

## Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Friendly Workplace Work Group Meeting

November 20, 2023 via Zoom

### **Participants:**

David Shapiro and Dave Secunda, Co-chairs  
John Narine, Recovery Friendly Leader  
Sarah Levine, Center for Health, Work and Environment  
Courtney O'Connor, Travelport  
Rob Shearon, Reconnect Foundation  
Jill Perry, Community Member  
Jeff Koch, CHEF  
Matthew Mitchell, SOBRsafe  
Megan Colwell, Face it Together  
Maddy Smith, AGC of Colorado  
Liz Herod, Serenity Recovery Connection  
Darin Mackender, Fisher Phillips Law  
Bob Schultz, Denver Health  
DeAnn Mathis, CDPHE  
Jessica Scherden, Rocky Mountain Partnership  
Sean Morris, Wasatch Crest  
Keith Pinter, Community Member  
Stephanie Halvorson, The Steadman Group  
Christopher Lord, CU Boulder  
Doreen Harris, Lockheed Martin  
Deirdre Sage, Office of Employment First  
Alia Andrews, BHA  
Amber Bartholomew  
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Kristin Carpenter, Eric Barker, Rosemarie MacDowell  
**Absent:** See attached roster.

Co-chair, David Shapiro, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

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

### **Draft RFW Legislation:**

The Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee is a legislative body that generally meets every other year. Their goal is to keep up to date with research and information pertaining to opioids and other substance use disorders in the state. The committee also works to advance legislation for consideration during the general session. Current legislation pertains to prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery. The recovery friendly workplaces initiative is included in the recovery bill. Jose Esquibel said the bills have passed out of the legislative council and are pending introduction.

Work group members were urged to review the bill and let the co-chairs know if they recommend any amendments. David explained the bill review process and timeline and said it would be important to have the support of business leaders, including the nonprofit and recovery community sectors. Work group members will be notified when the recovery bill is introduced should they wish to offer support via testimony in person, remotely, or in writing.

Link to bill: [https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/committees/bill\\_4\\_24-0316.pdf](https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/committees/bill_4_24-0316.pdf)

Link to study committee: <https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/opioid-and-other-substance-use-disorders-study-committee/2023-regular-session>

### **Presentation: Routt County Business Engagement (Nele Cashmore):**

Nele is a certified peer and family specialist with the health partnership serving Moffat and Routt counties. Nele's colleague, Chris Ray, was actively investigating the recovery friendly workplace initiative when Nele joined the organization a year ago. Presentation highlights:

- To generate interest in the initiative, presentations were made to small businesses in the county.
- Businesses were invited to "lunch and learn" sessions.
- RFW businesses were provided a window sticker indicating involvement in the initiative.
- Ongoing meetings with businesses addressed questions and challenges related to instituting an RFW initiative.
- Funding for the project was received from the Rural Alliance Addressing Substance Use Disorder-Colorado (RAS-Col) as well as The Steadman Group.
  - Participation in the initiative requires a health links assessment enrollment fee.
  - The cost to participate came to approximately \$3,000 total for 10 local businesses (\$300/business).
- Some of the nonprofit small businesses involved in the initiative are in the mental health field.

RAS-Col <https://solvingsudtogether.org/about-us/>

The Steadman Group: <https://steadmangroup.com/>

### **Comments:**

Matt Mitchell suggested reaching out to the Colorado Agency for Recovery Residences as most of their residents are employed. <https://carrcolorado.org/>

Link to article about Routt County initiative: <https://www.healthlinkscertified.org/what-we-do/success-stories/business-leaders-in-routt-county-take-the-first-step-in-supporting-workers-in-recovery>

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 from 2–3 p.m. instead of Monday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Attachment: Work group roster