At Pueblo's Safety Jam, sharps containers were also given out. The Community Pod is planning to continue with regular quarterly meetings and maintain efforts to bolster pod engagement.

## **Judicial**

*Pod Facilitator: Kim Karn - 10<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge*

The Judicial Pod would like to work on the transition from the jail to the community, ensuring that incarcerated individuals who want Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) can obtain it before they relapse. Ideally this would mean that Pueblo County Jail would provide the MAT to the clients before they leave the jail and/or have the blood work done so they can get the medications from a provider on the day they are released from custody.

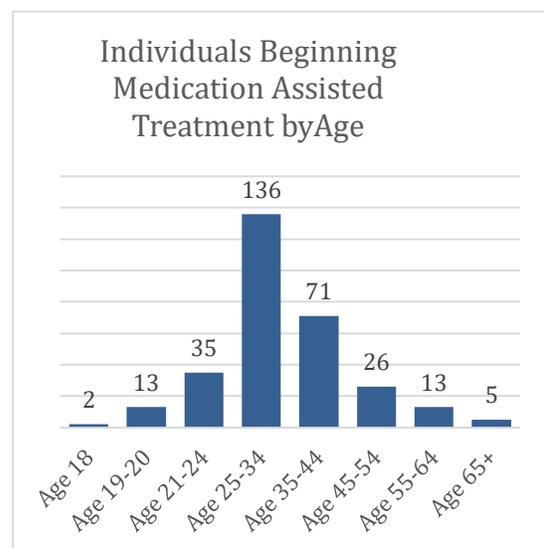
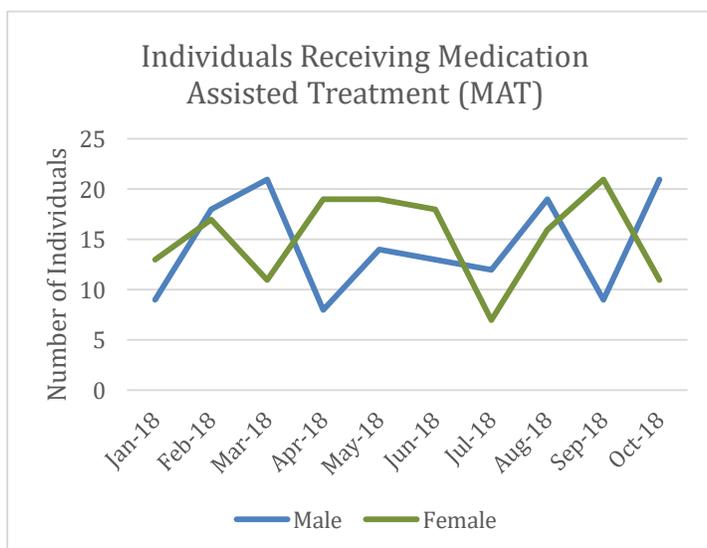
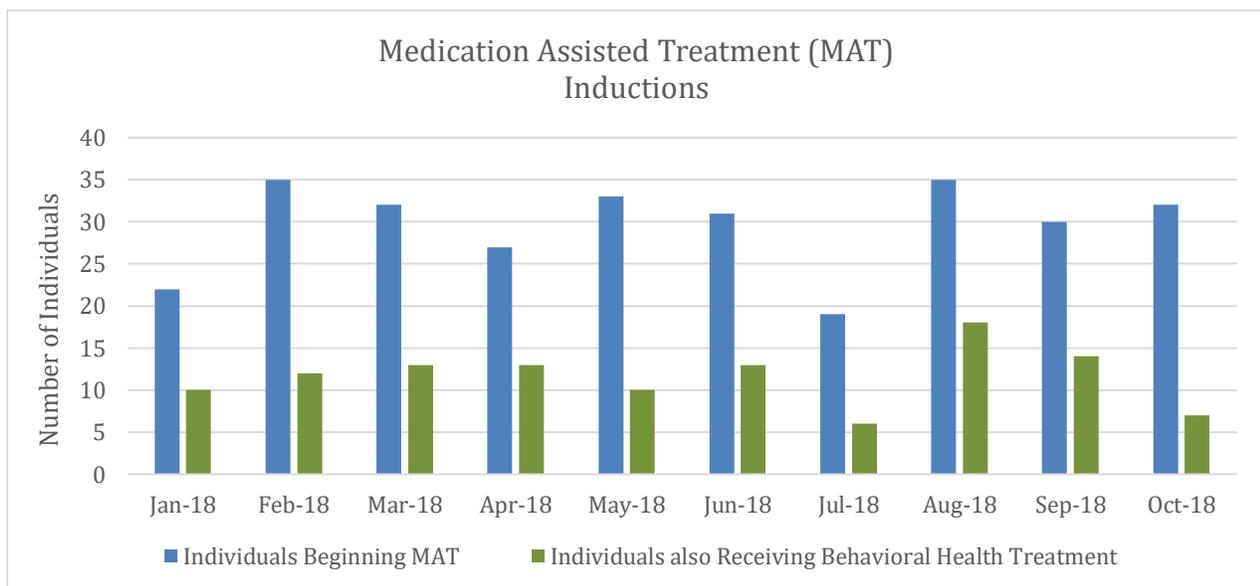
## Providers

Pod Facilitators:

*Shaun Gogarty, MD - The Medication Assisted Recovery Center at Health Solutions*

*Cheryl Law - Pueblo Medical Society*

The provider pod set out with an objective to increase the number of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) providers in Pueblo County and increase the number of patients receiving MAT in Pueblo County. At the start of the year, Pueblo County had 8 MAT providers. Three of the eight had limits of 30 patients each. There was an addition of 9 new MAT providers for a total of 17. Additionally, three of the 17 have increased their limits to 100 patients each. With the passage of the SUPPORT Bill (Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act), all providers can now serve at least 100 patients each.



## **Treatment and Recovery**

Pod Facilitators: *Jessica Russell - Health Solutions, Shannon Miller - Crossroads' Turning Points, Valerie Baughman - Parkview Medical Center*

The Treatment and Recovery Pod continues to work toward expanding awareness of substance use disorder treatment availability in the Pueblo area and providing community education on how individuals can seek treatment. There are continuing efforts to recruit representatives from all treatment agencies in the Pueblo area in order to create greater connectivity among providers and broaden their awareness of the services available. There has been an increase in the number of agencies that provide AcuDetox (acupuncture detoxification) services, as well as an increase in the number of regular trainings throughout the community.

The Pod continues to work to increase awareness of treatment resources for those seeking help with addiction and those seeking help for loved ones. The Pod is also focused on creating a more connected network within the treatment community. Additionally, the pod is planning to host community education meetings to provide information on what addiction is and what treatment is, including a panel of providers to field questions from attendees.

## **Public Policy**

Pod Facilitators: *Christine Zeitvogel - Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD®), Ed Brown - Pueblo City Council, Daneya Esgar - Colorado State Representative, Garrison Ortiz - Pueblo County Commissioner*

Pueblo Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD®) became fully operational on September 11, 2018. As of December 18, 2018, four individuals had been diverted to the program in lieu of arrest and fourteen had been referred following non-arrest social contacts. Three social contact referrals are actively engaged with LEAD®; one is inactive, two could not be contacted, four were ineligible, three are pending intake, and two declined participation.

LEAD® is based on the principles of harm reduction and does not require participants to abstain from drug use to obtain services. The case management team works with participants to identify the services they need and want. So far, LEAD® participants have requested and received numerous services including emergency and temporary housing, clothing vouchers, transportation assistance, help re-establishing benefits, financial coaching, substance use disorder counseling, medication assisted treatment, and detox in preparation for treatment. In addition, the case management team provided home-based services when needed and accompanied clients to court appearances when requested.

To meet participants' basic needs, the case management team established partnerships with numerous local agencies to expedite effective service delivery and information sharing. Positive results include improved physical and mental health, improved family relationships, and voluntary enrollment in medication assisted treatment.

Through the upcoming year, LEAD® will continue to enroll clients in accordance with LEAD® eligibility criteria, strengthen collaboration across departments and with community-based organizations to better meet the needs of LEAD® clients, and work to continue improving LEAD® participants' health and housing status.

## Prevention

Pod Facilitators: *Barbara Jackson, Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, Sarah Martinez - Communities That Care, Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment*

The Prevention Pod focused efforts on outreach to providers in order to identify any potential deficits that could be addressed in order to aid in prevention. A survey was administered to collect this information. The survey asked about the following prevention methods: Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), safe prescription drug disposal, safe use and risk of addiction, safe storage, as well as provider knowledge of referral sources for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) and recognizing the signs of addiction. The outreach was conducted from August to November and information was gathered from a total of 29 Dental providers and 17 Medical providers. They were contacted through visits to their respective practice locations, a Dental Study group, and the Pueblo County Medical Society Annual Symposium.

## Pueblo Provider Outreach Survey Results 2018



Question	Dental Providers' Responses	Medical Providers' Responses
	Indicates a response of 3, 4 or 5.	
How often do you discuss <b>Safe Use</b> of opioids with your patients? 1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = usually, 5 = always	66%	76%
How often do you discuss <b>Safe Storage</b> of opioids with your patients? 1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = usually, 5 = always	40%	48%
How often do you discuss <b>Safe Disposal</b> of opioids with your patients? 1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = usually, 5 = always	40%	42%
How often do you discuss the <b>Risks of addiction and the effects of long-term use</b> ? 1 = never, 2 = rarely, 3 = sometimes, 4 = usually, 5 = always	52%	76%

\* Survey conducted by Pueblo Department of Pueblo Health and Environment.

Additionally, the Pod's work is integrated with Communities That Care (CTC) which is an evidence-based process that promotes positive youth development and works to prevent youth substance use. This process is driven by a community coalition that works to identify high priority youth risk and protective factors to be addressed in the community. Over the past year, the coalition has written a strategic plan that works to address academic performance in late elementary school by promoting quality childcare early in life to ensure children experience optimal positive development, and to increase the affordability, accessibility, and safety of existing community spaces to provide more pro-social opportunities for youth.

## Harm Reduction

Pod Facilitators: *Judy Solano - Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association*

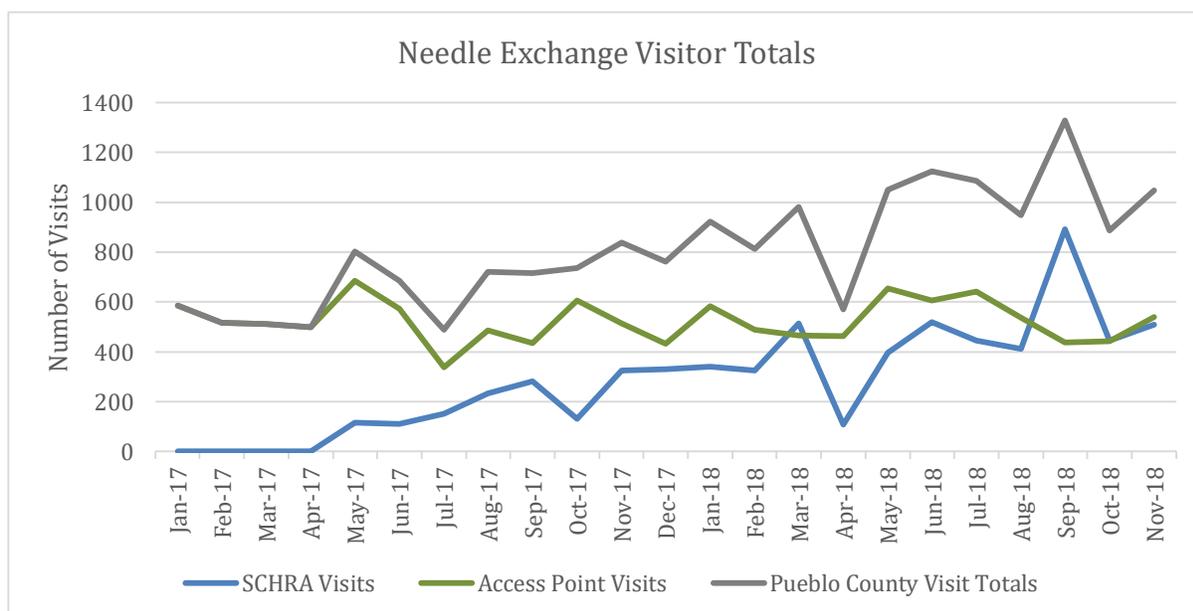
*Michael Nerenberg, MD - Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association*

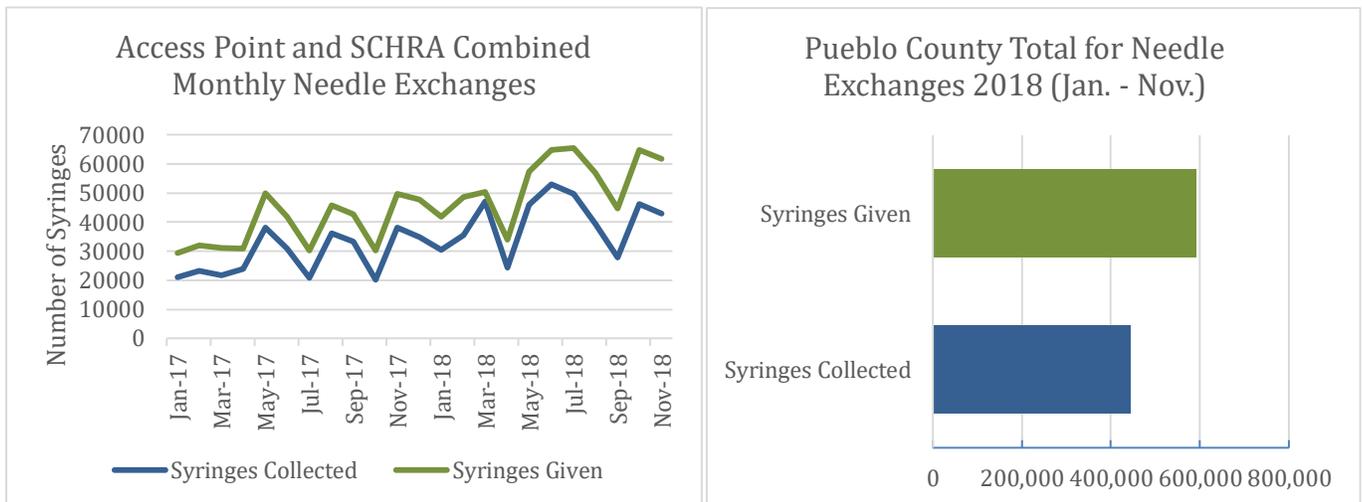
*Brian Brewer - Access Point, Southern Colorado Health Network*

The Harm Reduction Pod formed in December of 2017. The group developed 3 primary focuses for the year which were a Housing First project and means to address the issue of housing and homelessness, further development and sustainability of the Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association, and addressing basic needs of clients (hygiene, clothing, etc.).

Work within the Harm Reduction Pod was driven by Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association (SCHRA) and involvement of the Southern Colorado Health Network (SCHN) Access Point. SCHRA was a proponent for and helped lead the effort that successfully obtained the LEAD<sup>®</sup> grant for Pueblo County, a three-year pilot project. Pueblo County was one of four jurisdictions awarded in the state.

SCHRA has given over \$15,000 in clothing and hygiene items to clients struggling with homelessness and addiction. Access Point distributes books from the Pueblo Library as well as supplies clients with protein and energy bars when they visit. Additionally, an informational book *Getting Off Right* is given at no charge to clients. SCHRA has provided approximately 360,000 clean syringes and has approximately 1100 participants registered for services. Additionally, SCHRA has distributed over 362 NARCAN kits to clients, with over 195 overdose reversals reported. Throughout 2018, Access Point provided 365,280 syringes and had a syringe return rate of 74%, with 271,461 syringes returned. Access Point has a total of 1825 unique individuals served, and has distributed 587 Naloxone/NARCAN kits with 146 overdose reversals reported. In addition to the leadership from the two syringe access programs (SCHRA & Access Point), the harm reduction pod includes members from the Colorado State University faculty, the Executive Director of Pueblo Triple Aim Corporation, and other community advocates.





### Public Safety and Emergency Responders (PSER)

Pod Facilitators: Gary Weaver - Community Activist, Shawn Shelton - Pueblo Fire Chief

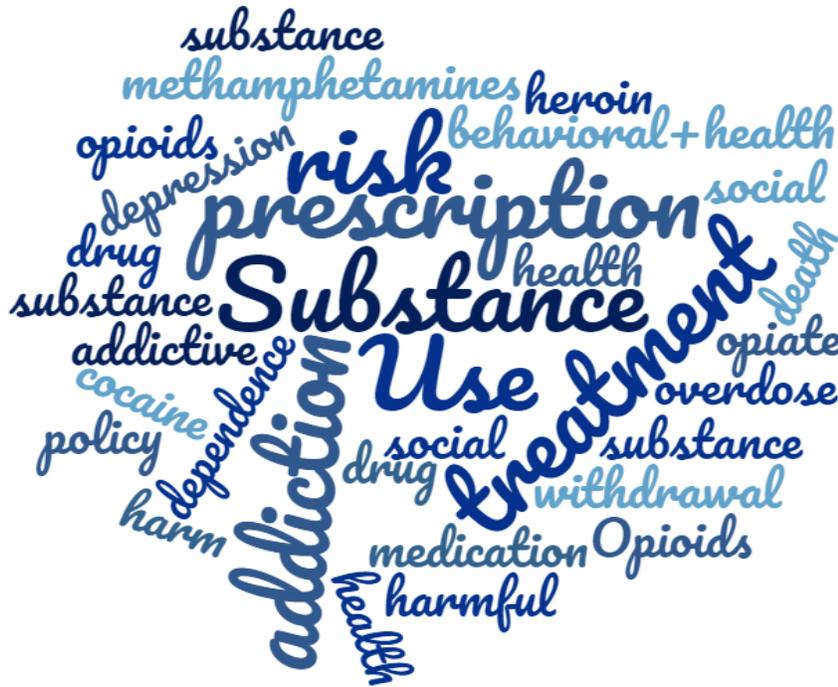
In addition to the Pod facilitators, the PSER Pod consists of executive representatives from the Pueblo Police Dept. (PPD), Pueblo County Sheriff's Office (PCSO), District Attorney's Office (DA), Pueblo Public Defender's Office (PDO), and the Pueblo Fire Department. The Pod held 4 meetings in 2018 beginning with the first on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The overarching Pod goal was the "Implementation of the LEAD<sup>®</sup> grant through a collaborative effort," with the two objectives, 1) Develop criteria for eligible LEAD<sup>®</sup> participation; 2) Develop training program for law enforcement officers for LEAD<sup>®</sup> eligibility.

The Pod convened again on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to start working on the LEAD<sup>®</sup> grant requirements. In the following months a LEAD<sup>®</sup> Stakeholders Policy Committee was formed, as required by the grant, and assumed responsibility for the two objectives previously established by the Pod. The Pod then followed up in March to review the progress of the Stakeholders Committee, and ultimately decided to step aside for the Policy Stakeholders to prepare for the launch of LEAD<sup>®</sup> in Pueblo's law enforcement.

The Pod's final meeting of 2018 was on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The PSER Pod reviewed the launch of LEAD<sup>®</sup> and decided to consider a second law enforcement assisted program, Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (PAARI). It was too early to begin formal consideration of an additional initiative as all energy and resources were currently focused on LEAD<sup>®</sup>. The consensus was to hold on PAARI consideration until April 2019 and to revisit at that time with a fuller evaluation of LEAD<sup>®</sup> and the appropriateness of joining PAARI.

PSER Pod leadership, along with Provider Pod leadership, was involved in a review of the progress of the voluntary Vivitrol Relapse Prevention Program within county detention. The program is serving up to 250 individuals this year or 12% of the sentenced population. The program provides education and counseling beginning 6 to 8 weeks prior to release followed by a Vivitrol injection administered one week prior to release. Vivitrol has a 28-day

effectiveness. There is an 88% follow up rate for continuing treatment upon release and wrap around services are provided at the community re-entry office. There is a 7% recidivism rate for clients in the Vivitrol Program. During this review the introduction of a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program for the pre-sentencing population in the jail was proposed. Provider Pod and PSER Pod leadership will continue work to come up with a potential design for administration of this MAT program.



### Looking Forward

As SURE continues to evolve and strengthen throughout the next year the Ecosystem as a whole will focus on two overarching Goals, while continuing the concentrated Pod work already in motion. The two Ecosystem wide goals of 2019 are:

1. Promote broader community awareness and engage in advancing community education surrounding substance use in Pueblo County.
2. Focus efforts on Harm Reduction expansion in Pueblo County.

