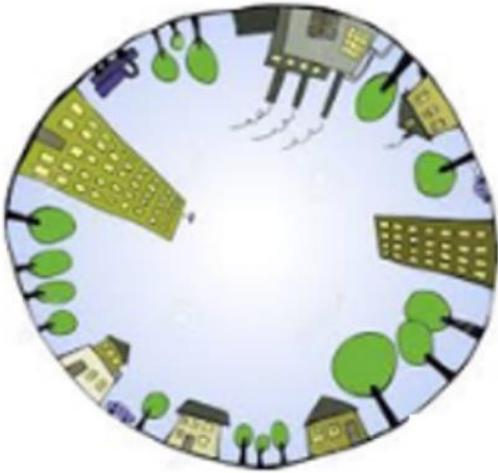


Substance Use Response Ecosystem (SURE)
Annual Report 2021



SURE

Executive Summary

Substance Use Response Ecosystem (SURE) is a collective impact modeled coalition working to reduce deaths, hospital utilizations, and drain on community resources related to substance (mis)use in Pueblo. SURE was created in November 2017 to combat effects of the opioid epidemic in Pueblo County and continues to work with the community to address other substance use crises occurring in Pueblo County.

SURE is comprised of work groups called pods, which are designed to address the spectrum of substance use from prevention to recovery. Pods are comprised of individuals representing various organizations (non-profits, providers, community coalitions, etc.) and community members. Over 20 agencies and organizations are engaged in this collective effort. SURE works to facilitate collective action between pods across the ecosystem to align and integrate efforts to address and combat substance use in Pueblo. The Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment (PDPHE) serves as the backbone support role of the coalition, tasked with organizing, hosting, and facilitating each monthly meeting, along with supporting pod facilitators and coordination among pod efforts as needed.

Major Accomplishments

Monthly SURE meetings continued to take place, despite the challenges presented by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and changes in SURE leadership, highlighting the dedication and passion of SURE members.

Approved the addition of a Peer Pod to other SURE pods. This pod will ensure individuals with lived experiences are included and represented in the SURE discussions, planning, and solutions.

Launched the public facing [substance use data dashboard](#) as a tool for other agencies, partners, and general community members to utilize to identify trends related to substance use in the community, as well as using that information to drive decisions. Worked to increase awareness of the dashboard, efforts which will continue into 2022.

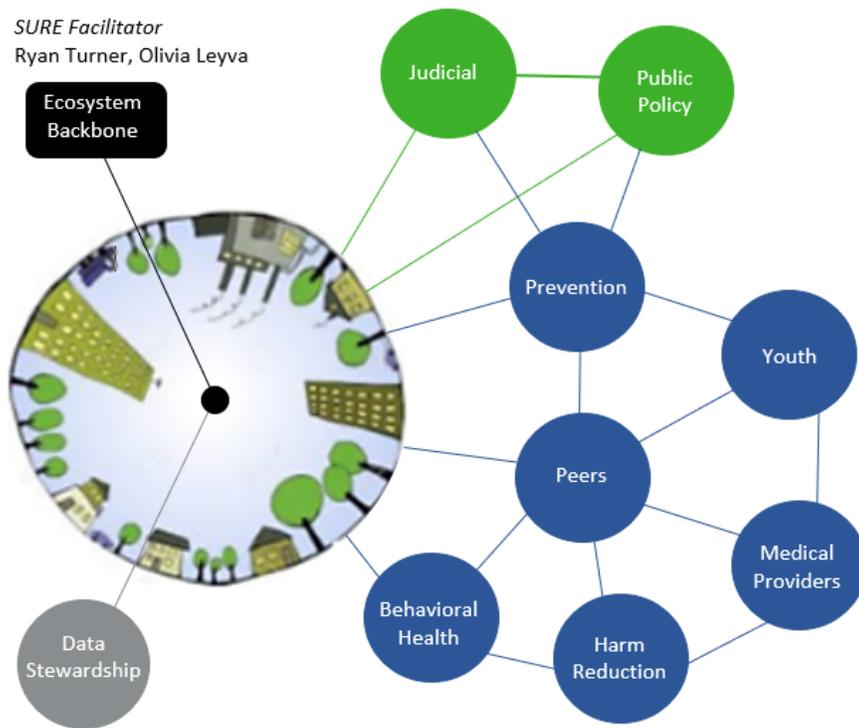
Participated at a public forum hosted in July by city council in regard to needles in the community. SURE came together to develop thoughtful commentary to address these concerns real-time at the forum. SURE members also attended for further support and clarification. A follow-up question asked of SURE at this forum was taken to the proper SURE partners and a response was given to city council less than 24 hours later.

Held a virtual fourth annual forum featuring testimonials from peers in recovery and other community members who shared personal experiences and advice as a means to start a conversation and destigmatize substance use disorder in Pueblo County.

Continued data sharing with local hospitals, behavioral health centers, law enforcement, emergency services, coroner, government support services, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, state data, and harm reduction programs.

Ecosystem Backbone

SURE Facilitator
Ryan Turner, Olivia Leyva



Judicial

10th Judicial District
Judge Allison Ernst

Public Policy

LEAD[®] (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion)
Christine Zeitvogel

Behavioral Health

Health Solutions
Jessica Russell

Prevention

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment
Barbara Jackson

Medical Providers

Front Range Clinic
Dr. Shaun Gogarty

Harm Reduction

Access Point – Southern Colorado Health Network
Sarah Money

Peers

Crossroads’ Turning Points
Jean Howard

Youth

Pod in temporary dissolution

Jail Based Behavioral Services
Coby Gogarty

Data

Pueblo Triple Aim Corporation
Eileen Dennis

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment
Anne Hill

Member Organizations and Agencies:

Pueblo City Council, Pueblo Triple Aim, ReEntry, Pueblo County Commission, Crossroads’ Turning Points, Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment, Health Solutions, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association, Health Colorado, Pueblo Fire Department, 10th Judicial District, Jail Based Behavioral Services, Communities that Care, Access Point - Southern Colorado Health Network, Front Range Clinic, Parkview Medical Center, Vivent Health, Terry’s Natural Market, LEAD[®], League of Women Voters, Pueblo Community College, Crisis Living Room, Marc, Crestone, Recovery Solutions, Friendly Harbor, Colorado Mental Health Institute at Pueblo, Directing Others to Services, Gateway 2 Success, Christlife Ministries, Colorado Treatment Services, Pueblo Community Health Center, District Attorney, Public Defenders, Pueblo Police Department, Sheriff’s Office, Probation, Pueblo Fire Department, Rocky Mountain Offender Management

This graphic indicates the interconnected nature of the ecosystem of pods. The information listed provides an indication of the pod facilitator(s).

Pod Highlights

Behavioral Health

Continued pod meetings on a quarterly basis as possible, despite treatment providers being highly affected by the demands of COVID-19.

Updated the [treatment access chart](#), which is a decision tree that helps individuals determine what resources are available and who to contact when trying to address substance use no matter the individual’s stage of change or need.

Addition of an ‘understanding levels of care’ page to the treatment access chart to further clarify what type of treatment may be best for an individual seeking care.

Creation of slides to be added to the Substance Use Disorder 101 presentation.

Data

Continued monthly meetings with data experts and analysts from partner organizations and gathering of near real-time reporting on a monthly basis from major agencies on data concerning substance use in Pueblo.

Launch of substance use data dashboard. Soft launch occurred in January 2021 and official public launch in May 2021.

Identification of groups to target based on data, which resulted in the gathering of experts for root cause discussions and creation of fishbone and driver diagrams to illustrate the root causes. Implementation ideas to address root causes taken to the Executive Committee for the Pueblo County Partnerships for Data.

Presentation of the process to create the data dashboard at the Culture of Data conference in March 2021 and at the Public Health in the Rockies conference in August 2021. Also, publication of this information in an article available at Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program's (COSSAP) Resource Center.

Refinement of data visualizations for public facing dashboard for clarity.

Discussions of incorporation of community voices and those with lived experience in data dashboard. Pilot focus group on data dashboard feedback occurred December 2021 amongst Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment employees with little daily interaction with data. Plans to host a peer focus group within the first half of 2022.

Presentation to city council on data dashboard. Looking to present to county commissioners in the first quarter of 2022.

Harm Reduction

Brainstormed providing Narcan and trainings to businesses and public services, like public transportation, that may witness an overdose event. With funding from the Pueblo County Partnerships for Data, Access Point was able to begin training unlikely first responders near the end of 2021 and plan to continue into 2022.

While the pod had great energy to kick off the year, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and increasing rates in overdose, consistent meetings became too much for partners to maintain. The pod will resume actions as capacity permits.

Judicial

Enhanced collaboration between pre-trial services, jail, probation, and community re-entry programs to assist those affected by substance use.

Current discussions on times individuals are released from jail are underway. Looking to avoid weekend or late-night releases to ensure individuals are directed to and can access the services they need.

Coordination with Medical Provider Pod and Pueblo Fire Department on continued implementation of the Quick Response Team that responds to individuals who have experienced a recent overdose event.

In conjunction with the Medical Provider Pod, Jail Based Behavioral Health Services and Community ReEntry continued Peer Services to assist individuals transitioning out of incarceration and ensure support in connection to care in the community

Medical Providers

Multiple Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinics in Pueblo providing coverage six days a week, located on the Northside, the Southside, and at Parkview Behavioral Health.

Established MAT clinics in rural areas. These clinics run in Las Animas three days a week, in Walsenburg once a week, and in Canon City once a week. By expanding services in these areas, not only are individuals in those communities able to more easily access services they need, but more spaces in Pueblo are able to be accessed by local individuals as well.

Worked with multiple locations to provide MAT in combination with other services. In Pueblo, the Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association (SCHRA) and Front Range Clinic work from the same location and SCHRA peers provide patients coaching during MAT services. In Canon City, Peer Empowered Recovery Community Solutions (PERCS) and Front Range Clinic provide combined services. In Las Animas, Resada inpatient and outpatient services provide combined services in the Resada outpatient clinic including withdrawal management, inpatient, outpatient, peer, and MAT care.

With a change in medical providers at the jail, if an inmate identifies as having been on MAT, the new provider now reaches out to Pueblo MAT providers to determine what they have been on and administer it. This has resulted in better substance use disorder care in the jail.

Jail Based Behavioral Services (JBBS) has actively been helping patients get directly to MAT treatment upon release from jail.

Peer

Presentation in September to SURE with request for approval to become an official pod. Unanimously voted for by pod facilitators.

Current objective is to create a Pueblo County peer data base to provide up-to-date information on working peers in the community, regardless of agency they represent, to get those seeking help connected with a peer that best suits their recovery.

Peer located at JBBS has been working with JBBS and the Pueblo Fire Department's Directing Others to Services (DOTS). With JBBS, the peer meets with inmates at the jail who have a substance use disorder at least once before they are released and then also upon release to get them to the services they need. With DOTS, the peer accompanies firefighters to individuals within 72-hours of them experiencing an overdose in order to provide the proper services and resources.

Meeting monthly and working to include those in active use, as well as early recovery, for a comprehensive group of individuals with lived experience and perspective on current challenges.

Prevention

Led the organization of and hosted the fourth annual SURE Forum via Facebook live. This event centered around destigmatizing substance use disorder and featured stories from those with lived experience and other community members to encourage everyone to see the person behind the substance use disorder and how stigma hinders their recovery. Participants then asked questions of the panelists to learn more about supporting individuals with substance use disorder.

Aided in the "Your Words Have Power" campaign which aimed to destigmatize substance use disorder through events held at various locations around the county. These interactive events featured storyboards from those with lived experience and other community members, and often had a storyteller on site for further discussion with participants.

Pilot, refinement, and dissemination of the Personal Choice Guide, which is used to help guide individuals when making difficult decisions like addressing substance use, to partner organizations to use with their patients.

Public Policy

Spearheaded the adoption of the Stepping Up resolution to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the Pueblo County jail.

Hosted a Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop with Policy Research Associates and 51 attendees, establishing positive new collaborations between local organizations and generating several collaborative projects including a digital resource directory and the addition of Stepping Up metrics to the substance use data dashboard.

Continued implementation of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD®) Program using a harm reduction framework.

Youth

Due to COVID-19 and personal circumstances, the youth pod was placed into a temporary dissolution for the time being.

Plans for 2022

With the announcement of opioid settlement funds to potentially be disseminated to the state and then regional groups and municipalities as early as mid-2022, two options were presented to SURE: 1) take part in the development of a substance use plan for the county, or 2) continue with SURE business as usual. Through a group-wide vote and follow-up discussions, pod facilitators chose to dedicate the first half hour of each SURE meeting to general SURE business and the remaining hour to creating a county-wide plan for substance use in Pueblo County. Development of this county-wide plan aims to create a guide of recommendations on how money from opioid settlements, grants, and other funding opportunities should be utilized to combat the substance use-related issues seen within the community.

Revisit foundations of the coalition: mission, vision, ground rules, group norms, and voting and refine as identified by the group.



Ecosystem Backbone

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