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# Arapahoe County

## Arapahoe County Board of Health

### Agenda

Wednesday, May 21, 2025  
2:00 PM

Administration Building  
5334 S. Prince St.  
Littleton, CO 80120  
West Hearing Room

#### Informal Study Session

The Board of Health agenda and materials can be viewed online at  
<https://arapahoe.legistar.com/Calendar>

#### 1. EXECUTIVE SESSION AND COUNTY ATTORNEY LEGAL MEETING

As required by law, specific agenda topics will be announced in open meeting prior to the commencement of the closed and confidential portion of this session. C.R.S. § 24-6-402(4).

#### 2. STUDY SESSION

The purpose of this session is informal relationship building among Board of Health directors and ACPH staff. Topics discussed during this session are only conversational and no decisions will be made at this time. Topics during this session may include:

##### 2.a. Harm Reduction and Sexual Health Program Presentation

[25-306](#)

**Attachments:** [0. ISS\\_NACCHO Presentation HR and SH\\_BOHmay2025](#)

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# Arapahoe County

5334 South Prince Street  
Littleton, CO 80120  
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## Board Summary Report

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**File #:** 25-306

**Agenda Date:** 5/21/2025

**Agenda #:** 2.a.

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**ARAPAHOE COUNTY**

# Community Based STI Testing and Treatment

An Improved Collaboration between Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Programs

Elicia Chacon, BSPH  
Harm Reduction Supervisor

Carrie Knowlton, DNP, MPH, RN  
Harm Reduction and Sexual Health Nurse Manager



# Agenda

- Harm Reduction Program Overview
- Sexual Health Program Overview
- Program Collaboration, Field Delivered Treatment Plan
- Funding & Sustainability
- Questions



# What is the Harm Reduction Program?

- An evidence-based approach that aims to reduce health and social harms associated with substance use through proven interventions.
- We work primarily with the unhoused population, providing harm reduction services such as:
  - Sterile injection equipment
  - Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips
  - Condoms, lubricants, and other safer sex items
  - Naloxone (Narcan®) distribution and training
  - Education and referrals
  - No cost rapid HIV, Hep C, and Syphilis testing



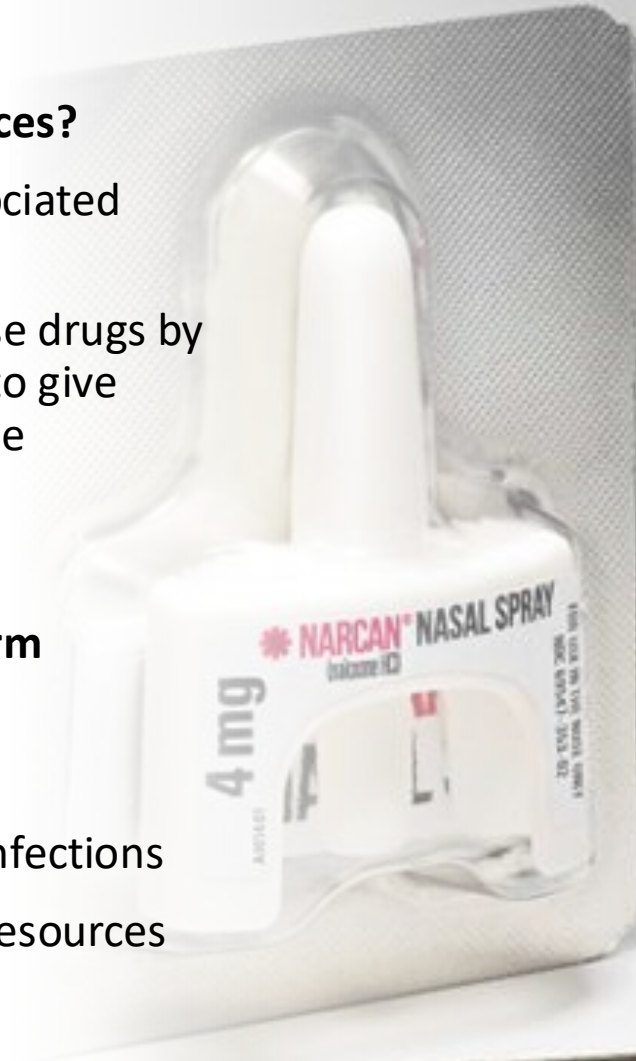
# More About Harm Reduction

## Why Provide Harm Reduction Services?

- Minimizes the consequences associated with substance use
- Provides dignity to people who use drugs by meeting them where they are at to give them non-judgmental care and the resources they need to be safer.

## What are the goals of providing Harm Reduction Services?

- Prevent opioid related deaths
- Prevent HIV, Hep C, and Syphilis infections
- Provide referrals to services and resources



# What does ACPH Harm Reduction do?

- Syringe exchange, safer smoking supplies, overdose prevention, drug testing strips
- STI/HIV/Hep C Testing and prevention
- Provide direct services to meet people where they are in the community!
- Build trust and connection in a non-clinical, judgement free, safe space.





# Harm Reduction Program Data (Q1 2025)

- 339 total participants served\*
  - 259 newly enrolled participants!
- 462 total encounters (SAP & testing)
- 35% identify as female
  - <1% identify as another gender
- 27% identify as Hispanic/Latine
- 36% identify as a race other than white (includes multiracial identification)
- 3/5 reported as homeless



# Harm Reduction Program Impact (Q1 2025)

- 54 HIV tests
- 69 STI (GC/CT) and Syphilis tests
  - 5 identified as needing tx; 1 person needed both tx
- 26 HCV tests
- 1800 naloxone (Narcan®) kits distributed
- 7 Community Events attended
  - Community College of Aurora
  - CO Finest High School of Choice
  - Point in Time Count
  - HIV and Harm Reduction Advocacy Day







## Harm Reduction Program Impact Continued (Q1 2025)

- 2380 pieces of glassware distributed
  - Most distributed since launching in January!
- 26,277 syringes distributed
- Roughly 6,300 syringes returned
  - Innovative ways to increase disposal
- Approximately 5785 Fentanyl and Xylazine test strips distributed!
- Variety of referrals included:
  - SUD treatment & sober living
  - Housing & emergency shelters
  - Domestic violence support



- Safer Smoking Supplies
- Pregnancy testing and education (and prenatal vitamins!)
- Increased connections with ACPH Sexual Health
- Integration of CureMD
- Community Clean-Ups with PALI Group
- Rapid STI Testing
- Public Health Kiosk Evaluation
- Volunteer Program



# CHIP Priorities and Harm Reduction

- Access to Affordable Physical and Behavioral Care
  - Free STI/HIV/HCV testing
  - Referrals to other low-cost providers
  - Encourages Medicaid access
- Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food/Healthy Affordable Housing
  - Case management and referrals
- Social Connection
  - Provides a safe space for participants to interact and bring friends
  - Participant Advisory Leadership Initiative (PALI)
- Community Safety
  - When vulnerable people are provided with resources, our communities are safer
  - Syringe exchange reduces needles and other items in community spaces





# What is the Sexual Health Program?

A clinical program that provides family planning and sexual health services regardless of age, gender, marital status, income, or proof of residence.

Services are low or no cost and provided based on a sliding scale, according to income level.

## Services include:

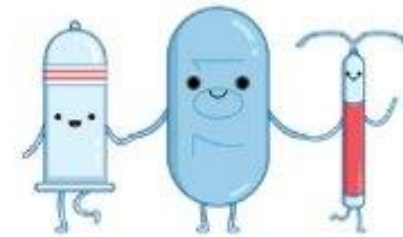
- Annual health review
- Nexplanon and IUD inserts and removals
- Birth control supplies and counseling
- Emergency contraception
- Free condoms
- Testing for pregnancy
- Testing and treatment for common STIs
- Testing for HIV
- Community education and outreach
- Pelvic exam
- Cervical cancer screening (Pap or HPV testing)
- Loop Electrosurgical Excision Procedure (LEEP) by referral
- Clinical breast exam
- Linkage to follow up services as needed



# What does ACPH Sexual Health do?

- Clinical services in Altura Plaza and Englewood
  - Birth Control
  - STI Testing, Treatment and prevention
  - Cervical and breast cancer screening and Prevention
- Field Delivered Treatment for Syphilis
- STI testing and treatment at Arapahoe County Detention Center
- Sexual Health education in the community

let's talk about



sexual health

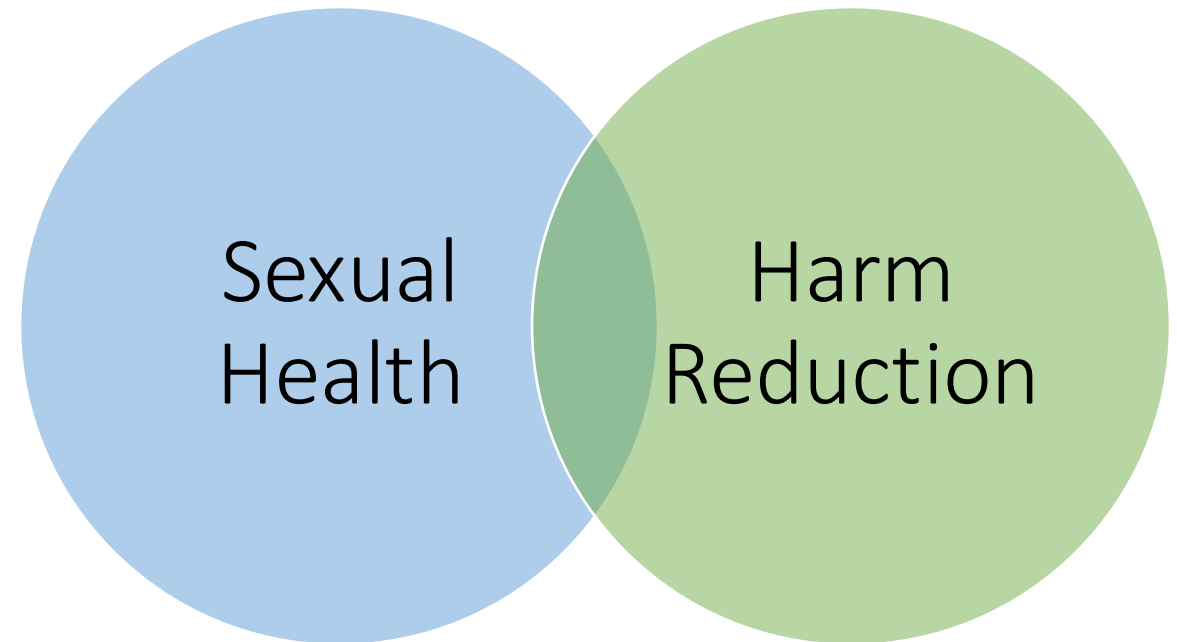
# CHIP Priorities and Sexual Health

- Access to Affordable Physical and Behavioral Care
  - Low-cost services offered on a sliding scale
  - Referrals to other low-cost providers
  - Encourages Medicaid access
- Access to Nutritious and Affordable Food
  - WIC referral for pregnant women
  - Prenatal vitamins for pregnancy and pre-conception care
- Social Connection
  - Education on healthy relationships and consent
- Community Safety
  - Intimate Partner Violence assessment



# Program Collaboration Opportunities

- Harm Reduction
  - Offers chlamydia/gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV and Hep C testing
  - High degree of trust in the community
  - Meets people in the community setting
  - Non-clinical – unable to provide treatment
- Sexual Health
  - Offers chlamydia/gonorrhea, syphilis, HIV and Hep C testing
  - Offers a broader range of services in clinic
  - Can offer clinical treatment and physical exam





# What does Collaboration look like?

- Clinical support for non-clinical team members
- Joint trainings and sharing of expertise
  - Harm Reduction trained SH staff on naloxone distribution and harm reduction supplies
  - Sexual health has provided training on STI/HIV/Hep C best practices

# Field Delivered Treatment for Syphilis



## Promising Practice

In April, the Sexual Health Program was selected as a Promising Practice recipient by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for their work in ***Field Delivered Treatment for Syphilis***.

***This was a collaborative application including Arapahoe and Pueblo counties.***

# Syphilis Field Delivered Treatment (FDT)

- Started in April 2024 by providing in-home syphilis treatment to patients with confirmed syphilis referred by CDPHE for missing a clinical treatment appointment in Metro Denver
  - Expanded in January 2025 to offer FDT to anyone referred for treatment and to initiate treatment for anyone with a positive rapid test in the Harm Reduction Program
- To date, we've treated 30 individuals and counting, including three pregnant patients.



# Field Delivered Treatment (FDT)

0 of the 24 clients referred to SH  
from HR were treated for  
Syphilis in 2024

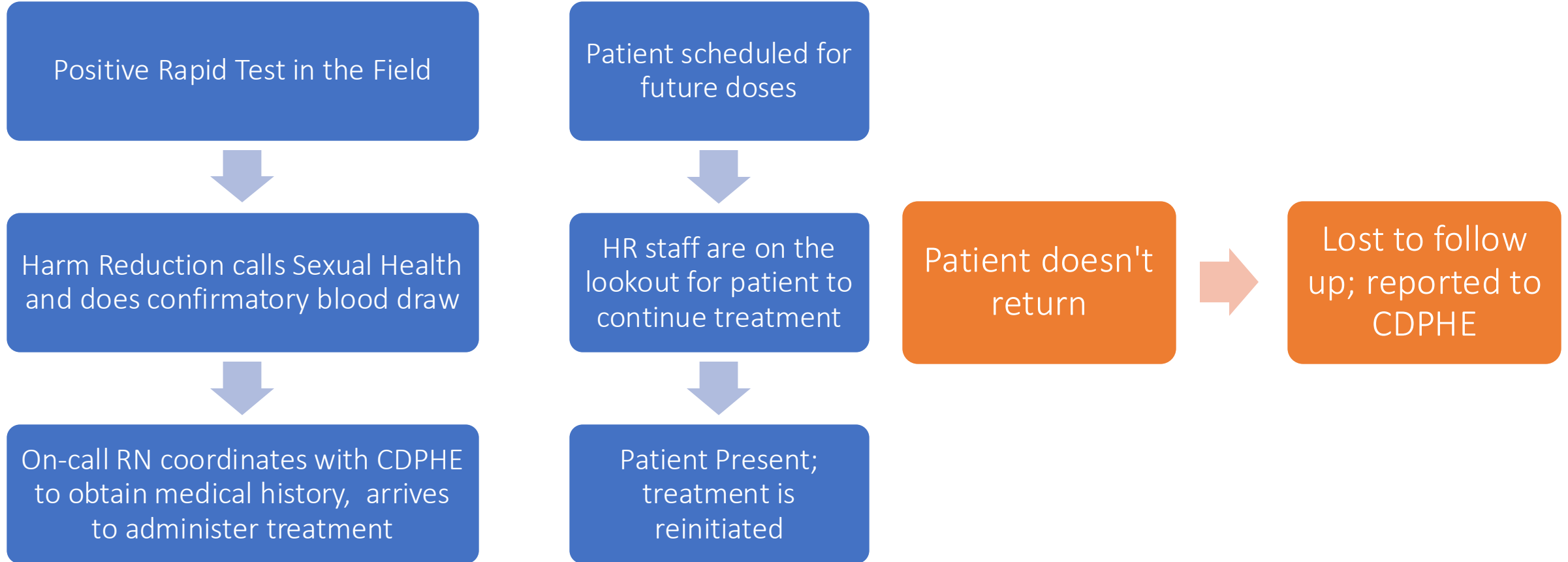
2024

2025

Of the 7 clients referred to SH  
from HR in 2025 thus far:

- 4 completed treatment
- 1 currently in treatment
- 2 were lost to follow up but both  
received 2 of 3 doses Long acting Bicilling

# Rapid Response Syphilis FDT



# Where are we going?

- Rapid chlamydia/gonorrhea testing and treatment!
- RN staffed with HR at mobile unit to provide immediate treatment for all STIs
- Expected launch May 2025!



*Prevention Point mobile Harm Reduction at Aurora Pride 2024 at the Aurora Reservoir*

*Health Educator Destiny performing a test on HIV Testing Day 2024 in Prevention Point*





# Funding and Sustainability

- ▶ Getting creative with braided funding sources!
  - ▶ Opioid Resettlement funds from the county and state
  - ▶ CDC Strengthening STI Prevention and Control grant
  - ▶ Syphilis-specific funding from the state
  - ▶ Utilizing Title X clinical staff whenever possible





Questions?