



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

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2025
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. LOBBYIST UPDATE | 5:35 p.m. |
| Gil Romero - Capitol Success Group | |
| 15 minute presentation | |
| C. PEDCO'S 2025 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN | 6:00 p.m. |
| Jeff Shaw - President & CEO | |
| 15 minute presentation | |
| D. ACCESS POINT UPDATE | 6:25 p.m. |
| Christine Charron - Prevention Services Manager | |
| Sarah Money - Health Hub Manager | |
| 15 minute presentation | |

ADJOURNMENT

Orient:

We are here after three productive meetings at the Mayor's office this fall.

We presented this data and discussed some additional plausible solutions to the Mayor and city officials on January 10.

The City has invited us back to present this information and continue the dialogue with the entire council.

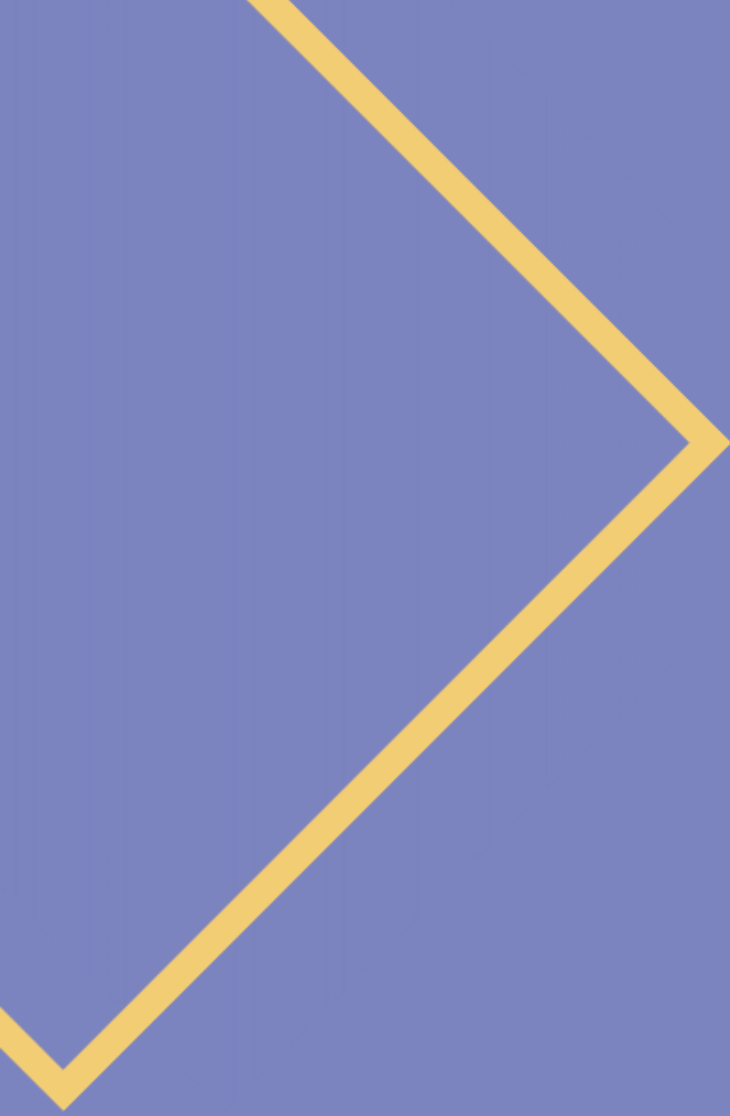


UPDATES FROM ACCESS POINT PUEBLO

Christine Charron, CRP - Prevention Services Manager

Sarah Money, MPH - Health Hub Manager

February 18, 2025



ROADMAP

- Context
- Data
- Syringe litter
- A way forward
- Ask us anything!

CONTEXT

The slide features a dark blue background on the left and a light blue background on the right, separated by a diagonal line. There are two large, stylized arrow shapes pointing towards each other. The top arrow is dark blue with a light blue outline and contains a series of vertical light blue lines. The bottom arrow is light blue with a dark blue outline and contains a series of vertical dark blue lines.

DATA AND INFORMATION
PRESENTED ARE PROVIDED BY
ACCESS POINT PUEBLO
INTERNAL DATA TRACKING

WE ARE CONTRACTED TO OPERATE AN
ANONYMOUS PROGRAM

FUNDED BY MIX OF STATE, REGIONAL,
AND PRIVATE SOURCES

Orient to the programs whose data are shown in this presentation:

Access Point Pueblo SAP is our flagship harm reduction and syringe access program providing education and supplies for disease, infection, and overdose prevention. Our staff also provide walk-in testing for HIV, Hep C, Syphilis, Chlamydia, and Gonorrhea.

Access Point's Health Hub is designed to improve access to medical and treatment services for people who use drugs. With the help of our partnered service providers, we are addressing substance use disorder, infectious disease, and overdoses.

Connect @Access Point is our pilot low barrier behavioral health program providing SAP participants with no-cost, no-insurance engagement with a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

CONTEXT

PROGRAMS

Access Point Pueblo SAP (Syringe Access Program)

Core program providing harm reduction supplies, education, and basic resource referrals

ACCESS POINT HEALTH HUB

Collaboration of service providers streamlining linkage to medical and treatment services for people who use drugs

Connect @ Access Point

Pilot behavioral health program providing low barrier services for SAP participants

Referrals done by SAP staff are done in tandem with the basic "exchange" where staff take back used sharps, distribute supplies, provide education, and assess for further needs. Staff are prepped to provide information on a wide breadth of resources.

Participants seeking a higher level of engagement for linkage to care work with our Health Hub team to explore options for things like treatment and primary medical care, assisting participants in connecting to those services.

Our Connect@ Access Point LCSW provides similar referrals with a clinical therapeutic lens.

DATA

OCT 1 - DEC 31 2024

Referral & Linkage to Care through Syringe Access Program (SAP)

161 referrals were made for participants during their "exchange" at our syringe access program by our SAP staff

Health Hub staff explored linkage to care with **87** SAP participants, confirming **47** successful referrals

Our Connect @ Access Point LCSW had **89** engagement with participants during SAP Tuesdays

Syringe Access Visit Data

1491 unique individuals visited Access Point Pueblo's SAP
592 of those were new participants

We had 3886 total visits

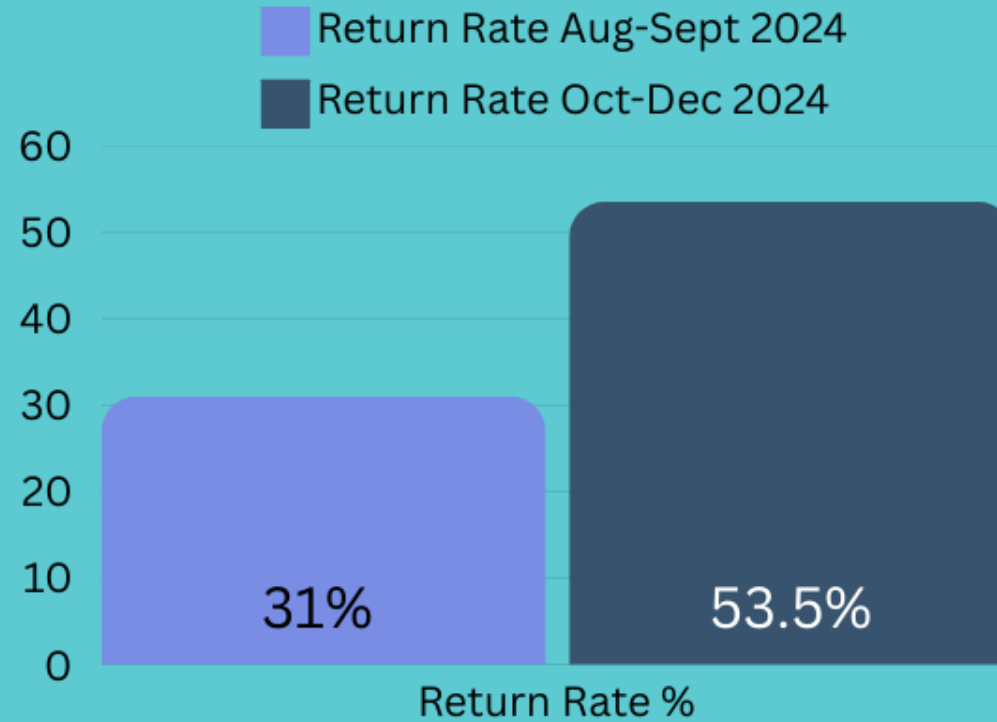
Common Referrals:

HCV Testing, HCV Treatment, Wound Care, Primary Care, In-House Dental, MAT Treatment, Inpatient Treatment, Behavioral Health , HIV/STI Testing, Peer Support Services, Sober Living Support, Nutrition support, Transportation, Housing information

Improved return rates are largely attributable to active and intentional conversations with program participants. Many participants weren't aware the importance of our return rate, and did not prioritize transporting and disposing of syringes specifically with us at program.

Return rates aren't a perfect science. Our goal is to increase access to safe disposal. This can be done through our program, disposal kiosks, safely in the trash, or elsewhere as noted.

Barriers to disposal at exchange are largely lack of transportation and fear of criminalization due to carrying paraphernalia, particularly used syringes with residue.



170,761 syringes distro, **91,289** syringes returned

DATA

January 2025
Return Rate:
68.56%

What is happening to the syringes not returned to the Syringe Access Program?

Additional factors for syringe disposal when we surveyed APP clients:

- Disposal in Kiosks at Access Point and at The Ethos
- Safe disposal in trash - hard, sealed plastic container marked "sharps"
- People who only came once, therefore did not dispose with us
- Paraphernalia seizures
- Attempts to dispose that are not approved (burning, clipping the needle)
- Disposal at other harm reduction programs
- Disposal outside of Pueblo

Each supply we distribute plays a role in minimizing disease, infection, overdose. Our supplies come with a strong evidence base from research and from decades of success in communities across the world.

The supplies we are allowed to purchase with our various contracts are determined by the funder, with them choosing to fund each of these supplies for the direct impact use of the supplies (paired with education) can have on harm associated with substance use.

Description of supplies are on slide 13



DATA

OCT 1 - DEC 31 2024

Distribution

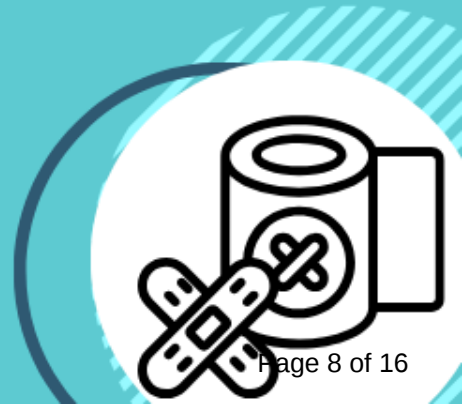
3,097 doses of naloxone/Narcan
2,662 fentanyl test strips distributed
2,426 xylazine test strips distributed

note: no drugs are tested on site; APP does not participate in any drug checking projects

Participants reported saving 110 lives with naloxone in these three months

Additional Supplies Distributed:

- 2,462** sharps containers
- 6,796** injection alternative kits - smoking
- 2,383** injection alternative kits - snorting
- 2,756** safer injection work kits
- 14,948** STI prevention tools
- 3,704** wound care kits



We provide individual 1:1 trainings to each new participant, and to anyone unsure how to use overdose prevention and safer use tools.

Each naloxone kit includes instructions on administration and includes the Good Samaritan law, which provides limited protections when individuals call emergency services to respond to an overdose.

Each test strip kit includes specific instructions based on harm reduction best practices to ensure participants use this tool as accurately as possible.

(e.g. xylazine testing strips do not provide accurate testing with stimulant substances)

DATA

OCT 1 - DEC 31 2024

Education

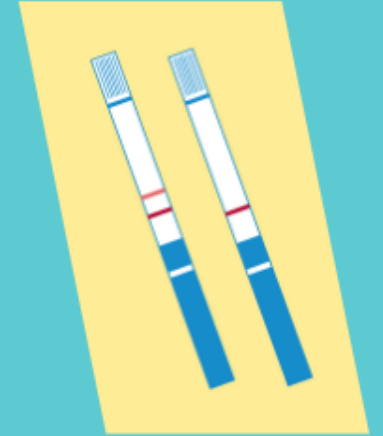
42 naloxone trainings*

46 test strip trainings*

*implemented tracking in Oct, Oct may not have been comprehensive

810 trainings on C.R.S., §18-18-428, Needle-stick Prevention for the safety of law enforcement

Additionally, individualized training is provided to participants during syringe access visits regarding overdose prevention and harm reduction.



Syringe Cleanups

Access Point staff go on at least two monthly scheduled cleanups and respond to calls from the community and PPD Dispatch regarding syringe litter.

Parameters:

Access Point Pueblo is not a biohazard waste company and cannot manage large cleanups.

We are available to respond to instances of syringe litter found on public property, at businesses, on sidewalks/streets of residential areas.

Access Point is also available to provide sharps containers, gloves, limited grabbers, free disposal, and training on safe syringe pickup for any in the community who feel empowered to support syringe litter cleanup on their own!



FORWARD



EXPAND DISPOSAL

- Pop-up disposal with Access Point Pueblo Mobile Unit
- Identify syringe kiosk locations in low access/high needs areas



COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

- Formalize regularly scheduled cleanups
- Explore creative ways to engage program participants in community cleanups



OUTREACH EDUCATION

- Collaborative waste events
 - offer syringe disposal at standing City/County waste events
 - explore ideas for disposal events targeted at high needs groups
- Outreach to businesses and community organizations
- Explore joint awareness campaigns for safe disposal



Contact Us

LEARN MORE ABOUT
COLORADO HEALTH
NETWORK AT

coloradohealthnetwork.org

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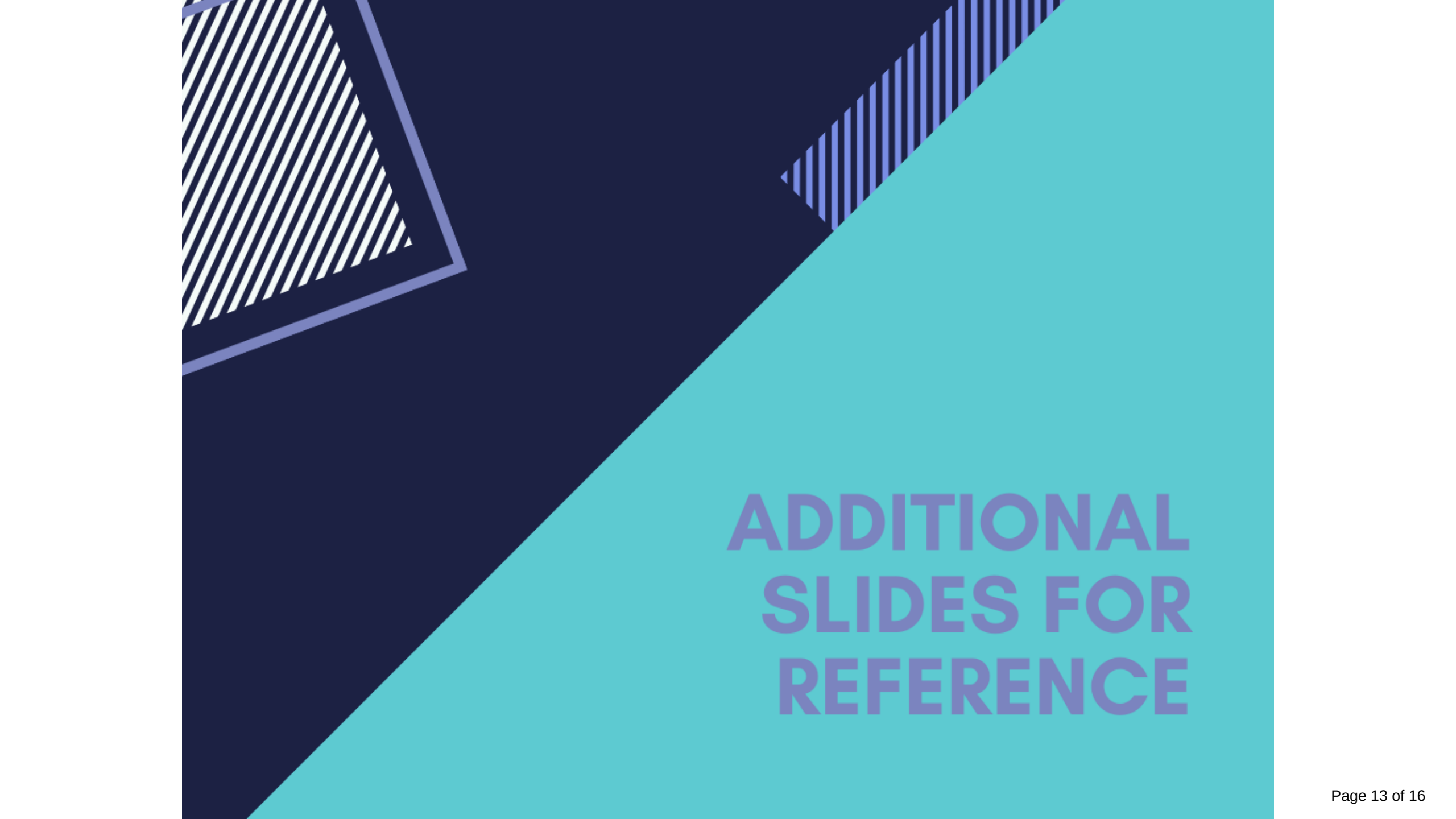
Call us 9a-5p Monday-
Friday to request syringe
litter pickup:

719-621-1105

Sharps Kiosk
Locations in
Pueblo found
here:



Find us on Facebook and Instagram as Access Point Pueblo



ADDITIONAL SLIDES FOR REFERENCE

Supplies Descriptions

- **syringes** - various sizes are offered in alignment with best practices for syringe services. Different sizes are needed for different bodies due to vein type, depth, and location on the body individuals may be injecting.
- **fentanyl testing strips** - fentanyl test strips are a tool to inform individuals to the presence of fentanyl, allowing people to take overdose prevention precautions
- **xylazine testing strips** - xylazine is a non-opioid tranquilizer that has contaminated opioid and fentanyl products across the country. It can lead to respiratory depression and ulcerative wounds.
- **naloxone/Narcan** - vital tool for overdose response, we offer injectable and nasal spray options
- **sharps containers** - multiple sizes offered for safe storage, transport, and disposal of used needles
- **injection alternative kits, smoking** - since our contracts began including smoking equipment as allowable supplies, many participants have lessened or stopped injection use all together. Ceasing or limiting injection use with alternative methods is shown to improve health and social outcomes for individuals. Sharing of pipes poses a risk of blood-borne disease such as HCV and HIV.
- **injection alternative kits, snorting** - some individuals opt to limit injection use by snorting substances, or prefer this method. Sharing of snorting devices poses risk of bloodborne infection transmission.
- **safer injection work kits**
 - Alcohol Prep Pad to clean injection site, minimizing infection risk
 - Tourniquet to minimize risk of missing a vein when injecting, which can lead to infection, abscess and serious illness like endocarditis
 - Filters to filter out particulate matter that can lead to infection
 - Cooker, a metal vessel to heat substances in to kill bacteria prior to injection
- **condoms** - provided for STI prevention as a barrier method
- **lube** - provided for STI prevention as lubricant that reduces risk of microtears that increase risk of STI transmission
- **wound care kits** - contain bandages, gauze, wound ointment to assist participants in decreasing risk of chronic wounds/infection

What to Do with Used Sharps in Colorado

Put used sharps in a strong, plastic container.

When the container is 3/4 full, put the lid on, seal it with duct tape, and label. DO NOT RECYCLE.



Have a needle clipper? When the needle clipper is full, it can be disposed of according to your state or local regulations. More information can be found [here](#).

Put the plastic container in the household trash – *don't recycle!*



Sharps should never be thrown loosely into the trash or toilet

Sharps that retract after use, or are very small, should be disposed of like all other sharps.

CDPHE
explanation of
safe disposal



The Transtheoretical Model or Stages of Change Theory:
our framework for linkage to care in a harm reduction setting

The factors that influence “change behavior” have been significantly researched, yet one model is the standard-bearer for change. The transtheoretical model (TTM), and its easy-to-follow steps toward change, make understanding human behavior one of the easiest filters to follow. TTM stages include:

1. Precontemplation
2. Contemplation
3. Preparation
4. Action
5. Maintenance

TTM has become one of the most commonly applied theoretical and clinical frameworks in mental health and is effective across a broad spectrum of problems, including smoking, alcohol abuse, addiction, weight control and exercise acquisition, sunscreen use, condom use, school bullying, to preventative measures such as medical screens like mammography and cancer screening. This article explains the important concepts of TTM and how to use it.

Stages of Change Theory
Nahrain Raihan; Mark Cogburn
Last Update: March 6, 2023.

