

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2023 via Zoom

Present:

Jenny Hill, Rica Rodriguez, Co-chairs
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180
Jacob Merrion, COPA
Butch Lewis, CARR
Celique Hatcher, The Steadman Group
Graham Fritz, Denver Public Library
Megan Colwell, Face it TOGETHER
Victor King, Mental Health Partners
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery
Darin Valdez, Colorado Artists in Recovery
Alia Andrews, CDHS
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Becky Milanski, Longmont Recovery Cafe
Heather Dolan, Signal Behavioral Health Network
Michael Sanchez, P2P Recovery Resources
Mika Mumme, The Phoenix
Alexandra Arnaiz, Arapahoe County Public Health
Brandi Drtina, North Colorado Health Alliance
BHA: Stephanie Salkin, Jody Gamel
Consortium: Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Lindsey Simbeye, Jennifer Mackender, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster

Program Manager Jen Place called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. She reviewed the work group's mission, norms, and focus areas.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the December 2022 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Public Relations:

One-page guidance document: Updates are planned for the one-page guidance document created by the work group as part of the statewide strategic plan to promote recovery. Jen asked work group members to review the document and provide comments. Link to document: <https://corxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/Supporting-Recovery-Recovery-Initiative.pdf>

Recovery-Friendly Workplace Initiative update: John Narine is leading this initiative in collaboration with the university Center for Health Work and Environment. The center is promoting the workplace toolkit. The goal of the initiative is to foster a workplace culture in Colorado where employers understand, promote, and value employee recovery.

The Consortium will be creating an additional work group focused on this initiative. The first stakeholder meeting to discuss the new work group is planned for Tuesday, January 24th from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. All Recovery Work Group members are invited to attend. Others from the business community will also be invited to attend. Jen asked for member comments:

Jenny Hill suggested contacting nonprofit and government human resource departments to promote the toolkit.

Tonya Wheeler said her staff could assist with the new work group. She mentioned that probation offices may have listings of recovery-friendly employers.

Jen indicated that there are plans to develop a certificate or some kind of recognition for businesses that are or become recovery friendly. John has been gathering information on other states' practices. In some instances, businesses can obtain tax credits. The Colorado AG's office is interested in promoting recovery principles in the state.

Angie Bertrand said that recovery organizations could offer educational resources to employers and employees.

Jen said the toolkit is already being introduced to employee assistance programs and queries have been received from school districts.

Ignacio Retreat: The retreat planned for February has been postponed and may now be held on May 20th. More information will be forthcoming.

BHA Recovery Support Services/RCO Director for Colorado: The BHA is developing a Recovery Support Services/RCO directory for Colorado:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfWHDbXGGkhtQR7SljJ2La0GHI2sYx_Br0TPNql3PBics_AA/viewform?usp=sf_link.

For additional information: Alia Andrews at alia.andrews2@state.co.us

Grace Kane said she has a listing of all RCOs in Colorado and will provide that information to Alia.

Data:

Two questions are being submitted to the state's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey. The Consortium is funding the submissions. Work group members also discussed the recovery capital index and trends, which will be published soon and disseminated to work group members.

Formalization of the Peer Support Professional Field:

One of the work group objectives pertains to formalization of the peer support field. The Behavioral Health Administration is developing rules related to recovery support services organizations, which may also affect other related agencies. Comments regarding the proposed rules can be made online through January 11th. The rules address the role and scope of peer support professionals and their supervision.

BH Recovery Support Service Organization Rules: <https://bha.colorado.gov/resources/laws-rules>

Members discussed the report “Building the Peer Support Professional Workforce in Colorado.” A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

Upcoming Training:

Trauma in the Workplace Series: first of four sessions starts January 19th. To register: https://rutgers.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0tce6przovGNUb5haBIRvGk3aBvb-F_f34

Peer Support Professional Symposia: Otero County (January 19th); Alamosa: justice system-focus (March 8-10th); Virtual one-day (February 24th).

Funding Announcements/Updates:

The Colorado Health Foundation recovery support grant due February 2023 <https://coloradohealth.org/funding-opportunities/funding-opportunity-supporting-coloradans-recovery-through-non-clinical>

BHA funding - \$130 million. There are four different grant programs related to [Senate Bill 22-196](#) and [House Bill 22-1281](#): Community Investment Grant Program \$34 million; Children, Youth & Families Grant Program \$39 million; Substance Use Workforce Stability Grant Program \$14 million; Criminal Justice Early Intervention Grant Program \$49 million. The [BHA Funding Opportunities](#) webpage has more information on the grant process, application requirements, and review timeline.

Gina Olberding provided an update on BHA funding.

Salkin said the BHA is focusing on harm reduction, including naloxone and fentanyl test strip distribution.

Rica Rodriguez mentioned the harm reduction work being done by Life-line Colorado: <https://life-linecolorado.org/>

Consortium Announcements/Updates:

Grant Writing Assistance: <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/>

Fentanyl Awareness Campaign – www.keepthepartysafe.org

Lindsey Simbeye provided an update of Consortium harm reduction work being done with school districts across the state. She suggested work group members consider forming a smaller group to assist the ER staff in identifying resources to help address needs in school districts. Two school districts (Summit and Routt counties) are considering policies that will allow students to carry naloxone on campus. Delta County currently has an individualized agreement that will allow students to carry naloxone.

Salkin mentioned that the BHA now has a full-time youth advisor who might be able to assist.

Jennifer Mackender said that the Denver Public School District is sponsoring a community education event for families on January 18th from 6–7 p.m.

Guest & Member Announcements:

Victor King is seeking Spanish-speaking peer support specialists that have Spanish-speaking clientele. He mentioned a new version of recovery training recently translated into Spanish. Rica said she would contact Victor with information on Spanish-speaking coaches. Both Alia Andrews and Becky Milanski are also interested in this topic.

Darin Valdez updated members on CAiR workshops and other events his organization is organizing on a regular basis:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11ZtSKrAb0FV4Rq3q1jrAYs7eP0W-qyET/view?usp=sharing>

Angie Bertrand is planning an in-person Recovery Coach Academy event in February (Western Slope).

Becky Milanski said the Longmont Recovery Café has an open mic night every first Friday of the month. She will provide a flyer of their events.

Jacob Merrion announced scholarships are still available. For information:
<https://coprovidersassociation.org/certifications/apply-for-certification/>

Grace Kane said Serenity Recovery Connection provides the first month's rent at sober living homes in Colorado Springs while working with a recovery coach.

Heather Dolan said Signal Behavioral Health's website has information regarding recovery scholarships: <https://signalbhn.org/>

Job Announcements:

Peer180 RCO is seeking a Youth Recovery Coach. For Information:
GrandJunctionRecovery@gmail.com

The Denver Public Library plans to hire a new peer supervisor. Graham Fritz will be providing an announcement. For information: gfritz@denverlibrary.org

The Phoenix, Denver, plans to hire a Chief Program Officer, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Lead, and Remote Software Engineer. For information: <https://thephoenix.org/careers/>

The Denver County Court has an opening for a Forensic Peer Supervisor:
https://www.careersingovernment.com/job/592590/forensic-peer-supervisor-denver-countycourt/?utm_campaign=google_jobs_apply&utm_source=google_jobs_apply&utm_medium=organic

Jen asked members to send her job descriptions for inclusion in a data bank she is preparing. Grace Kane said she has job descriptions available for peer coaches in the Emergency Medical Department, peer coaches with justice-involved citizens, and triage peer coaches.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, "Building the Peer Support Professional Workforce in Colorado"