

CEPOP 2020 Agenda and Workplan



The CEPOP Steering Committee would like to thank everyone who joined in the organization's Annual Strategy Session held on Monday, January 27. The Session served as an opportunity to reflect on accomplishments of the prior year and identify areas of focus to impact the nation's response to the opioid abuse epidemic. To set the stage, CEPOP participants heard from CDC representatives regarding the evolution of the epidemic and multifaceted approaches needed to combat substance use disorders and overdose deaths. While the number of drug overdoses dropped approximately 4% in 2018, additional work is required to sustain that progress and to achieve fundamental prevention goals. However, additional work is still warranted with overdose death rates attributed to synthetic opioids up 10% year over along with a near 30% increase for stimulants such as cocaine and methamphetamine. This document captures a consensus 2020 CEPOP agenda to drive awareness, leverage best practices, and advocate for sound policies in the coming year.

Priority Topics

The 2020 Strategy Session identified core organizational priorities that closely align with the CEPOP policy and advocacy focus. This document is being advanced as a program management tool recognizing that CEPOP also responds to new and pressing issues raised throughout the duration of the year.

- **Continued Emphasis on Primary Prevention.** Having raised primary prevention efforts as a core focus and creating a new Working Group in 2019, CEPOP will continue efforts aimed to stem the initial misuse, abuse or diversion and prevent the development of a substance use disorder. Efforts can be built around CADCA's evidence-based *Community Solutions* modules, as presented.
- **Avoiding Diversion of Unused or Unwanted Opioid Medications.** With the passage of several core provisions within the 2018 SUPPORT Act, CEPOP can leverage its deep expertise to advocate for comprehensive implementation of those provisions and policy alignment among core regulatory authorities (e.g. FDA, DEA, EPA and others).
- **Ensuring Real-Time Suspicious Order Monitoring.** With a clear need for improved monitoring of controlled substance orders and distribution, CEPOP's *Safe Disposal and Anti-Diversion Working Group* can work with DEA, FDA and others to develop an infrastructure which provides timely and robust data around potentially dangerous or improper controlled substance orders and shipments.
- **Encouraging Appropriate Access and Reimbursement for Novel and Life-Saving Products.** Recognizing the clinical and patient safety benefits of new therapies, safer alternatives to existing products, non-opioid alternatives, abuse-deterrent formulations of opioids, and overdose reversal products. CEPOP can also work to build out advocacy and educational efforts targeting key demographics (e.g., older Americans) and partnership opportunities.
- **Federal Budget and Appropriations Advocacy.** CEPOP will remain engaged in this work to help ensure that resources are adequate for confronting current and emerging dimensions of the epidemic. Consistent with legacy efforts, CEPOP will conduct a comprehensive and balanced review of the Administration's 2021 budget proposal and develop a robust appropriations request that reflects the breadth and scope of the necessary response.

Strategic Objectives and Timing

I. Advocacy

- a. Engage White House, Federal Agency and Congressional leaders around relevant priorities, including those identified by Working Groups (Q1-4).
- b. Continued advocacy related to federal budget priorities; engagement with Appropriations Subcommittees staff covering relevant jurisdictions (Q1-3).
- c. Identify opportunities to leverage existing opioid-related legislation (e.g. SUPPORT Act) and implementation; participate in the development of and support forthcoming opioid-related legislation (e.g. Cures 2.0 or standalone bills) (Q1-4).
- d. Consider state-based engagement where organizational strengths can have an impact (Q1-4).

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II. Policy

- a. Development of primary prevention efforts, including focuses around youth population and stigma reduction (Q1-4).
- b. Approval and access to abuse-deterrent formulations and non-opioid alternatives (Q1-3).
- c. Additional policy priorities, as identified by Working Groups or CEPOP participants (Q1-4).

III. Briefings & External Awareness

- a. Continued “Focus Topic” briefings for CEPOP participants on best practices and innovation as part of All-Participants meetings; participant suggestions welcome (Q1-4).
- b. Host *Partner Reception* during [2020 Rx Drug Abuse Summit](#) (Nashville, TN; date/time TBD).
- c. Ongoing publication of *Weekly CEPOP Opioid Policy Report* (Q1-4).
- d. Continual update of CEPOP website (including Policy Report) and collateral materials (Q1-4).
- e. Identification and outreach to potential partners and allies for engagement in focus areas.

General 2020 Schedule

CEPOP will execute a robust array of interactions, information-sharing and advocacy among participants and key policymakers throughout 2020 and beyond to include:

- All-Participants Meetings via WebEx on the last Monday of each month, with the exception of quarterly in-person All-Participant meetings (schedule subject to change);
- Q1 and Q3 in-person All-Participant Meetings with Q2 occurring at the National Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit (Apr. 13-16, Nashville, TN) and Q4 Annual Strategy Session;
- Continued operation of the CEPOP Steering Committee (oversight and priority-setting) along with three overarching policy and program incubators/working groups: (1) Prevention, (2) Safe Disposal & Anti-Diversion, and (3) Safe Use; and
- Expand CEPOP membership and external visibility.

Operating Budget

CEPOP continues to operate principally through the financial and in-kind support of its co-convenors. Several CEPOP participants have generously provided general and/or project-specific support over the last several years. The Steering Committee appreciates the investment from its participants and invites others to assist in meeting resource needs based on the following “two-prong” budget approach.

- I. **Workplan Support** – All CEPOP participants are invited to make a suggested, annual contribution to support the 2020 agenda according to the following recommended schedule:
 - a. **\$15,000** level for large organizations (greater than \$50 million annual revenue);
 - b. **\$10,000** level for mid-sized organizations (\$10 million to \$50 million annual revenue);
 - c. **\$5,000** level (less than \$10 million annual revenue); and
 - d. **Other** level (discretionary commitments).
- II. **Initiative-Specific Support** – CEPOP will continue to develop larger-scale initiatives consistent with the core agenda through direct support, subject to Steering Committee approval. CEPOP members are invited to voluntarily underwrite this work and the related budget on a focused basis. Potential 2019 opportunities/activities include:
 - a. Policy roundtables and Capitol Hill briefings on priority topics;
 - b. Audience-specific outreach and education campaigns;
 - c. State-level engagement; and
 - d. Stakeholder convenings on relevant policy issues.

Thank you for your continuing interest and support for our critical work together!