

# What is ACCORDS?

Adult and Child Center for Outcomes Research and Delivery Science

ACCORDS is a 'one-stop shop' for pragmatic research:

- A multi-disciplinary, collaborative research environment to catalyze innovative and impactful research
- Strong methodological cores and programs, led by national experts
- Consultations & team-building for grant proposals
- Mentorship, training & support for junior faculty
- Extensive educational offerings, both locally and nationally



# ACCORDS Upcoming Events

March 20, 2023 *Virtual	<b><u>Methods and Challenges in Conducting Health Equity Research</u></b> <b>Using Mixed Methods to Understand Nuance in Disparities Work: Photovoice and Medicaid Studies</b> <i>Presented by: Margarita Alegria, PhD (Mass. General Hospital/Harvard Medical School)</i>
April 5, 2023 Ed 2 North Room 1107	<b><u>Hot Topics in Mixed Methods and Qualitative Research</u></b> <b>Using Longitudinal Qualitative Data and Cross-Sectional Quantitative Data to Understand Maternal Immunization Decision-Making</b> <i>Presented by: Rupali Limaye, PhD (JHU Bloomberg School of Public Health)</i>
May 3, 2023 *Virtual	<b><u>Hot Topics in Mixed Methods and Qualitative Research</u></b> <b>And Then A Miracle Happens: Getting Into The Complexity Of Mixed Methods Designs And Approaches</b> <i>Presented by: Jodi Summers Holtrop, PhD</i>
June 5-6, 2023 10:00 -3:00 PM MT	<b><u>COPRH Con 2023</u></b> – Registration open at <a href="https://COPRHCon.com">COPRHCon.com</a> <b>Reassessing the Evidence: What is Needed for Real World Research and Practice</b>

\*all times 12-1pm MT unless otherwise noted



### **Harm Reduction Story Sharing with People Who Use Drugs: Visual Narratives Designed to Promote Overdose Prevention and Destigmatize Drug Use**



Presented by:  
**Marty Otañez, PhD**





ME:Union.Otanez.D9.7/16/98.Irvine. University of California Irvine grad students Marty Otano (add a tilde over the n), right, and Damon Kupper are active in organizing Student Workers Union / UAW to represent hundreds of teaching assistants on campus. According to Otano, the union's UCI founder, the fist and pencil symbolize unity, strength and the tool of the academic student employee. Kupper is a coorganizer.

- Medical anthropologist/videographer
- Visual, ethnographic, qualitative, decolonized approaches
- Digital storytelling as a research method, StoryCenter.org
- Scholar activist; 'thick solidarity'

# HAVE YOU USED PSILOCYBIN (‘MAGIC’) MUSHROOMS IN THE PAST YEAR?

And, are you a person of color or a  
low-income individual in Colorado?

## JOIN OUR RESEARCH STUDY

Complete a 60-minute videotaped interview  
and receive a \$50.00 King Soopers gift card  
(COMIRB #22-1797)



Department of Anthropology  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

### Contacts

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- **Naloxone Champions:** Digital Success Stories of Reversing Opioid Overdoses in Colorado (N=76; summer 2021)
- CDPHE-funded evaluation project
- Designed to increase knowledge of the importance of naloxone in reducing the number of opioid overdoses in CO
- Andrew Norman Otañez (1986-2016)



MORE LIVES  
THAN A CAT

## PLAN OF ACTION

- Watch 2 short videos
- Discuss videos and methods
- Examine challenges and concerns



DUI

## **WATCH VIDEOS**

Andrew (Alamosa), 'More Lives Than a Cat''

Betsy (Denver), 'DUI''



# THEMES

## Andrew

Excessive overdoses

Narcan saves lives

Heroin as suicide prevention

Societal stigma

## Betsy

Heroin overdose

Driving under the influence

Stigmatized by first responders

Peer support

# Naloxone Champions

**Click on the cities below to watch a series of short videos about overdose reversal with Narcan/Naloxone, harm reduction and destigmatization of people who use drugs in Colorado.**

👉 [Alamosa, Colorado](#) (17 videos)

👉 [Glenwood Springs, Colorado](#) (7 videos)

👉 [Fort Collins, Colorado](#) (9 videos)

👉 [Denver, Colorado](#) (15 videos)

👉 [Pueblo, Colorado](#) (17 videos)

👉 [Grand Junction, Colorado](#) (11 videos)

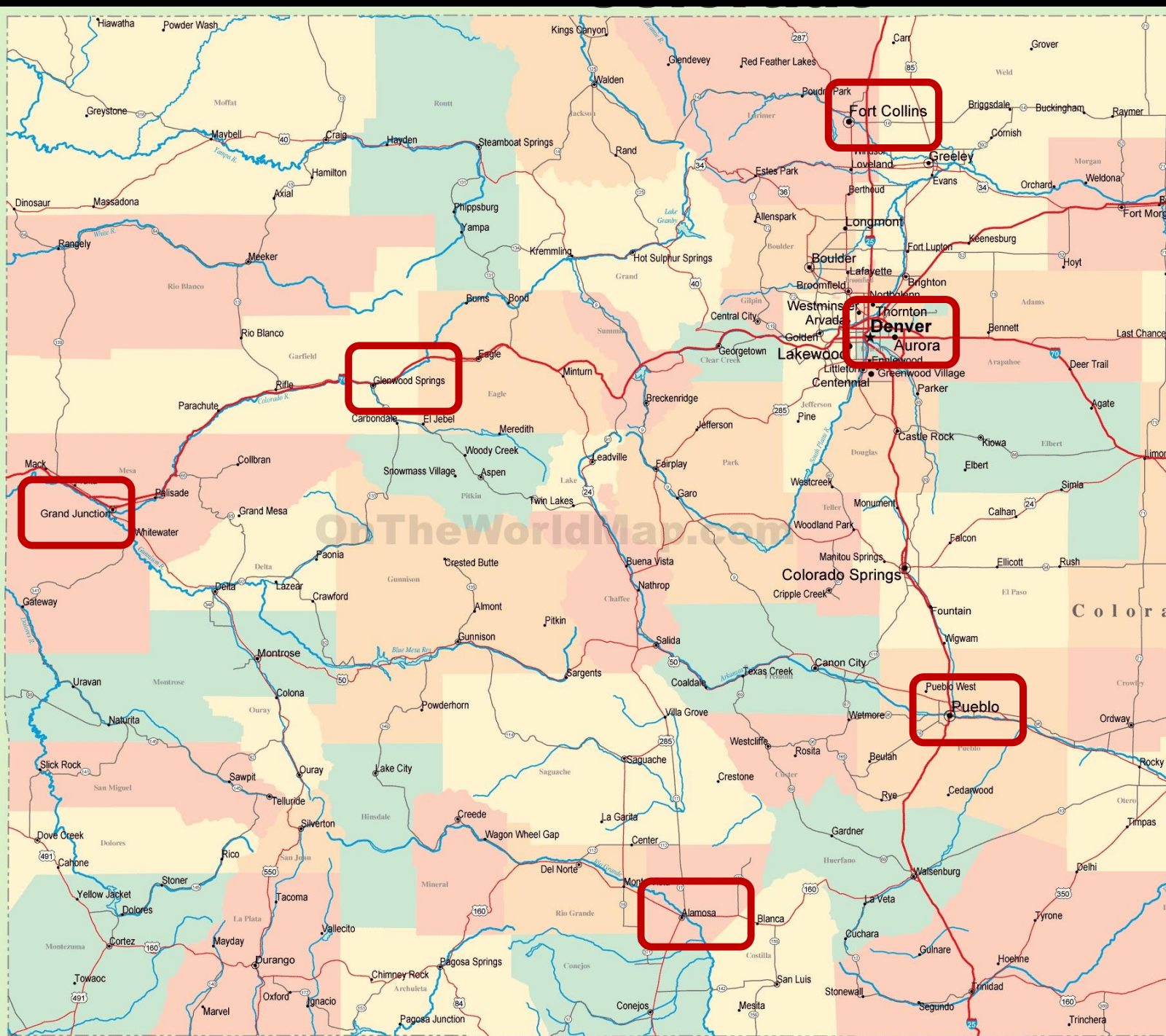
- **Administer 5 web-based digital storytelling workshops (25 hours each workshop) featuring 50 individuals**
- **Convene a committee of 6 informal project advisors (\$500 ea; 5 hours)**
- **Evaluation project (now approved by human subjects committee @ UCD)**

Video were produced as part of the project "Naloxone Champions: Digital Success Stories of Reversing Opioid Overdoses" with funds from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 'Overdose Data to Action' grant. For more information contact Marty Otañez, Project Leader and Associate Professor, Anthropology Department, CU Denver, [Marty.Otanez@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Marty.Otanez@ucdenver.edu)

This was a video-based project to destigmatize Narcan (Naloxone) and promote harm reduction strategies in Colorado. Story themes included opioid use, overdose prevention and Narcan (Naloxone) as a life-



- MO- project leader
- 4 student assistants/vid editors
- 12 hours DS training, interviewing
- Contacts at local syringe exchange programs in 6 cities/towns



## PROJECT SITES

Harm Reduction Action Center, Denver

Colorado Village Collaborative, Denver

Northern Colorado Health Network  
Fort Collins

Southern Colorado Health Network  
Pueblo

High Rockies Harm Reduction  
Glenwood Springs

San Luis Valley Area Health Education  
Center, Alamosa

## METHODS

- Library/literature review
- **Digital storytelling**
- **Semi-structured interviews**
- Community video screenings
- Guided audience-storytellers discussion and Q/A
- Short survey at screenings
- Web survey



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## Have you ever helped to reverse a drug overdose?

Share your story in a digital storytelling workshop (up to 24 hours of training) focused on drug overdose prevention and harm reduction

Receive a King Soopers/City Market e-gift card (\$250.)

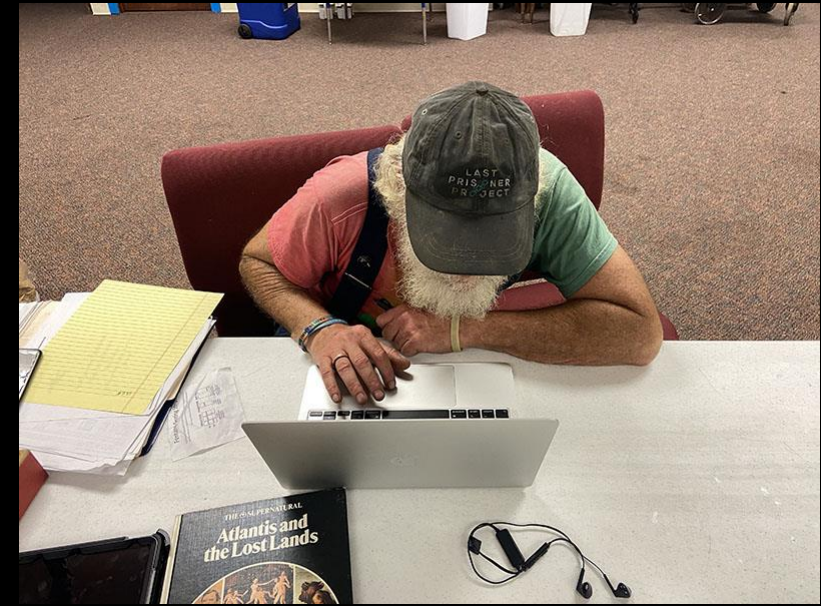
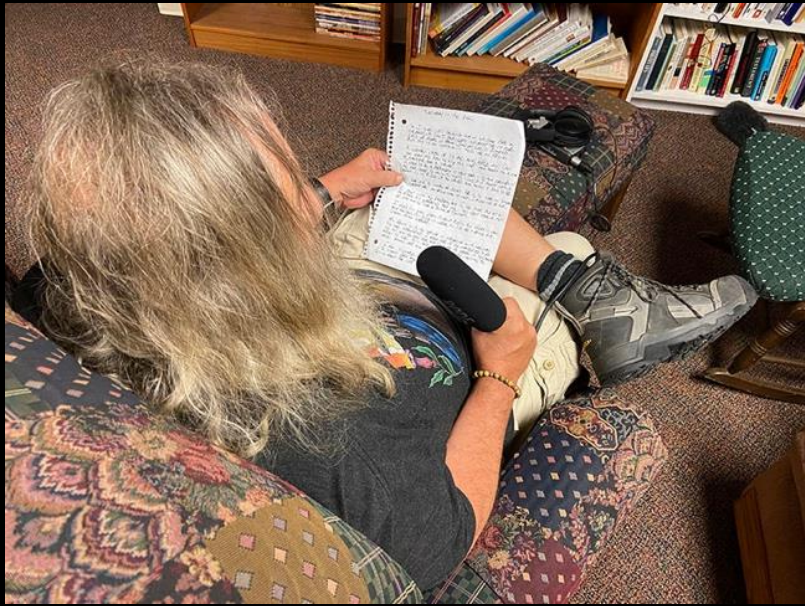
This is a digital storytelling project for people who have attempted to reverse an opioid overdose or used naloxone to reverse a drug overdose.



### Project Information

- Complete the registration form
- One virtual workshop option and four in-person workshop options (Denver, Pueblo, Grand Junction and Carbondale)
- Participants must be 18 years or older and be a Colorado resident
- No experience in video making is needed

Visit [clas.ucdenver.edu/anthropology/digital-storytelling-project](https://clas.ucdenver.edu/anthropology/digital-storytelling-project) for more information or contact [Marty.Otanez@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Marty.Otanez@ucdenver.edu), Anthropology Department, University of Colorado Denver



## DIGITAL STORYTELLING

- Method and process for creating videos with 1st person narration, images, text and music
- Intersects with photovoice approaches, telenovelas, video diaries, therapeutic videos
- Individuals produce DS w support from facilitators in a workshop setting (e.g., 24 hours)
- Voice, greater sense of self, control in hands of storyteller; story circle DS soul; collective solidarity
- Concerns: Influence of co-facilitators on story creation, and process tends to produce sad stories

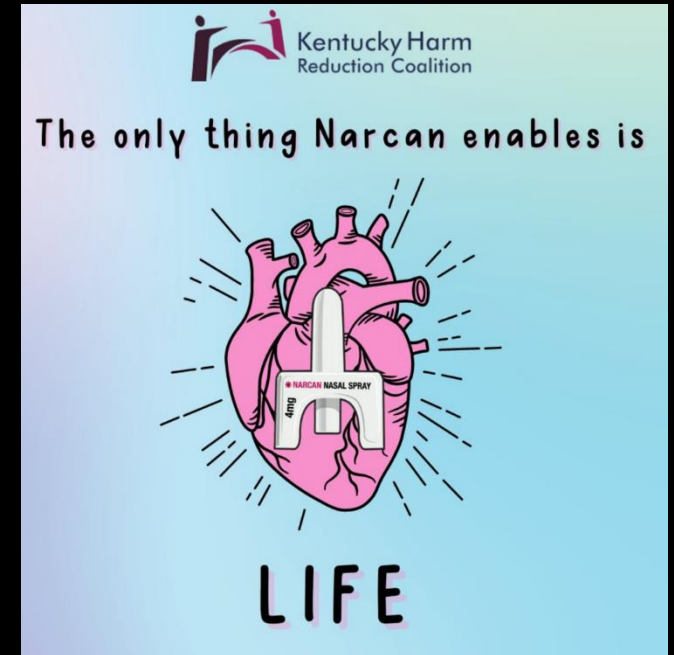
# Problem 1. Public health messages forced into personal stories

- 'reduce drug use;' 'seek treatment for addiction'
- 'carry Narcan,' 'giving free syringes is not enabling'

Prioritizing evidence-based health messaging in participants' narratives undermines voices of storytellers and authenticity of digital stories

Find a balance bw crafting health communication resources and honoring individuals' genuine lived experiences

Provide space for participants to share experiences and not be used as public health props



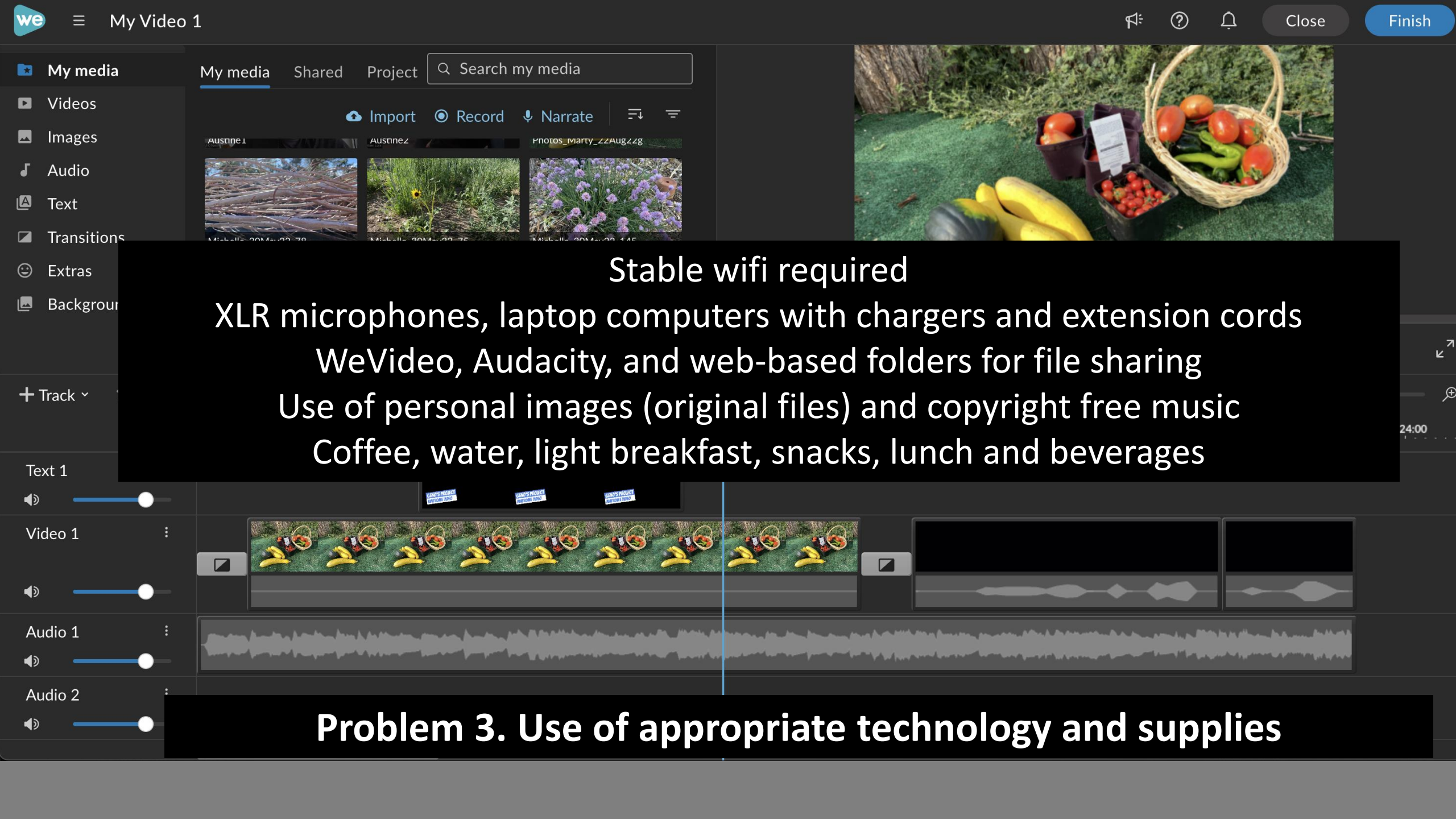
## **Problem 2. Identification of story prompt consistent with project themes and interests of study participants**

A story prompt that is too narrow OR too broad may create confusion among participants

Discuss prompt with storytellers and alter on an as needed basis

Begin workshop with a five-minute writing exercise with a story prompt to determine if prompt fits with group members and their experiences





Stable wifi required

XLR microphones, laptop computers with chargers and extension cords

WeVideo, Audacity, and web-based folders for file sharing

Use of personal images (original files) and copyright free music

Coffee, water, light breakfast, snacks, lunch and beverages

**Problem 3. Use of appropriate technology and supplies**



- My media
- Videos
- Images
- Audio
- Text
- Transitions
- Extras
- Backgrounds

My media Shared Project Search my media

Import Record Narrate

Michelle\_30May22\_78 Michelle\_30May22\_75 Michelle\_30May22\_145 Michelle\_30May22\_136

16:9

00:10:44 / 00:23:04

Track Undo Redo Marker Split Audio & Opacity Edit Filters Delete

0:00 00:02:00 00:04:00 00:06:00 00:08:00 00:10:00 00:12:00 00:14:00 00:16:00 00:18:00 00:20:00 00:22:00 00:24:00

- Text 1
- Video 1
- Audio 1
- Audio 2

Playhead

Due to recruitment challenges for workshops,  
project pivoted to the semi-structured interview method



Do you want to end prejudice against drug users?

**Share Your Story About Drug Use And  
Narcan (Naloxone) To Save Lives**

You Have The Option To Disguise Your Face And Voice.

Stories Will Be Shared Publicly And On The Internet.

REGISTER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/33krk86v>

Or Contact Marty.Otanez@ucdenver.edu, 415 306 4754



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment



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**RECORD YOUR STORY TODAY**

**\$40.**

RECEIVE KING SOOPERS GIFT CARD #1 FOR  
COMPLETING A STORY RECORDING (UP TO 30 MINS.)

**\$40.**

RECEIVE KING SOOPERS GIFT CARD #2 AFTER  
REVIEWING/FINALIZING YOUR STORY (UP TO 30 MINS.)

**\$15.**

RECEIVE KING SOOPERS GIFT CARD #3 AFTER ATTEND-  
ING A COMMUNITY SCREENING OF STORIES (1 HOUR)

# Story Collection Process (20 July-31 August)

- 1 DS workshop (16 hrs) with 6 people (GJ)
- 4 hours at 7 sites (70 storytellers; 5 visits per site; 4K miles)
- Table or project poster w project details, consent form and gift card tracking form; pre-screening
- 30-minute audio recorded conversations; informed by an interview guide
- Lapel mic or mic on a stand connected to digital audio recorder
- 65 of 76 participants chose audio only





## THEMES

- Naloxone, when available, works
- Repeat overdoses
- Alternative practices to reverse overdoses (e.g., cold water, ice in/around private parts, slapping, meth injection)
- Community; care for each other
- Chronic stigmatization
- Harmful practices- using alone, mix heroin w fentanyl and other substances

Share a time when you or a person you know overdosed and naran was used.

Have you ever been stigmatized because of your use of heroin?

Tell me about the syringe exchange program and why you are here today.



## SECONDARY THEMES

- Fentanyl; blues
- Loneliness/isolation
- Drug use as suicide prevention
- Intentional overdoses



## DRAFT VIDEO FEEDBACK GUIDE

- What worked well in the video?
- What could be improved in the video?
- Is there any info presented by storyteller that needs to be addressed bc it is not factual?
- Suggestions for resources in video

# Problem 1. Avoid trauma porn

- People who use drugs may present themselves as experiencing trauma or other mental health challenges; avoid exoticization
- Check in with participant; if necessary, stop interview and connect person with health worker. Offer a resources handout
- Discuss cases with advisory committee members to obtain input



## Problem 2. Destigmatize PWUD without Restigmatizing

- PWUD may self-stigmatize ('junkie,' attempt naloxone injection with cap on)
- Strike a balance bw discriminatory self-representations and counter-storytelling themes
- Consult with advisory committee members on draft stories/interview transcripts to address self-stigmas

Hands  
Nights fading, the wind cuts cold, sporadic bursts of rain then snow. I can't feel my face anymore, & my entire body aches. I can't do this much longer.

I remember my son as a young boy watching me struggle. All I ever wanted was to be a great mom, provide a stable home. But I really didn't have much to work with.

I cried often and he would put his arm around me, saying "momma you got this, you're so strong."

As a teenage mom I had no idea ~~what I was doing~~ to remind me to breathe when I was overwhelmed. He understood me in a way no one else could, as we grew up together.

I peer over my husband's shoulder at the black box strapped to the front of the Harley, it seems safe, suddenly I can keep going.

The call woke me up from a dead sleep I heard my daughter's crying. Before she could get the words out I felt my heart pounding. It had started with oxycodone years before and had quickly transgressed to

no idea  
what I  
was doing

## Problem 3. Ethics and Representations

Do no harm; participants should not experience hardship due to involvement in projects (loss of employment, retraumatization)

Consent/recording release forms necessary but insufficient

High likelihood that several participants were active users during interviews (vulnerable but likely easier for them to converse)

Communication & guidance from on-site health workers

Use of personal rather than stock images is ideal

### FREE Community Screening of Short Videos about Drug Overdose Reversal and Narcan in Alamosa, Colorado



**Carson Auditorium, Adams State University, Alamosa**  
**6:30-8:30pm Wednesday, August 25**

The screening includes food and beverages, an audience discussion, and brief survey. The screening is part of the project "Naloxone Champions: Digital Success Stories of Reversing Opioid Overdoses" funded by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 'Overdose Data to Action' grant.

For info contact [Marty.Otanez@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Marty.Otanez@ucdenver.edu), Project Leader  
Anthropology Department, CU Denver, [naloxonechampions.org](http://naloxonechampions.org)



**#EndOverdoseCO**



# ONGOING WORK

- Write-up using interpretive analysis
- Publish a book-length graphic novel
- Produce a methods video
- Complete peer support training
- Build support for end war on drugs, stop criminalization of PWUD, safe drug supplies and overdose prevention sites (HB23-1202); [www.codpc.org](http://www.codpc.org)



# Acknowledgments

- Harm Reduction Action Center
- Colorado Village Collaborative
- Northern Colorado Health Network
- Southern Colorado Health Network
- High Rockies Harm Reduction
- San Luis Valley Area Health Education Center



**Advisory committee members:** Shannon Robinson, Lisa Raville, Maggie Seldeen, Steve Koester, Sarah Money, Angela Lee-Winn, Mary Ozanic

**Funds:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 'Overdose Data to Action' grant