

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Affected Families & Friends Work Group Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2023 via Zoom

Present:

Tracey Ritter, Co-chair
Kase Wille, Hazelden/Betty Ford Children's Program
Jenna Garrow, Rise Above Colorado
Anthony Alvarado, Rise Together
Ronna Yablonski, SAFE Project
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Hilary Bryant, Shayna Micucci, Lindsey Simbeye, Eric Barker, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster.

Work group Co-chair, Tracey Ritter, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. She reviewed the work group mission statement.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the September meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Presentation: Anthony Alvarez, Co-Founder and Chair, "Rise Together--We Are Not Alone School Tour:"

Rise Together offers programs to develop youth leadership, prevent addiction, and promote positive mental health. To date, the organization has reached over 275,00 high school students. Anthony has lived experience and spoke about his work in Wisconsin treatment centers, jails, and nationally.

Rise Together is publishing their youth education efforts in collaboration with the Penn State College research team. The organization has trained teens to become certified peer specialists within their schools. Educational efforts also extend to parents and teachers. The organization partners with the Safe Project (Ronna Yablonski).

For more information: Anthony@weallrisetogether.org and <https://www.anthonyalvarado.com/>

Links to resources, including an overdose kit and a free guide can be found on the organization's website:

Overdose Kit:

<https://starthealingnow.org/overdose-aid-kits/>

Rise Together Program Guide:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xKJN78Kbi7JRlStfvWcODp-cpRd9UzEJ/view?usp=share_link

Rise Together Take Action Guide:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hmwy3GC6gSkgNWHgHvRbodMGQTda-uqz/view>

Ronna Yablonski, SAFE Choices at SAFE Project: Ronna shared how her organization works with Anthony to educate youth, parents, and teachers.

Links to additional information:

<https://weallrisetogether.org/>

<https://www.safeproject.us/>

We Are Not Alone Tour: <https://www.safeproject.us/rise/>

No Shame Education Program:

<https://www.safeproject.us/noshame-mental-health-addiction/education-program/>

Opioid Overdose Training: <https://safeproject-s-school-262f.thinkific.com/courses/naloxone-training>

Narcan Accessibility: <https://www.safeproject.us/naloxone/>

Announcements:

The Consortium 11th Annual Meeting will be held in person and virtually on Thursday, October 26th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. <https://corxconsortium.org/2023-annual-meeting/>

"Into Light" is exhibiting at DU through November 17th; Gifting Gathering on November 18th from 1-2:30 p.m. <https://studentaffairs.du.edu/health-counseling-center/content/into-light-project>

Work group members met with Attorney General Weiser on October 13th to share their personal experiences and suggestions for addressing issues.

Using Medicare for Naloxone: Printable versions of these two documents will soon be posted on the HCPF Pain Management Resources and Opioid Use webpage to allow access for both healthcare professionals and Health First Colorado members:

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/pain-management-resources-and-opioid-use>

Resource List Addition:

Podcast: The Power of Family Support in the Path of Addiction Recovery: Insights from Jill Gallegos, Lead Therapist, Valiant Living: <https://www.audacy.com/podcast/valiant-living-podcast-ae68b>

Link to resource guide: <https://corxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/Affected-Families-and-Friends-Resource-Guide.pdf>

Work Group Member Updates/Other Announcements:

Jose Esquibel discussed the recent meeting with Attorney General Weiser and the priority that has been placed on substance use issues by state officials. The opioid settlement funds will be disbursed by Weiser's office via county commissioners. Jose said it will be important for the commissioners and other future candidates to hear from families affected by the opioid crisis.

He also mentioned an organization that assists counties in Colorado -- Colorado Counties, Inc.
<https://ccionline.org/>

Jose suggested meeting with Sarah, Tracey, and Hilary to discuss a strategic plan.

Adjournment/Next Meeting Date:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Friday, November 17, 2023 from 12-1 p.m. Anyone interested in providing a presentation at the November meeting should contact Tracey: traceyritter@advocatesforrecovery.org

Attachment: Work group roster