

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023 from 4:30 – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Rica Rodriguez, Betsy Craft, Co-chairs
Jacob Merrion, COPA
Laura Allem, Advocates for Recovery
Ernest Bilinski, CDPHE
Grace Kane, Community Resource Specialist
Keith Pinter, Community Member
Alia Andrews, BHA
Wendy Sachs, Behavioral Health Group
Megan Colwell, Face it Together
Vince Huseman, The Phoenix
Frank Montesano, Serenity Recovery Connection
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180
Jessica Angleson, Community Member
Gary Coleman, CU Anschutz
Jazmyn Gray, Cross Purpose
Heather Anderson, Benefits in Action
Darin Valdez, CAiR
Community Wellness, Angela Govea, Rebecca Stieb
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Jen Place, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster.

Co-chair Betsy Craft called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Betsy reviewed the work group's mission, norms, and focus areas: The Recovery Work Group aims to engage communities and professionals in the role of recovery in the continuum of care while expanding equitable access to inclusive recovery support services through collaboration, shared data, mobilization of funding, and policy development. The following was added to the mission statement:

We accomplish this mission through legislative and community advocacy, promoting recovery-related services and events, supporting the development of quality RCO and peer support services, and valuing the role of data collection.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Partner Updates:

Alia Andrews, BHA: The BHA is preparing a statement of work, which includes peers and recovery community organizations. Alia asked work group members to provide commentary for the statement of work as it pertains to the role and duties of peers.

Comments:

Grace Kane: Peers should not make medication suggestions or anything medication related or assume clinical duties.

Angie Bertrand: Within a mental health environment, peers are often asked to monitor medications and ask to physically restrain people, which is beyond the scope of their duties.

Jacob Merrion: Peers should not provide assessments and plans that are outside of recovery, i.e., diagnostic and treatment plans.

Alia Andrews: Recovery assessments can be done by peers.

Betsy Craft: Peers should not be involved in meeting with incarcerated individuals in order to prevent a court order. There should be limitations on the level of involvement.

Wendy Sachs: As a forensic peer navigator, it is not unusual to be present in court to support clients. We also use advocacy skills to help probation officers and other officers of the court if necessary.

Peer Support Professionals Association Update: Hope Hyatt

Hope was unable to attend the meeting and will provide an update during the next work group meeting in February.

2024 Planning/Focus Areas:

- Supporting Collegiate Recovery Chapters
- PSPs in correctional facilities
- Supporting diversity training for PSPs
- Commercial insurance coverage for PSPs
- Colorado Recovery Summit/Conference
- Recovery Data

Betsy reviewed past work group events, including those associated with Overdose Awareness Day. Jose Esquibel suggested contacting several groups associated with collegiate fields, including the Sober AF Project (Duke Rumely). Jose said he would provide additional contact information. Betsy will also check with CSU Global. Angela Govea said she would like to become involved in planning efforts.

Jose mentioned the County Sheriffs of Colorado's interest in improving continuity of care for those involved in the justice system. A recent survey was sent to Consortium members and will also be sent to Recovery Work Group members.

Grace Kane suggested the work group contact Rachel Fowler with Serenity Recovery Connection. Rachel provides peer support training within jails.

Jen Place: The BHA has workforce development grants currently under review that include training and development of peer support professionals within the state. Jen suggested waiting to see how the grants are awarded before developing any peer specific projects.

Work group members discussed commercial insurance coverage for peer support professionals.

Jose said this effort would involve legislation and would also require a sizable enough credentialed profession. He suggested DORA oversight would be necessary and that the work group could also look into how other states have developed programs.

Jacob Merrion suggested the Department of Labor might be helpful with setting job standards.

Alia Andrews: Alia has a listing with Medicaid codes that she can provide to work group members. Certified peers who are under the supervision of a licensed clinician can bill Medicaid.

Jen Place: Jen suggested a small subcommittee could find out what other states are doing and could also contact commercial insurers. Some community mental health center peers may now be receiving reimbursement through commercial insurance. Alia Andrews volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

Jazmyn Gray: Cross Purpose organized a recovery jam last year with a number of community partners. Cross Purpose plans to organize another event in the future.

Laura Allem: Faces & Voices of Recovery is planning a conference in Denver in October of 2024.

Grace Kane: Grace asked about developing a yearly calendar of events.

Jen Place said she could mention this to Michael Davidson, Consortium webmaster, but that it might be cumbersome to put something like this together. She will provide more information during the February meeting.

Jen said the work group has participated in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance statewide survey over the past several years and would like to obtain work group input regarding the value of continuing to participate. This subject will be added to the February meeting agenda.

Public Relations: Events can be submitted to the co-chairs or program manager for Facebook posting.

- Rica Rodriguez Promotores5280@gmail.com
- Betsy Craft betsy.craft@csuglobal.edu
- Jen Place Jennifer.Place@cuanschultz.edu

Members interested in jail related matters:

- Shana Shaw, Arapahoe County and Youth Offender Services Compassion. free@gmail.com
- Angie Bertrand, GrandJunctionRecovery@gmail.com

Members interested in recovery conference planning:

- Jazmyn Gray JGray@crosspurpose.org

- Angela Govea, Milestone Community Wellness, angela.govea@milestonecommunitywellness.org
- Angie Bertrand, GrandJunctionRecovery@gmail.com Angie has organized recovery conferences in Glenwood Springs. She suggested that September Recovery Month would be an appropriate date. There is also another large conference being held in Durango and Colorado Springs. It would be helpful to have a listing of the various events before planning another one.
- Rica Rodriguez-Hernández: Promotores5280@gmail.com
- Jessica Angleson: Interested in collaborating with Faces & Voices of Recovery conference in Denver. jessica.angleson@gmail.com
- Heather Anderson: hander48@msudenver.edu

Members interested in commercial insurance billing:

- Jessica Angleson: Interested in the billing/commercial insurance coverage focus area. jessica.angleson@gmail.com

Recovery Resources:

[Peer Recovery Center of Excellence](#): Materials, meetings, communities of practice and more. Join their monthly meetings and become a featured stakeholder by applying [here](#).

Information about data and evaluation: <https://peerrecoverynow.org/series/program-evaluation-research-learning-exchanges/>

Collegiate Recovery Community link: <https://roadrunnerlink.msudenver.edu/organization/rowdyrecovery>

Consortium Announcements:

Jen Place summarized pending legislation and the opportunity for work group members to provide testimony. Information on pending bills will be emailed to the work group. The current Recovery Bill Draft (Bill D) can be found [here](#).

Recovering from Benzodiazepines for Peer Specialists training. The January course is currently accepting Colorado registrants. <https://corxconsortium.org/projects/benzo-peer-support/>

Grant Writing Assistance – not available at present. <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/>

Guest/Member Announcements:

CAiR events in Northern Colorado: <https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org/northern-colorado-events>

For individuals struggling with methamphetamine: Individuals who have previously attended treatment and have returned to use may be eligible to participate in an Anschutz project studying deep brain stimulation impact on recovery. Inpatient treatment at CeDAR is included as well as 12 weeks IOP and 1 year of follow-up. <https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/psychiatry/research/faculty-labs/cona-lab>

Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT) virtual Train-the-Trainer opportunity for both new CRAFT trainees and those who have previously completed the 16-hour course with Jessica Triplett and would like a refresher.

- Day 1 – Thursday, January 18: 8:30 am-12:30 pm (new trainee)
- Day 2 – Thursday, January 25: 8:30 am-12:30 pm (new trainee and refresher)
- Day 3 – Thursday, February 1: 8:30 am-12:30 pm (new trainee and refresher)
- Day 4 – Thursday, February 8: 8:30 am-12:30 pm (new trainee and refresher)

Link to register: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/30624ae621774b01a9c2dd55d3ae6d1d>

Job Announcements:

- Rooted 303 Peer Recovery Coach position:
<https://www.rooted303.com/employment>
- Serenity Recovery Connection: Four positions open for work in a justice setting (required to be off paper for 2 years):
<https://serenityrecoveryconnection.bamboohr.com/careers/23?source=aWQ9Mjl%3D>
- Colorado Village Collaborative peer positions available:
<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/All/c35955cf-4464-422c-902c-3fb599341454/Colorado-Village-Collaborative>
- CU – <https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/moresearch.ftl?lang=en> .2 FTE Peer Support Supervisor for MAT Expansion Program (“Open Rank Peer Support Specialist – 31979)
- Denver Health - Transforming Health by Reducing Inequities for the Vulnerable (THRIVE) program just posted a new [Supervisor position](#) to oversee a new peer-based engagement team. This program will help bolster care navigation and support for patients with behavioral health conditions across the organization with a specific focus on those living with SUD, experiencing homelessness, and/or justice system involvement.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Attachment: Work group roster