

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023 via Zoom

Present:

Rica Rodriguez, Co-chair
Jacob Merrion, COPA
John Narine, Recovery Friendly Leader
Laura Allem, Advocates for Recovery
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Gary Coleman, CU Anschutz
Becky Milanski, Boulder County Public Health
Brandi Casto, Universal Health
Waltrina DeFrantz-Dufor, Denver University
Ernest Bilinski, CDPHE
Darin Valdez, Colorado Artists in Recovery
Kindra Faulkner, Oxford House
Wendy Sachs, Denver County Court
Hailima Yates, Hazelbrook
Jazmyn Gray, Cross Purpose
Andrea Turk, Jefferson Center for Mental Health
BHA, Alia Andrews, Danielle Gillespie
Serenity Recovery Connection, Laura Indermuehle, Grace Kane, Frank Montesano
Colorado Mental Wellness Network: Hope Hyatt, Wildner Hickney
Recovery Café Longmont, Chris Ray, Jen Jepson
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Jen Place, Shayna Micucci, Lindsey Simbeye, Eric Barker, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster.

Co-chair Rica Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. She reviewed the work group's mission, norms, and focus areas.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Co-chair Recruitment:

Both Rica and Jenny Loth-Hill will be stepping down as co-chairs due to work commitments. Nominations for the co-chair positions are now open. Co-chair duties were briefly discussed. Co-chair suggestions can be emailed directly to Jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

Formalization of the Peer Support Professional Field:

Hope Hyatt, Colorado Association of Peer Support Professionals. Hope described the goals of the association, which include addressing misinformation regarding the roles and responsibilities of peer professionals, advocacy, and peer professional training and advancement. First year membership in the association is free:

<https://coloradopeersupport.com/> Membership includes quarterly networking events. The first networking event will be held in December. Training events will be held on a monthly basis. To join the mailing list: <https://form.jotform.com/202086109140141>
For more information: association@cmw.org

Colorado Hospital Association/Consortium Proposal for Colorado Opioid Abatement Council's Innovation Grant funds. Funding was limited and many requests were received. This effort was not selected. There may be other funding opportunities to pursue, particularly with CDPHE.

Faces and Voices of Recovery Report: [Unlocking the Potential of RCOs and Peer Recovery Support Services](#)

Behavioral Health Administration RFA: Alia Andrews reported on the recently issued RFA. The BHA is currently seeking to expand and advance professional opportunities for Colorado peer support professionals who have experience living with a mental health and/or substance use disorder. Additional information can be found in the Vendor Self Service Portal: <http://www.colorado.gov/vss>. Applicants are required to be registered in order to receive an award and communications. Complete instructions for becoming a registered vendor are provided in the documents located on the VSS site. For additional help with the VSS site, email VSSHelp@state.co.us

Promotion of All Things Recovery:

Work group members reported on Recovery Month activities and events held statewide.

The next meeting date of the Recovery Friendly Workplace Work Group is on Monday, November 20th from 2-3 p.m. Events are scheduled in northwest Colorado (Routt and Moffat counties). The initiative will be discussed during the Consortium Annual Meeting. More information about outreach for this initiative can be found here: [Colorado's Recovery Friendly Workplace Pledge](#).

2024 Colorado Recovery Summit/Conference – no meetings yet.

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/RecoveryReadyColorado>. Events/photos can be sent to Jen Place for posting: jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

Data:

Recovery Capital Survey. Participants working in peer support capacities were asked to ensure their respective agencies completed the survey:
https://ucdenver.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cBhJEmFVX7Q8wTk

Consortium Announcements/Updates:

The Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee has drafted a recovery bill. The most recent version of the bill is available online:
<https://leg.colorado.gov/content/iopioidsubstance2023alegislation>

The 11th Consortium Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, October 26th both in person and virtually. In person registration closes on October 13th. Virtual registration will remain open. Link to the agenda and registration: <https://corxconsortium.org/2023-annual-meeting/>

Grant Writing Assistance: <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/> shifting to supporting BHA grants only (if/when open).

The next Recovering from Benzodiazepines for Peer Specialists training will take place on November 7th and 14th. The course is geared towards individuals experiencing challenges with taking their prescription benzodiazepines as prescribed. Registration link: <https://choicesrecoverytrainings.com/product/recovering-from-benzodiazepine-use-for-peers/>
For additional training information: <https://corxconsortium.org/projects/benzo-peer-support/> or shayna.micucci@cuanschut.edu.

Guest and Member Announcements/Updates:

Jacob Merrion: COPA will be offsetting the cost of certification for peer and family specialists in Colorado through a Signal Behavioral Healthcare grant. Google form to apply for the scholarship to cover \$245 of the application fees: <https://forms.gle/H3sddVF2npDhKNzv9>
For more information: jacob@coprovidersassociation.org

The CU College of Nurse-Midwifery in collaboration with Elephant Circle is hosting doula training for peer support specialists November 3rd-5th, 8-5 p.m. CU College of Nursing, Anschutz Medical Campus. To register: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yjczVhelGkKq4BqItBT9f3FgVHXyRsfFsmMQPTkhcag5UMFVKU0kxNEZVUTVBR1ZNSUIKRkJLT1E1Ny4u>

The College of Nursing is seeking trained Peer Support Specialists (PSS) who wish to participate in a doula training to expand their role with pregnant and postpartum individuals. Training is in-person at CU College of Nursing, Anschutz Campus. This is a grant-funded pilot program intended to provide doula support to individuals receiving prenatal, birth, and postpartum care. There is no cost for the training. Job Posting: <https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=29488&lang=en>

Jazmyn Gray: Cross Purpose has an opening for a bilingual peer coach. For more information: jgray@crosspurpose.org All Pathways Panel & Costume Party/Contest on October 27th: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/crosspurpose-livedifferent-recovery-all-pathways-to-recovery-panel-tickets-716541804827?aff=oddtcreator>

Darin Valdez: CAiR monthly events: <https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org/northern-colorado-events> Annual Winter Fundraiser to support free programs: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/colorado-artists-in-recovery-winter-fundraiser-2023-tickets-716162941637?aff=oddtcreator> CAiR is also seeking sponsors. Contact: coloradoartistsinrecovery@gmail.com

SoberAF Entertainment events: <https://soberafe.com/event-calendar/>

Laura Indermuehle: Serenity Recovery Connection is hosting a Halloween event on October 28th from 5 to 8 p.m. in collaboration with the Colorado Springs Chapter of The Phoenix, 985 West Fillmore Street, Colorado Springs.

Andrea Turk: The Jefferson Center for Mental Health has established a Recovery Clinic (walk-in clinic). For information: AndreaT@jcmh.org

Ernest Bilinski: CDPHE has established new mobile public health clinics offering vaccinations for children and adults. The mobile clinics can provide routine and recommended childhood and adult vaccines, including flu, COVID-19, and mpox. The exact vaccines offered depend on the specific clinic. Mobile clinics could serve as an addition to an agency event. For more information and to request a Mobile Public Health Clinic: <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/mobilepublichealth>

Waltrina DeFrantz-Dufor: Denver University hosted a screening of “Anonymous Sister” on October 6th.

John Narine is recruiting a board member and treasurer for Recovery Friendly Leader. For more information or to apply: john.narine88@gmail.com

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

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

Attachments: Work group roster