

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Rica Rodriguez, Co-chair
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180
Wendy Sachs, Denver County Courts
Amber Nicoletti, Signal Behavioral Health
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Hope Hyatt, Colorado Mental Wellness Network
Saman Rouhani, Pew Charitable Trust
CDPHE: Ernest Bilinski, Stephanie Salkin, Alia Andrews
Advocates for Recovery: Tonya Wheeler, James Gannon, Laura Allem
River Valley Family Health Centers, Katy Crawford, Shayna Kittell
Consortium: Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Jamie Feld, Lindsey Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster.

Co-chair Rica Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the October 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed.
Jen Place opened the meeting with a review of work group norms and focus areas.

EDRSS Update:

James Gannon and Laura Allem reviewed the EDRSS report and shared that Advocates for Recovery Colorado. Their work in the ED was featured on Kyle Clark's "Word of Thanks" program on November 3rd.

BRFSS Update:

The proposed BRFSS questions were not accepted for the next survey. A reapplication will be submitted in the future. In the interim, the work group will gather feedback from other states' questions.

Presentation – Saman Rouhani, Pew Charitable Trust:

Jen Place introduced Saman Rouhani, Senior Associate with the Pew Charitable Trust Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Initiative. The Pew Charitable Trust is working with state governments to expand access to evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders. Saman met earlier with the Harm Reduction Work Group. Efforts in Colorado have focused on the expansion of methadone treatment, options for individuals within the criminal justice system, policy reform, and barriers that exist within the treatment system.

Peer support was discussed, and it was suggested that Saman speak with Victor King regarding barriers related to peers. Jenny Hill said she has been working on a number of initiatives for peer support. She is currently conducting an online survey and focus groups. She suggested further discussion with Saman regarding her work. For additional information, Saman can be

contacted at the following email address: srouhani@pewtrusts.org He would appreciate receiving referrals from other organizations regarding their experiences related to patient treatment. The following meeting participants provided their contact information for follow up by Saman:

Advocates for Recovery Colorado - Tonya Wheeler or James Gannon, Phone 720-389-6393 or by email: tonyawheeler@advocatesforrecovery.org; jamesgannon@advocatesforrecovery.org; Jennifer Loth Hill: jennifer.loth.hill@denvergov.org; Hope Hyatt: Hope@cmwn.org

Peer compensation, advancement, licensure, certification, and Medicaid reimbursement issues were also discussed. It was noted that current Colorado legislation will be allowing Medicaid reimbursement for peer support services once an agency is approved by the Office of Behavioral Health.

Annual Meeting Breakout Session Review:

Over 50 people participated in the “Advancing the Profession of Colorado’s Peer Support Workforce” breakout session. Work group members provided the following feedback regarding the session:

- Discuss issues related to recovery on a more consistent basis, perhaps monthly or every other month.
- Create opportunities for peer coaches to come together.
- Support additional conversations regarding workforce development, including wage levels, training, and information for employers.
- Address accreditation delays.
- Consider additional funding (possible use of ARPA funds).
- Put together subcommittees and an employer toolkit.

Jen asked work group participants to email her with any additional ideas:

Jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

Announcements/Updates:

Jen reminded work group members to let her or the co-chairs know if they have other newsworthy events or training they would like posted on Facebook.

- The Consortium has an opening for an external relations strategist for the southeast region of the state: <https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?job=23352&lang=en>
- The Consortium grant-writing program is being expanded to include rural areas. <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=334413>
- There will be a screening of “Anonymous Sister” at the Denver Film Festival on Friday, November 12th. The in-person screening will include a panel with AG Phil Weiser.
- Embark PCA is still accepting volunteers and donations.
- 2021 Virtual COSSAP National Forum November 16-18: Agenda and online registration form: <https://www.cossapresources.org/Learning/Forum2021>
- Peer Navigator Position, City & County of Denver: [Peer Navigator – Office of the Municipal Public Defender \(myworkdayjobs.com\)](https://www.municipalpublicdefender.com/jobs/peer-navigator)
- [Recovery Support Services Organizations \(RSSO\) Licensing Manager](https://www.recovery-support-services.org/licenses) Closes November 30th
- [Licensing and Designation Administrative Assistant III | Job Details tab | Career Pages \(governmentjobs.com\)](https://www.governmentjobs.com/career/123456) Closes November 28th

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Attachments: Work Group Roster; Swedish Hospital Reports