New Directions Colorado: A Public Safety and Health Approach to Drug Policy

Thursday
June 6, 2013

8:30am Registration
9:00am Opening
5:00pm Reception

Embassy Suites
Convention Center
1420 Stout St.
Denver, CO 80202

Hosted by the Drug Policy Alliance
and the Center for Public Health Practice

drugpolicy.org
publichealthpractice.org

Co-sponsored by:

Colorado School of Public Health
Join Us to Create Safer, Healthier Communities!

On behalf of the Colorado School of Public Health and the Drug Policy Alliance we are pleased to welcome you to New Directions.

This one-day convening of direct service providers, policymakers, public health and safety personnel, and community advocates will explore both public health and safety-centered approaches to drug policy. The recent legalization of marijuana in Colorado has laid the groundwork for meaningful dialogue concerning the role of drug policy in our state. This conference promises to be a timely and thought-provoking conversation between a range of stakeholders to develop drug policies that can optimize prevention, public health, harm reduction, treatment, and public safety.

Today we will envision a coordinated, comprehensive approach to drug policy that balances public health and safety. Tomorrow we will work together to create safer, healthier communities, and will measure our success by the impact of evolving drug policy on the overall public health.

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

Nuno Capaz, Vice President, Dissuasion Commission of Lisbon, Portuguese Ministry of Health

Daliah Heller, PhD, MPH, Director, Drug and Alcohol Policy and Research, CUNY

Christie Donner, Executive Director, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

Stan Paprocki, Director of Community Prevention Programs, Division of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services

Conference Program

8:30 am – 9:00 am
Registration

9:00 am – 9:30 am
Welcoming Remarks
• Chris Urbina, M.D., MPH, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer, Colorado Department of Health and Environment

9:30 am – 10:55 am
Opening Plenary
Where We Are Now: Drug Policy, From Global To Local
This introductory panel will provide background for the day’s discussion by outlining local, national and global trends and opportunities. Throughout today’s dialogue, we will utilize this framework to examine and envision a more balanced approach to drug policy in Colorado. What recent advancements in drug policy should attendees be aware of? What local policy advances should garner attention for statewide advocacy and implementation? What is effective from both a public health and public safety point of view?

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Stan Paprocki, Director of Community Prevention Programs, Division of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services

10:55 am – 11:05 am
Break

Tim Byers, MD, MPH
Associate Dean for Public Health Practice
Colorado School of Public Health

Art Way, JD
Senior Colorado Drug Policy Manager
Drug Policy Alliance
11:05 am – 12:20 am
Plenary Two
From Patients to the General Public: What Does Marijuana Legalization Mean for Public Health?
This roundtable discussion will examine the intersections of medical marijuana policies with the state’s plan to legally regulate marijuana for all adults. What are potential impacts of such policies in our communities? What role did public health and safety concerns play in the drafting of Amendment 64 and subsequent implementation efforts? How has the medical marijuana industry impacted public health and safety?
Moderator: Amanda Reiman, PhD, MSW, Policy Manager, Drug Policy Alliance, California
• Christian Sederberg, Esq., A 64 Campaign
• Mike Elliot Esq., Executive Director, Medical Marijuana Industry Group
• Gabriel Kaplan, PhD, MPA, Director of Prevention Health Policy, Systems and Analytics Branch, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
• Wanda James, Veteran

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
Luncheon: Keynote Speaker International Implications of Amendment 64: A Sign of Things to Come?
• Ethan Nadelmann, PhD, JD, Executive Director, Drug Policy Alliance

1:40 pm – 3:05 pm
Plenary Three
Emerging Health-Centered Approaches to Drug Policy: Removing Barriers and Addressing Stigma
What are some evidence-based interventions available for people struggling with drug addiction in Colorado and what other options could be available? These emerging therapies include harm reduction interventions, non-abstinence-based housing, alternative/replacement therapies, supervised injection facilities, and community safety initiatives. What potential do these interventions have in Colorado? Is it time to expand the definition of treatment and recovery?
Moderator: Katie Burk, MPH, Syringe Access Community Mobilization Manager, Harm Reduction Coalition
• Pat Denning, PhD, Co-Founder, Harm Reduction Therapy Center
• Donald MacPherson, M.Ed., Director, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
• Barry Zevin, M.D., Tom Waddell Health Center
• Susan Boyd, PhD, Professor in Policy and Practice, University of Victoria

3:05 pm – 3:15 pm
Break

3:15 pm – 4:20 pm
Plenary Four
Reducing Harm: Law Enforcement, Public Health, and Safety Interventions
This panel will examine relationship-building within the four-pillar approach to drug policy: public health, law enforcement, prevention and treatment, and harm reduction. Questions to be examined include: what role should law enforcement play in health-centered approaches to drug policy? What is “treatment on demand”? And how can we learn from Summit View, the only treatment on demand facility in Colorado?
Moderator: Theshia Naidoo, Esq., Senior Staff Attorney, Drug Policy Alliance
• Ronald Martin, Detective Sergeant (retired), Law Enforcement Safety Advocate, North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition
• Hong Tran, Esq., Staff Attorney, Racial Disparity Project
• Pam Clifton, Communications Coordinator, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
• John Baker, Police Sergeant (retired), Law Enforcement Against Prohibition

4:20 pm – 4:50 pm
Closing Plenary
What’s Next for Colorado?
This panel will synthesize the important themes from the day and encourage action at all levels from participants and community stakeholders present.
Moderator: Laura Pegram, MSW, MPH, Policy Associate, Drug Policy Alliance
• Terri Hurst, MSW, Director of Public Policy, Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
• Carol Helwig, MHP, Communicable Disease Control Coordinator, Boulder County Public Health
• Lisa Raville, Executive Director, Harm Reduction Action Center
• Hassan Latif, Executive Director, Second Chance Center

5:00 pm
Reception
John Baker is a retired Police Sergeant from Colorado. He served both active and reserve duty as an Army Airborne Ranger including a tour in Vietnam. After graduating the Lost Angeles County Sheriff’s Academy, he began work with the San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Department as a deputy sheriff. During his 20 years of law enforcement, he worked as a patrol officer, detective, and Police Academy and field officer instructor. He retired at the rank of Sergeant and has continued serving his community. He is actively involved in the Make a Wish Foundation and the Special Olympics. He has also worked closely with the Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division in Colorado and has lectured on Amendment 64. John attended both La Verne College and the University of Denver, majoring in business. He, his wife, and two children reside in Parker, Colorado.

Susan Boyd, PhD, is a professor in the department of Human and Social Development at the University of Victoria. She is a member of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition and works with local community groups such as End Prohibition and the NAOMI Patients Association. Her research contributions have been in the areas of women, drug law and policy, maternal/state conflicts, harm reduction, drug films, print media, and culture. She is the author of numerous articles and books, including: Hooked: Drug Films in Britain, Canada, and the U.S.; From Witches to Crack Moms: Women, Drug Law, and Policy; Mothers and Illicit Drugs: Transcending the Myths, and co-author of Raise Shit! Social Action Saving Lives. Her upcoming co-authored book is titled: Killer Weed: Marijuana Grow-Ops, Media, and Justice.

Katie Burk, MPH, a member of the Harm Reduction Coalition based in Oakland, California, provides technical assistance and support to communities working to establish and/or expand syringe access services. Her commitment to promoting the health and well-being of drug users, homeless and incarcerated individuals, and people living with HIV has spanned direct service in San Francisco-based homeless HIV case management positions to a program management position at the Health Care for the Homeless division of the Seattle & King County’s Department of Public Health. She received her Master’s in Public Health at the University of Washington’s School of Public Health.

Nuno Capaz has been working for the Portuguese Ministry of Health’s Dissuasion Boards since they were created in 2001. These Boards were created to apply Portugal’s groundbreaking law passed in 2000 decriminalizing all drug use. As such, he is a member of an interdisciplinary team that evaluates people who use drugs. He has also been in charge of correspondence with foreign delegations seeking information and research about the Portuguese model for drug policy.

Pam Clifton is the communications coordinator for the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition. She studied psychology and sociology at the University of Colorado and University of Washington. Pam joined the staff at CCJRC because of her desire to see drug laws changed, parole laws reformed, and the warehousing of people in Colorado stopped. She has spent the last four years working as a supervisor for a local fundraising organization that raised money for many non-profit and political organizations around the country. She served seven years in prison in California for a minor drug conviction and successfully completed parole in 2005.

Patt Denning, PhD, has developed specialties in differential diagnosis, psychopharmacology, psychotherapy with seriously disturbed patients, HIV, and substance use disorders. She is one of the primary developers of harm reduction treatments. She has written several articles as well as a book for the general public (Over the Influence: The Harm Reduction Guide for Managing Drugs and Alcohol. Guilford Press.) This book has recently been translated into Chinese. The 2nd edition of her first book, Practicing Harm Reduction Psychotherapy was released in the Fall of 2011 (with co-author Jeannie Little). In 2000, Dr. Denning and Ms. Little created a non-profit treatment and training program, The Harm Reduction Therapy Center (HRTC), which provides a full range of mental health services to dually diagnosed individuals. HRTC also trains hundreds of mental health and substance abuse professionals, outreach workers, homeless advocacy groups, and housing staff each year in this model throughout the United States, Canada, and Asia. Dr. Denning has completed the Diplomate-Fellow training in Psychopharmacology and also was named to the Drug Policy Resources Directory for the Media in the area of Dual Diagnosis. She is a certified addiction specialist through the American Psychological Association’s College of Professional Psychology.

Christie Donner is the executive director and founder of the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition. She has over fifteen years of experience working in criminal justice reform advocacy, community organizing, policy research, and lobbying. Christie co-authored Parenting from Prison: A Resource Guide for Incarcerated Parents in Colorado. She is also the co-author of CCJRC’s publication Getting On After Getting Out: A Re-Entry Guide for Colorado. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Colorado, Boulder.

Mike Elliott, Esq., is an attorney, and the Executive Director of the Medical Marijuana Industry Group. He has also run several political campaigns, including the 2010 campaign that defeated a proposed ban of medical marijuana centers in El Paso County (Colorado Springs).

Daliah Heller, PhD, MPH, works on public health approaches to drug and alcohol use. Her interests include healthcare integration, social program innovation, surveillance methods, and policy and epidemiologic analysis for structural influences on drug and alcohol use. Over the past 16 years, she has served in leadership roles in both the governmental and not-for-profit sector, including as Executive Director of a leading harm reduction program and as Assistant Commissioner at the New York City Health Department. She is currently based at the CUNY School of Public Health.

Biographies
Carol Helwig, MPH, is the Communicable Disease Control Coordinator for the Boulder County Public Health Department. The Works Program at Boulder County Public Health was one of the first syringe access programs in the United States, opening its doors in March of 1989. It has been in continuous operation since then. Initially, the program operated under a local agreement with law enforcement and the judicial system which exempted staff and volunteers from paraphernalia criminalization. Since 2011, the program has operated with the approval of the local Board of Health under the legislation that passed in 2010 to support syringe access in Colorado. The program currently serves over 300 individuals per year at four fixed sites, including one site in collaboration with Boulder County AIDS Project. Services include access to harm reduction supplies and education, rapid HIV and hepatitis C testing, immunizations, and linkage to care, treatment and recovery services.

Terri Hurst, MSW, is the Director of Public Policy for the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC). She is responsible for tracking, influencing, analyzing, and reporting on legislative and policy activities that impact access to behavioral healthcare services at both the state and federal level. She also advocates on behalf of CBHC members and behavioral healthcare consumers. Terri received a Master’s of Social Work in 2005 from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and has worked in drug policy reform and public health policy for over 10 years. She is an Advisory Board member for the Harm Reduction Action Center and sits on the Drug Policy Task Force of the Colorado Criminal and Juvenile Justice Coalition.

Wanda James is the principal and owner of James Foxx Consulting (JFC), a marketing and consulting firm that specializes in results-oriented, political and strategic positioning. JFC specializes in campaign management, advocacy and political outreach for both candidates and organizations. Ms. James is a leading advocate in the cannabis industry. A former owner of a dispensary and the cutting edge cannabis edible company, Simply Pure, she has been an outspoken voice on the legalization of cannabis. She was instrumental in working with the regulatory process to bring medical marijuana to fruition and selected to work on the Amendment 64 Campaign Committee. These duties led to her appointment to the Governor’s Amendment 64 Task Force Work Group. Wanda graduated from the University of Colorado in 1986. Upon graduation, she was commissioned an officer in the United States Navy. Her position in Naval Integrated Underwater Surveillance transferred her to Virginia Beach, Bermuda and finally New York City. Ms. James is a graduate of the Inaugural Class of the Los Angeles African American Women’s Public Policy Institute at the University of Southern California and the Past President of the National Women’s Political Caucus.

Gabriel Kaplan, PhD, MPA, is the Director of the Prevention Health Policy, Systems and Analytics Branch in the Prevention Services Division at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. In this role, Dr. Kaplan manages three units in the Colorado Department of Public Health that seek to bring analytic and strategic tools to bear to improve policies around health, the delivery of care within health systems, and the collection and analysis of health data. Prior to this, he served as the Director of the Epidemiology, Planning & Evaluation Branch in the same division at CDPHE, where he directed the data analysis and research units that support public health prevention services and interventions. Prior to joining CDPHE, Dr. Kaplan served as an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the University of Colorado, Denver’s School of Public Affairs. He has worked as a policy analyst in the United States Senate and as a consultant to the Government of New Zealand.

Hassan A. Latif is a Certified Addictions Counselor in Colorado, and provides addiction counseling services primarily to people living with HIV and those recently released from incarceration. A nationally certified Cognitive Behavior Change Facilitator (NCTI), he serves as Mentoring Coordinator for a Denver-based organization that provides job training, education and support for recently released ex-offenders. After spending almost 18 consecutive years in Colorado penitentiaries, Hassan embarked on a career trying to help others avoid prison. He continues to return to Colorado correctional facilities to provide support for residents engaged in educational programming. As a member of the Board of Directors for the Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition, he helps drive the mission to reverse the trend of mass incarceration in the state of Colorado, providing expert testimony in support of reform bills brought before the State Legislature. He is the Executive Director of the Second Chance Center, committed to reducing recidivism by helping formerly incarcerated men and women successfully transition upon release.

Donald MacPherson, M.Ed., is one of Canada’s leading figures in drug policy and advocates for drug policies based on principles of public health, scientific evidence, human rights and social inclusion. He is currently the Director of the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, a national coalition of organizations and individuals working to improve Canada’s drug policies. The Coalition is a partner project with the Centre for Applied Research in Mental Health and Addictions. He is involved in drug policy work at local, national and international levels. Formerly he was North America’s first Drug Policy Coordinator at the City of Vancouver where he worked for 22 years. He is the author of Vancouver’s groundbreaking Four Pillars Drug Strategy, which called for new approaches to drug problems based on public health principles and the appropriate regulation of all psychoactive substances. In 2007 he received the Kaiser Foundation National Award of Excellence in Public Policy in Canada. In 2009 he was awarded the Richard Dennis Drug Peace Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Drug Policy Reform by the Drug Policy Alliance in the United States and the City of Vancouver was awarded the Canadian Urban Institute’s Secure City Award for the Four Pillars Drug Strategy. MacPherson is currently Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver Canada.
Ron Martin, Detective Sergeant (retired) works part-time as one of North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition’s Law Enforcement Safety Advocates. He is a former Detective Sergeant and is a dedicated, committed Law Enforcement Professional with over 20 years of experience in the New York City Police Department. At the NYPD, he trained officers to a highly proficient level of community patrol, enforcement and public security. He supervised narcotics teams conducting street level buy and sell operations, warrant executions, and managed mid to high-level narcotic cases leading to extensive criminal prosecution. He has also conducted and investigated various criminal offenses while working as a team member in conjunction with the Secret Service, DEA, ATF, and FBI. At NCHRC, he advocates for needle stick prevention measures for officers in North Carolina and for more dialogue between drug users, sex workers, and law enforcement to create safer communities.

Ethan Nadelmann, JD, PhD, is the founder and executive director of the Drug Policy Alliance, the leading organization in the United States advocating for drug policies grounded in science, compassion, health, and human rights. Nadelmann received his BA, JD, and PhD from Harvard and M.Sc. in International Relations from the London School of Economics, and then taught public affairs at Princeton University. He has authored Cops Across Borders and (with Peter Andreas) Policing the Globe, as well as dozens of articles. He is widely regarded as the outstanding proponent of drug policy reform both in the U.S. and abroad.

Theshia Naidoo, Esq., is a staff attorney with the Office of Legal Affairs. She works on litigation, legislative drafting and public education efforts concerning drug policy reform, including California’s Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000. She provides legal advice, counsel and training on drug policy, including securing access to medical marijuana and promoting drug treatment instead of incarceration. She often serves as a guest speaker on criminal justice and drug policy at law schools, universities and other institutions. Naidoo received her B.A. in political science from the University of California Berkeley and she received her J.D. from the University of California Los Angeles School of Law. Prior to joining the organization, she worked in private legal practice for nearly four years representing clients in employment law and commercial litigation matters. She left private practice to join the struggle to make drug laws and drug policies more just, more compassionate and more effective at reducing drug use and improving the health, safety and well-being of individuals, their families and communities.

Stan Paprocki has been involved with prevention education for over 20 years on a regional, national, local and state level. Currently he is the Director of Prevention and Early Intervention Programs at the Office of Behavioral Health for the Colorado Department of Human Services. In this position he provides leadership for the federal and state funded substance use disorder prevention and early intervention programs including the SAMHSA SAPT Block Grant; the Partnership for Success federal grant; and Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT). He serves as the Colorado National Prevention Network Representative for the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors. He also serves on the governor appointed state Behavioral Health Transformation Council and the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Council. Just prior to this position, he served as a senior consultant at the Colorado Department of Education.

Laura Pegram, MSW, MPH, is the policy associate for the Drug Policy Alliance in Colorado. Prior to this post, she served as the Harm Reduction Coordinator for Women with a Vision, Inc., a New Orleans-based social and reproductive justice nonprofit, since 2010. Therein she provided harm reduction services, legal and policy research, and community and legislative advocacy concerning Louisiana’s antiquated and discriminatory Crime Against Nature statute. Additionally, she has worked in HIV prevention and education services both domestically and globally since 2005. She holds a Masters of Social Work and a Masters of Public Health from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Christian Sederberg, Esq., is the co-founder of the Denver-based law firm Vicente Sederberg, LLC. After graduating from the University of Colorado School of Law in May 2005, Christian focused his practice on representing businesses with a primary focus on real estate, private equity, commercial, and corporate transactions. Since the inception of Colorado’s state-regulated medical marijuana program, Christian and his firm have provided a wide range of real estate, transactional and regulatory assistance

Lisa Raville is the Executive Director of the Harm Reduction Action Center. Beginning her career in nursing home administration but soon moving into the world of non-profits, Lisa had the ability to participate as an AmeriCorps Volunteer at an HIV/AIDS agency in California at their syringe exchange. After 2010 syringe access legislation passed, HRAC worked for 21 months to finally become a certified County of Denver syringe access program. Passions include community advocacy, political organizing, reproductive rights, prisoner rights activism, social justice, syringe exchange, homeless rights, and voter registration coordination specifically targeting former felons and the homeless.

Amanda Reiman, Phd, MSW, is the California policy manager for the Drug Policy Alliance. Based in San Francisco, Reiman leads DPA’s marijuana reform work in California. She joined the Drug Policy Alliance in 2012 after working with the medical marijuana dispensary, Berkeley Patients Group, as director of research and patient services. She has conducted numerous studies on medical marijuana dispensaries, patients, and the use of marijuana as a treatment for addiction. Reiman regularly presents her research at the conferences of the American Public Health Association, American Psychiatric Association, International Cannabinoid Research Society, and the Harm Reduction Coalition. Originally from Chicago, she earned her B.A. in psychology from the University of Illinois-Chicago and her Master’s Degree in Social Work from the Jane Addams College of Social Work. Reiman earned her PhD in Social Welfare in 2006 from the University of California-Berkeley.
Art Way, JD, is the Colorado senior drug policy manager for the Drug Policy Alliance, based in Denver. He is a graduate of Florida Coastal School of Law, where he was appalled at the gap between our theoretical constitutional liberties and what he witnessed growing up during the escalation of the drug war in the 1980s. Prior to joining DPA, Way directed the Racial Justice Program at the Colorado Progressive Coalition, where he worked to halt the overrepresentation of people of color in the state's criminal justice system. He successfully spearheaded a legislative campaign amending state law regarding police duties during searches. As a result, Colorado has the only consent-to-search legislation in the nation that protects pedestrians as well as motorists. Way currently serves on both the Denver Mayor’s African American Commission and on the Racial and Gender Disparity Committee of the Denver Crime Prevention and Control Commission.

Barry Zevin, MD, has 22 years of experience as a Healthcare For The Homeless physician in San Francisco. He is board certified in internal medicine. He has the HIV Specialist Credential from the American Academy of HIV Medicine, and is board certified in addiction medicine by the American Board of Addiction Medicine. His special interests include Healthcare For The Homeless, comprehensive healthcare for people who use substances, transgender healthcare, HIV and Hepatitis C disease, and harm reduction addiction medicine. He is Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at University of California San Francisco School of Medicine, as well as physician specialist at Tom Waddell Urban Health Center.
Co-Sponsors

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