Northern Colorado Health Sector Partnership All Member Meeting

Addressing the Opioid Crisis | Table Question and Answers

Wednesday, May 29th

Table Questions:

a. How do you see the rise in substance use impacting you as an employer, specifically in relation to your employees? If not the employer, your practice?
   - Lots of unknown, diversion (drugs) – few ease due to right protocol employability
   - Cost of screening/evaluation (pre-employment)
   - What’s happening in Boulder or other areas
   - Networking events – part of culture (alcohol)
   - Theft of medication, lack of employable workers
   - Clients being denied medications due to pre-auth and quantity limits placed on opiates
   - Rise in the need for service, dilemma for when to prescribe pain meds and when not to

b. What processes or resources do you have in place to support employees dealing with substance use? Have these been effective?
   - Navigation, community connections, work-life partnership/EAP
   - State vs Fed Laws (marijuana)
   - Work-life navigator programs, MHFA – encourage employees to go
   - Employee assistance programs, CO-SLAW number

c. What other resources/processes do you think would be beneficial for you as an employer?
   - Vaping Campaign/marijuana education (65% of employed population of CO is using marijuana)
   - Random drug testing, careful management
   - $ expensive ($65/screen)
   - Networking events
   - Communication between PCP and psychiatrist or other scribers
   - Integration of mental health services in practices
   - Pain management without medication (new therapies)
   - Reducing stigma in healthcare