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**Colorado Healthcare Ethics Resource**

**Meeting Minutes 3/29/22**

Hi all,

We will meet Tues April 12 from 3:30-5pm.  After that, I’m thinking we can meet once a month through the summer unless we have another surge happening.

1. Legislative updates  –
   1. Anti-vaccine bills updates – Anuj –
2. Bills are partisan with far right against, trying to codify misinformation into state law.  Election year possibly playing into this.  Some of these are passing in other states (red states).
3. Anuj’s presentations were very effective/helpful
   1. Prohibit discrimination based on covid vaccine status – under consideration April 6 - debate in Health committee.  No state law allowed, but would be superseded by federal law.
   2. Natural” immunity to covid – Post-infection immunity to be equivalent to vaccination if required – voted down.
   3. Employee exemption covid vaccine requirement – defeated.
   4. Forbidding discipline for prescribing Ivermectin – voted down.
   5. Standards for immunization requirements -
   6. Visitation requirements – one defeated (1199 – postponed indefinitely), one still pending.  Sonnenberg visitation bill passed Senate – more moderate, coming to House SB 52.
4. Vaccine updates –
   1. If you are immunocompromised, or 50+ years old, 4th booster available.  No data on efficacy of 2nd booster yet, though seems safe.  Current booster still providing protection from severe disease, hospitalization, death.
   2. If another surge happens in the Fall, a 4th shot now might be waning by that time, not sure a 5th would be approved.
   3. Unclear if heterologous vaccines are more helpful
   4. Likely will have a more targeted vaccine toward maybe omicron/delta eventually
   5. Likely vaccine for under 5 yrs soon.  Moderna submitting EUA but hasn’t yet released data.  Pfizer note that 1st two vaccines not effective for those 2-4 yrs, but data coming out on the 3rd dose in this agegroup.
5. BA-2.  >50% in CO this week per Dr. Hurlihy.  Infectivity still less than 5%.  Infection with BA-1 seems to give some protection against BA-2.
6. Monoclonals: sotrovimab – not effective against BA-2 though looking at higher doses.  Only one left: bebtelovimab
7. Reinfection rate BA1 to BA2 – 2-3% in one small study of unvaccinated people.
   1. What about long COVID? Decreased chances of infection, and of long covid if you get infected.
   2. Greatest protection: fully vaccinated + COVID infection.
   3. Funding running out – no new supplies for pharmacies, or for testing.   Billing problems a challenging and loss of free testing also.
8. Updates in CSC?, plans for another surge?
9. From Gov Polis’s admin and CDPHE [Colorado's Next Chapter Roadmap Forward 2.25.22.pdf - Google Drive](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VHQx9feH8OFrbhdG0ArkCdhIFcPDp-NA/view)
10. Modifications made in November 2021 of original:
    1. Home ventilators will never be removed.
    2. Equity issues with SOFA score.
    3. Meeting again in April for review
11. Predictive models don't do well – don’t want any false positives to denying people CC services – lots of recent articles.
12. Age issues and long-term prediction issues in Charleson co-morbidity hot topic.  Although age is the most predictive of mortality short-term, vs. comorbidities, which are also important.
13. CO numbers: 68% hospitals reporting: 135 admissions, 39% expect staff shortages this week, 1% expect PPE shortages, 19% expect ICU bed shortages.  Note: over the last 7 days, 90% of acute care beds full, 84% ICU beds full.
14. Hospice leadership updates – If you are interested in receiving agendas/attending Hospice leadership meetings, please let Cordt [CKassner@HospiceAnalytics.com](mailto:CKassner@HospiceAnalytics.com) know.
15. Last Monthly call – education being incorporated.
    1. February – experience in Angola prison hospice program.
    2. March – Kim Mooney presenting about 2 ACA MAID national consults – anorexia nervosa, and “leave the room” policies.
16. From Cordt and Jenn Klus: **Palliative Care roadmap** now online for CO - Guide on-line from Colorado for living with Serious Illness.  Free and available through CHER, CDPHE.  Looking for grant support for printing. <http://www.centerhealthcareanalytics.org/>
17. LTC updates – yesterday new CDPHE guidelines for vaccination, boosters, protocols.  Seem to be increasing hurdles, regs, requirements for testing, face coverings, quarantine.  Both LaRocca & Jackson seeing challenges to getting staff boosted.  Concern about mandatory single room, staffing rate requirements – ?unfunded?
    1. Telligen chronic kidney disease equity speaker last week went well
18. Anuj shared some of his own unpublished data on excess mortality from CA in 2020.  Significant changes in mortality in non-COVID disease due to ?workforce stresses.

1. Moral distress updates –
   1. Updates from the state?
   2. ECHO sessions in April 13 – May 18 - Wednesdays 8:00 - 9:00 AM MT - Past the Pandemic: Coping in COVID - This interactive series offers health care providers and other staff working in health care settings strategies to name, normalize, and validate worries and experiences during this pandemic and beyond. By understanding stress along a continuum, participants will learn how to manage stress and loss, increase capacity to prevent burnout, elevate connectedness and mindfulness, and promote self-efficacy and quality patient care.

                                                               i.      <https://echocolorado.org/echo/past-the-pandemic/>

                                                             ii.      <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/past-the-pandemic>

1. Updated Colorado End-of-Life Options Act info and annual report for 2021 are here: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/center-for-health-and-environmental-data/registries-and-vital-statistics/medical-aid-in-dying#Annual>.  Discussion of data and perception about how/if Rx’s are happening in rural areas.

Thank you so much,

Barbara and Jean