CITY COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, CITY HALL,
#1 CITY HALL PLACE, PUEBLO, COLORADO 81003.

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024
5:30 PM

Individuals Requiring Special Accommodations Should Notify the City's ADA Coordinator at (719) 553-2295 by Noon on the Friday Preceding the Meeting.

Executive Committee meetings are special meetings of the City Council and are informal Council meetings for the purpose of receiving information and discussion among Council Members; no official action is taken at such meetings. The public is invited to attend, but public comment is generally not received unless otherwise noted.

Agenda

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATIONS

A. CITY UPDATE 5:30 p.m.
Brian McCain, Chief of Staff
5 minute presentation

B. ACCESS POINT PUEBLO 5:35 p.m.
Christine Charron - Prevention Services Manager
Sarah Money - Health Hub Manager
Tori Cervi - Behavioral Health Manager
15 minute presentation

C. APOLLO PROJECT 6:00 p.m.
Dr. John Emahiser
Dr. Alexandra Kellogg
15 minute presentation

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH AN ATTORNEY FOR THE LOCAL PUBLIC BODY FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECEIVING LEGAL ADVICE ON SPECIFIC LEGAL QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(B). 6:25 p.m.
Harley Gifford
35 minute presentation

ADJOURNMENT

Christine Charron, CRP
Prevention Services Manager

Sarah Money, MPH
Health Hub Manager

Tori Cervi, LCSW
Behavioral Health Manager

ACCESS POINT PUEBLO

BUILDING BRIDGES TO CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Presentation Roadmap

1. Provide background & data on Access Point Pueblo and Colorado Health Network

2. Address concerns raised by council & community

3. State our commitments to seeking collaborative solutions

Our Organization

Since 1983, **Colorado Health Network** has been at the forefront of providing critical public health interventions and related supportive services.

Photo credit: Jim Bailey

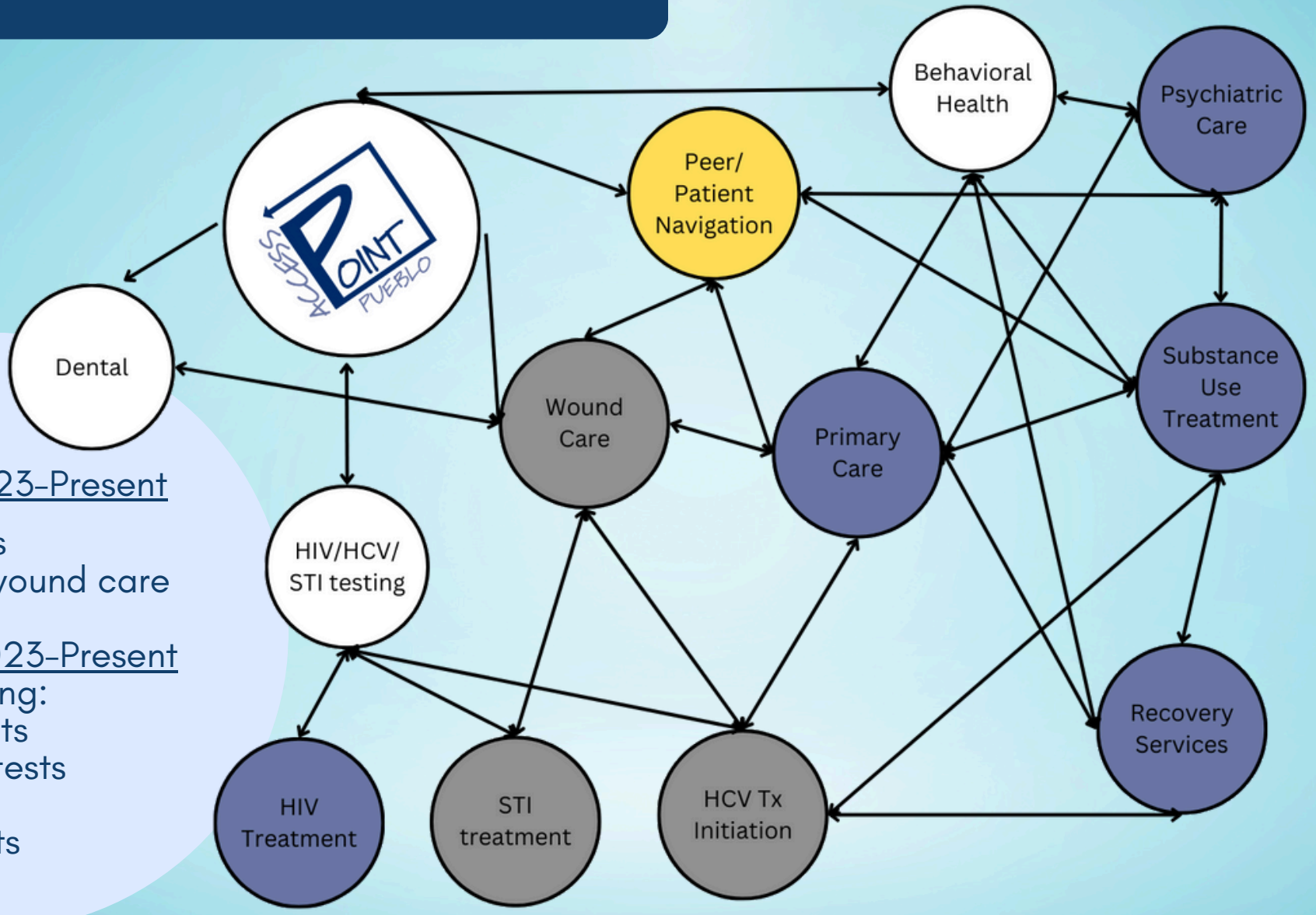
1983 HIV/AIDS Epidemic

2014 Opioid Overdose Epidemic

2019/2020 Fentanyl Crisis

Present Non-Opioid Synthetics

Integrated Care Model



<u>March 2023-Present</u>

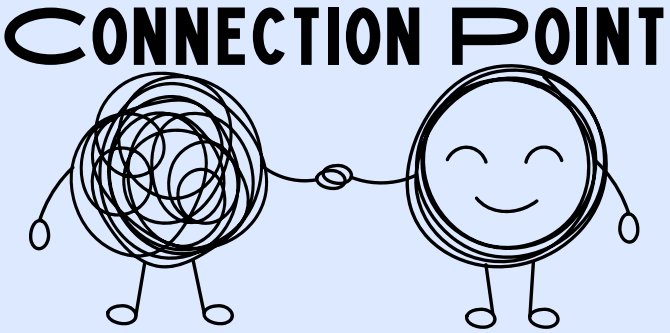
294 referrals
159 on-site wound care

<u>January 2023-Present</u>

On-site testing:
337 C/G tests
152 Syphilis tests
160 HIV tests
129 HCV tests

(Source: Access Point Pueblo Program Data)

Linkage to Treatment & Care @ SSP



No-cost/no-insurance walk-in therapy during our Syringe Access hours

IN JUST 3 MONTHS

289 participants were able to talk with a therapist at program. **39** individuals engaged in a higher level of care after meeting our therapist with **24** returning for continued counseling.

(Source: Access Point Pueblo Program Data)

Ongoing Activities for Public Safety Education

Needle-stick Prevention Law Edu

Every participant gets notification C.R.S., §18-18-428, the Needle-stick Prevention Law wherein individuals are instructed to inform any officer of where any syringes/sharps are prior to search.

967 engagements gave direct education for needle-stick prevention from January 2023 to now
(Source: APP Program Data)

Improved Access to Infectious Disease Testing & Treatment

In 2023, the same staff that provide syringe access conducted hundreds of HIV, Hepatitis C, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Chlamydia tests. We even offer walk-in testing during syringe access program.

2022 County-Level syphilis rates among women

Pueblo has the highest rate in Colorado

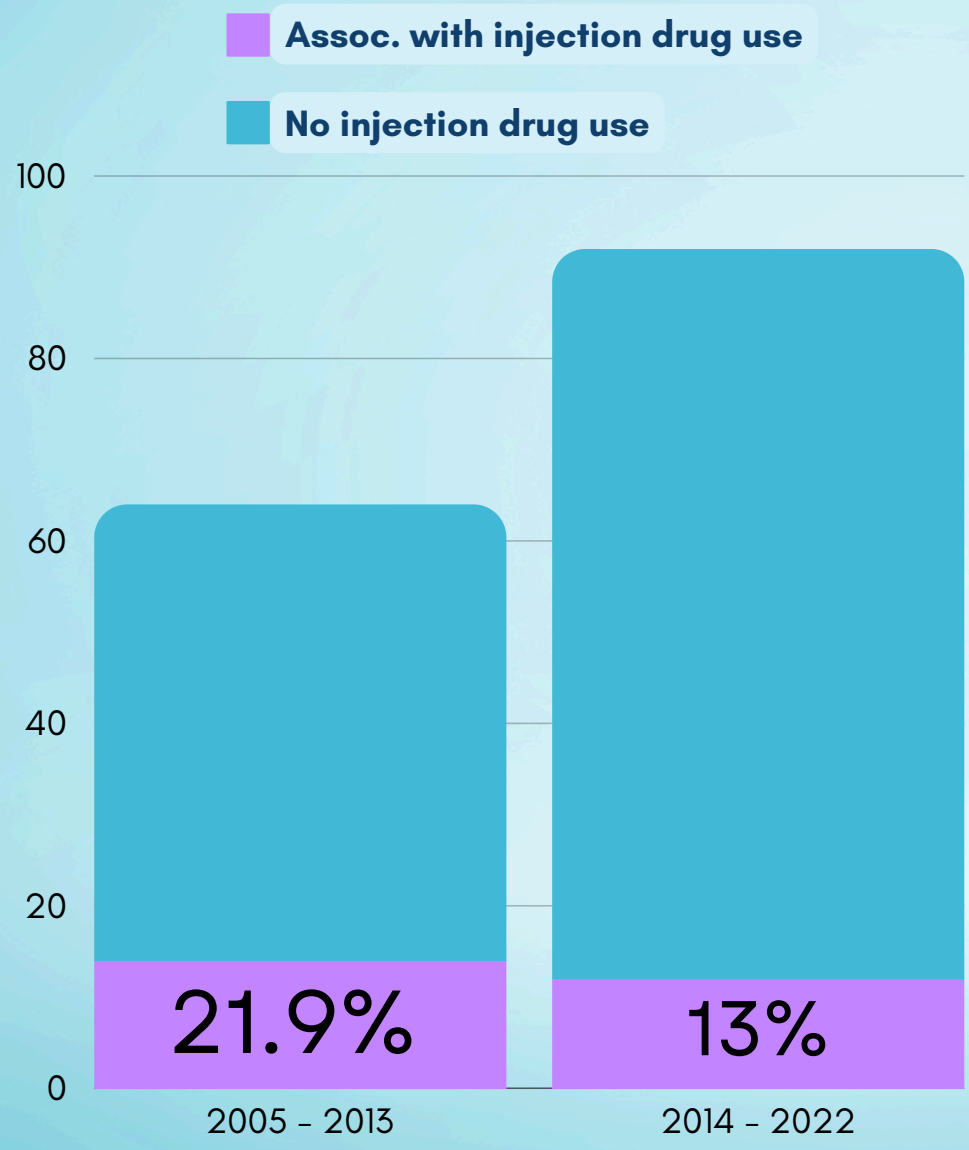
	Rate Per 100,000
Pueblo	112.6
Conejos	75.6
Archuleta	50.1
Rio Grande	49.4
La Plata	47.2
Park	39.8
Pitkin	34.4
Otero	30.5
Denver	27.5

https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/atlas/syphilis/index.html

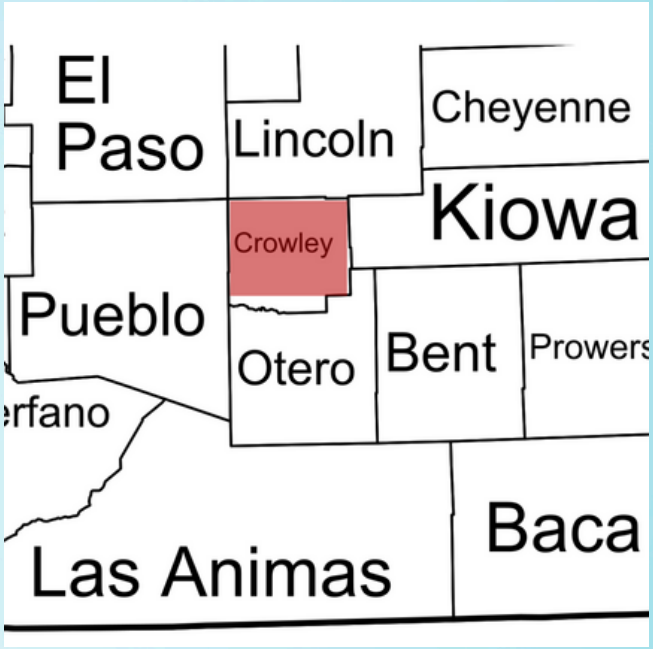
Community Education

- Overdose prevention & response training
- Education & supplies provision for syringe disposal
- STI prevention & treatment

New cases of HIV via injection drug use have decreased in Pueblo



(Source: CDPHE)



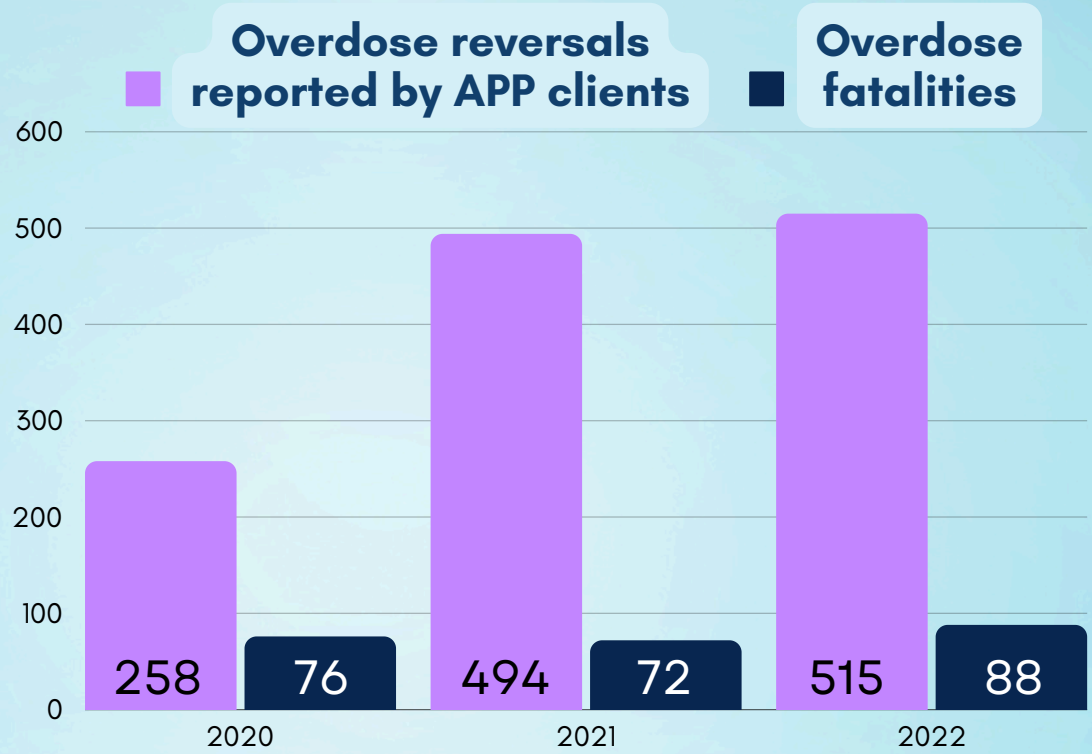
Neighboring Crowley County is identified by the CDC as at risk of an HIV Outbreak

https://www.cdc.gov/pwid/vulnerable-counties-data.html

Case Study: Scott County, Indiana

Pueblo County Overdose Data

Our program participants response to overdose through accessible naloxone has curbed overdose deaths in Pueblo through the fentanyl crisis



(Source: Access Point Pueblo Program Data)

https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/PSDVIP-MHPPUBLIC/views/DrugOverdoseDashboard/ODDeathAdjustedRates?iframeSizedToWindow=true&%3Aembed=y&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Adisplay_count=no&%3AshowVizHome=no&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link

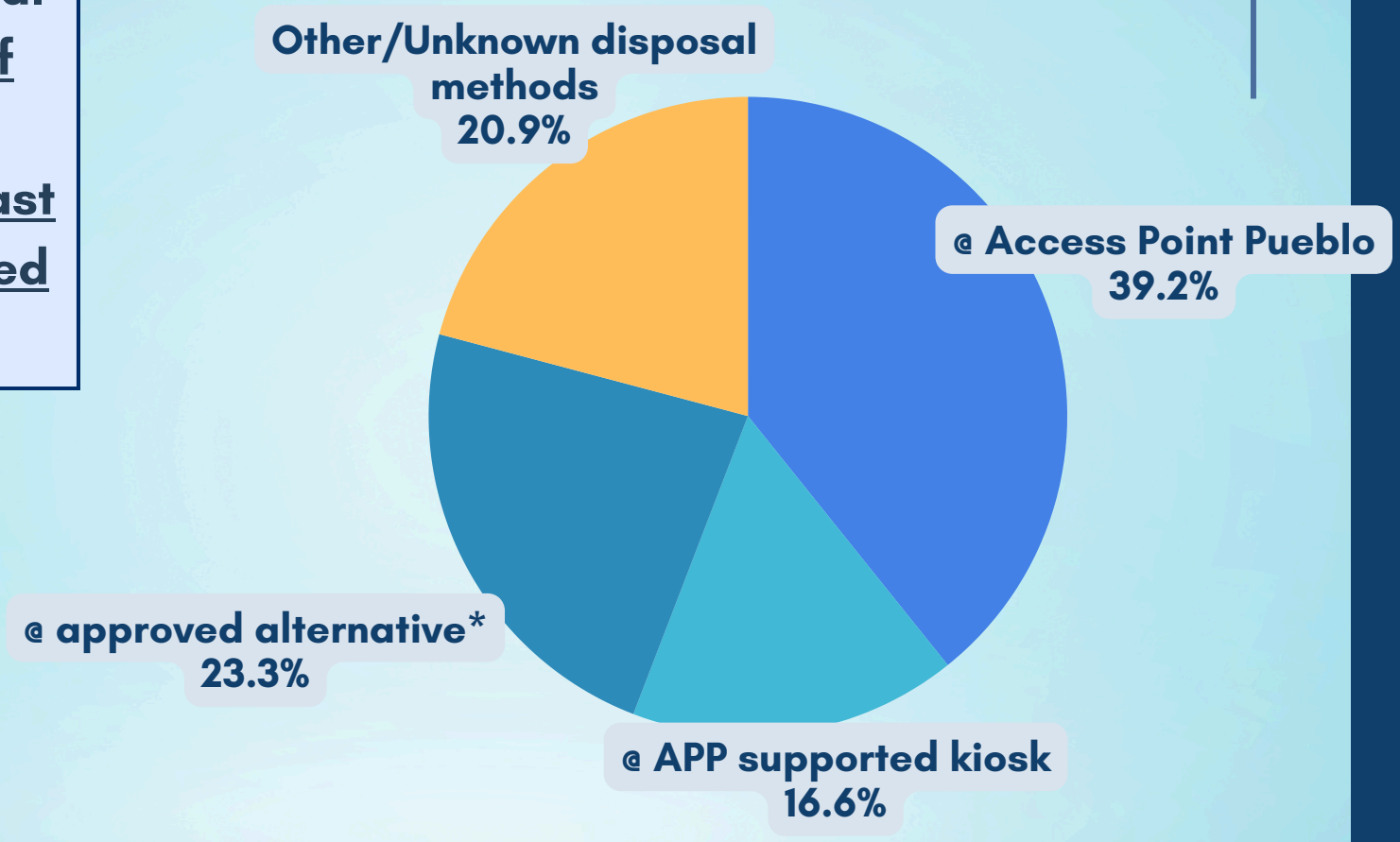
An estimated 321,566 parents of children in the US were lost to drug overdose from 2011-2021

IMPORTANCE Parents' overdose death can have a profound short- and long-term impact on their children, yet little is known about the number of children who have lost a parent to drug overdose in the US.

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38717781/#:~:text=Conclusions%20and%20relevance%3A%20An%20estimated,across%20racial%20and%20ethnic%20groups.

Access Point Sharps Disposal Data

Through self-reported data and biohazard disposal weights, 79.1% of syringes APP distributed this past year were disposed of properly.



The remaining 20.9% are not necessarily on the street.

Other factors include:

- People who only came once, therefore did not dispose with us
- Paraphernalia seizures
- Improper attempts to dispose (burning, clipping the needle)
- Disposal at other harm reduction programs
- Disposal outside of Pueblo

*in hard plastic container with a screwtop lid, labeled “sharps” or “biohazard” and put in the trash see “Household needles/sharps section of https://cdphe.colorado.gov/colorado-medication-take-back-program

(Source: APP Program Data & CDPHE Local Sharps Collection Program Data)

Ongoing Actions to Address Syringe Litter
undertaken at no cost to city or county

1. We provide ongoing support of Pueblo PD & Code Enforcement, responding to local requests for syringe litter pick-up

2. We offer assistance in applying for CDPHE Local Sharps Collection Program - 24/7 kiosks at no cost to city, county, or property owner

3. We distribute sharps containers & incentivize safe disposal at our program, this is available to anyone at no cost

4. We conduct outreach to local businesses/orgs and offer free sharps containers, PPE, & disposal

5. Staff & volunteers go on clean-ups at known “hot-spots” to safely dispose of found syringes

Our Commitments

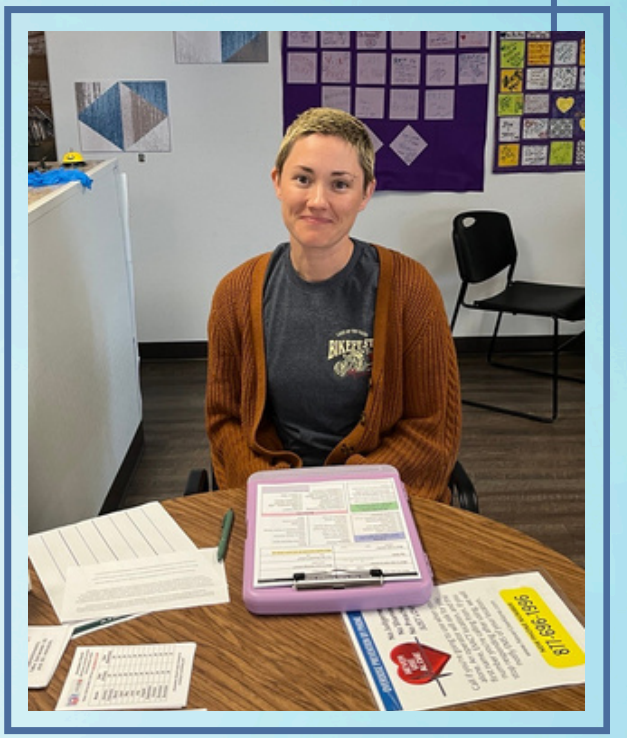
1. Re-invigorate collaborative efforts to address syringe litter
2. Ensure additional care and treatment info is provided at each visit by means of labeling distribution bags
3. Reporting & meeting with City, PDPHE, BOH for data & transparency
4. Continue collaborative response to infectious disease in Pueblo/SE CO
5. Continue provision of free, tailored overdose prevention and response training for the Pueblo Community
6. Continue building a Regional Provider Network to address health/treatment needs of people who use drugs
7. Continue keeping aware of current trends threatening our community related to substance use & infection

Syringe Access Empowers Recovery

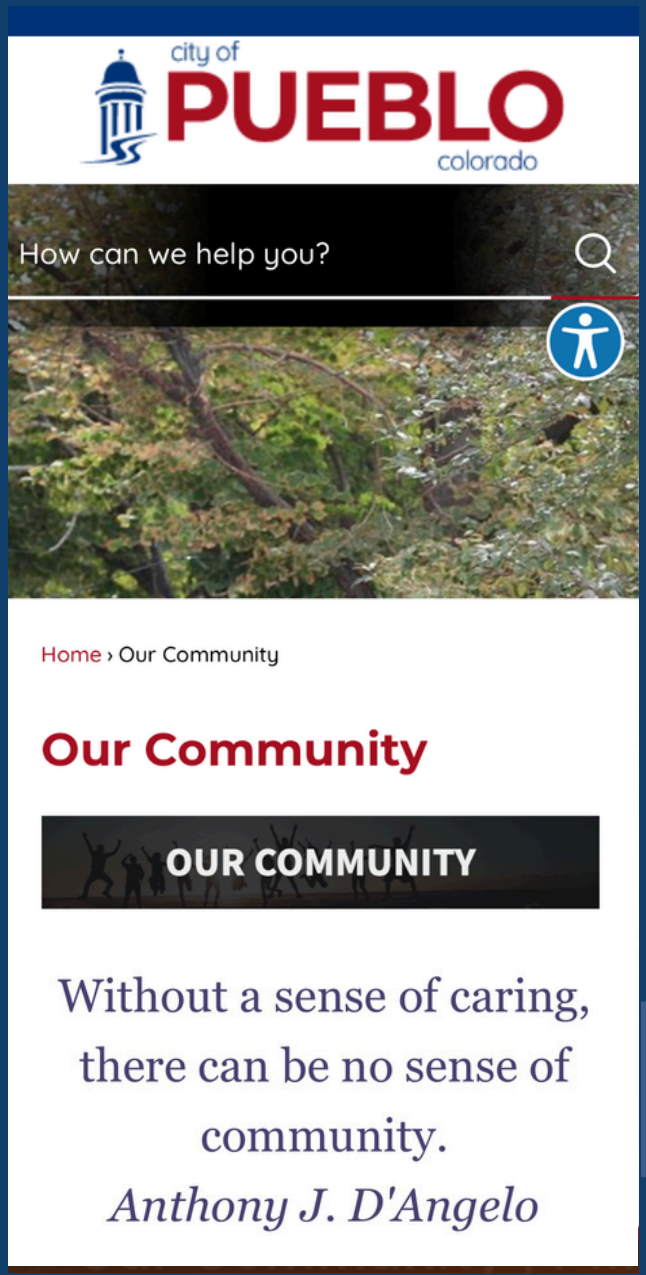
The Access Point Pueblo Program is so much more than just a needle exchange program. They have made access to medical and dental care more readily available. Personally they have taught me a lot as far as the need for proper disposal and storage of needles. I have honestly gotten to the point in my life where I am personally seeking out treatment on my own to get clean after using Meth for 6 years and injecting for 4 of those years. The staff at access point is the reason behind that. Beyond just providing access to supplies

Check what applies to
You can use my com
You can quote my c

and medical care, they provide a empathetic and understanding atmosphere that made even someone as standoffish and anti-social as myself comfortable talking to someone about my struggles with addiction and being 100% honest about it, that in turn allowed me to be 100% honest with myself about my addiction. I have allways heard the phrase "you can't make someone quit until they are ready to quit" and you can't be ready to quit until you are honest with yourself about your addiction. So, Thanks To Access Point Pueblo's patience, understanding, and compassionate support, I, after 6 years am ready to quit Meth. Thankyou



In-house therapist Torrie at Syringe Access Program



From https://www.pueblo.us/31/Our-Community

Our Ask

Pause the vote to increase collaboration and work as a community to address the complex issues associated with substance use in Pueblo.