

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Jennifer Loth-Hill, Co-chair, DDPHE
Carly Larson, Co-chair, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners
Chris Conn, Spero Recovery
Stephanie Salkin, OBH
Steven Wells, OBH
Hope Hyatt, Colorado Mental Wellness Network
Alia Andrews, CDHS
Casey White, Axis Health System
Susanna Velie, My Christ Life
Stephanie Menke, Inspiration Consulting
Coreen Braden, Young People in Recovery
Alia Andrews, CDHS
David Huff, Community Member
Mike Mielke, The Phoenix
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Victor King, Mental Health Partners
Tracey Ritter, CRAFT-P/TCHD Work Study Group
Maggie Seldeen, Mind Springs Health
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
James Gannon, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Brian Tierney, Red Rock Recovery Center
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180 RCO
Susanna Bailey
AmeriCorps: Julia Deziel, Grey Ayverson
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Jamie Feld, Judy Solano, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell
Absent: See attached roster.

Carly Larson, Work Group Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the December 2020 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Work Group Business Items:

Jenny Loth-Hill announced she would be stepping down as work group co-chair due to additional responsibilities she has been assigned in her position with DDPHE. Individuals interested in assuming the co-chair role were encouraged to contact Carly Larson carly@rmmispartners.org or Jen Place Jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu.

ED-RSS updates from Memorial/SRC and Swedish/AFR Colorado:

James Gannon reported for Swedish/AFR. They will be allowed to continue their work within the ED some time in mid-February. They have seen a large increase in overdoses, in particular related to fentanyl. During the past month, they were able to engage 6 people out of 17 and an additional 4 from past contact. Jen noted that SRC was also not allowed into the ED due to COVID-19 restrictions, but will be allowed to continue their ED work once a number of people receive vaccinations.

The ED-RSS reports are attached to the minutes.

Legislative Update:

Jose Esquibel mentioned that Sen. Pettersen and Rep. Kennedy, who are on the Interim Study Committee, are working to restore funding cuts. They are also planning to add RCO funding into a new bill this year. A new bill will include RCO statute definitions. Work group participants will be asked to attend legislative sessions when this bill is introduced. A draft of the new bill will be circulated to work group members.

Strategic Plan Objectives:

Public Relations – Jen Place and Jose Esquibel provided background on the existing Facebook page developed as part of the Recovery Ready Colorado program in 2017, which was launched through the Attorney General's office. The page requires updating. Lindsey Simbeye provided the following update suggestions and comments:

1. Target audience - Identify target audience, i.e., peers, organizations supporting recovery, individuals searching for recovery resources.
2. Content - Topics could include recovery community best practices, new initiatives, events, job postings.
3. Posting - Should all work group members have the opportunity to provide posts on the page? If so, an approval process should be put in place to assure uniformity.
4. Advocacy.

Jose stressed the importance of housing, employment, and education issues related to individuals in recovery, the necessity of community support, and expanding community awareness of individuals requiring community support. Statewide recovery promotion efforts can raise awareness among community officials and members. Communities need to be prepared to help support and advocate for those in recovery. Work group members discussed the importance of advocacy.

Work Group Member Suggestions/Comments:

Potential Facebook target audience: Communities as a whole, community members, recovery organizations and recovery support in general

Facebook format: organize events in separate area of the page so they are not lost within the news feed.

Posts and engagements drive traffic to a Facebook page.

Prepare a plan, policies, and content calendar to identify who is responsible for various page activities, the page structure, and the posting frequency and uniformity. Subjects can be posted on specific days. Mondays could be the day for topics related to advocacy, Tuesdays could address stigma and appropriate language, Wednesday recovery stories, Thursdays information and resource sharing, other days affected families and training. Topic headings should be consistent. Job postings and events could be added sporadically.

Hashtags, such as #recoveryreadycolorado for example, are “content aggregators” that are used to connect to others using the same hashtag.

Posting of personal videos of recovery experiences.

Important recovery-related announcements and general information.

Lindsey suggested a subcommittee could address the Facebook project and asked work group members to contact her or Jen if they would like to participate.

Lindsey.simbeye@cuanschutz.edu or Jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

ROSC (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) – Tonya Wheeler provided a history of ROSC. In 2008, a bill was passed that stated all services for behavior health must be equal to services covered by insurance for medical issues. She also explained some of the issues associated with insurance coverage and that individuals have a right to be informed about their coverage rights. The BARC 10 questionnaire was also presented and discussed with work group members. The questionnaire and ROSC can be promoted and utilized by treatment providers.

SAMHSA ROSC Toolkit:

https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/rosc_resource_guide_book.pdf

Professionalization – Carly Larson summarized the discussions held during the last meeting’s breakout session, including the lack of peer services in the state, workforce standards, and identifying pathways for certification and recertification. Currently, there is a lack of standardization within the recovery services workforce and a lack of appropriate supervision by supervisors trained in peer support services. The Colorado Peer and Family Specialist Certification Committee has established supervision guidance for peer support specialists. The Facebook page could contain posts related to peer support specialists and their concerns and challenges.

Member Announcements & Updates:

There may be additional funding through the CARES Act for grants and the continuation of the grant-writing program. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.

Link to the OBH RFP related to FY21 Adult Treatment & Recovery: <https://codpa-vss.cloud.cgifederal.com/webapp/PRDVSS2X1/AltSelfService>

RFP IHJA 2021000161 or search using any of the key words in the title, e.g., "Recovery."

Any questions can be directed to raven.lopez@state.co.us

Embark Peer Coach Academy is conducting an RCO Development Workshop on January 15th as part of their RCO Development Series. Embark/ PCA Colorado rod@pcacolorado.com

Link to the executed contracts for OBH (description for the SOR 2 new RCO section):
<https://cdhs.colorado.gov/behavioral-health/contracts>

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners has a peer specialist position opening.
<https://rmcrisispartners.org/home/about/rmcp-hiring/>

Colorado Mental Wellness Network is hiring. <https://cmwn.org/mission-board-staff/employment-internships/> or Hope Hyatt, email: hope@cmwn.org

Advocates for Recovery is seeking a peer recovery coach. Email and resume can be sent to Tonya Wheeler tonyawheeler@advocatesforrecovery.org

The Partnership serving northwest Colorado is hiring four positions for peer support and case management as they build a community reintegration program in the northwest region. Link: <https://thehealthpartnership.org/employment/>

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

The agenda will include a discussion of Mental Health Colorado's draft bill that aims to create a category of service providers (Recovery Support Services Organization) to bill Medicaid.

Attachments:

ED-RSS Reports

List of absent work group members