

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2025 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Rica Rodriguez and Betsy Craft, Co-chairs
Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment
Dara Mendoza, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Amy Walker, Ke'nekt Recovery
Erik Olson, We Face it Together
April Wise, Denver Recovery Group
Darin Valdez, Colorado Artists in Recovery
Precious Collins, Colorado Providers Association
Coreen Johnson, Young People in Recovery
Laura Allem, Sagebrush Recovery
Terri Schreiber, The Schreiber Research Group
Shelley Marie, Health District of Northern Larimer County
Pia Lea Long, CU Boulder
Russ Eckardt, Mind Springs Health
Shana Shaw, Compound of Compassion
Sheri Trahern, Serenity Recovery Connection
Anthony Rodriguez, Cross Purpose
Wendy Sachs
Illuminate Colorado: Joan Holtz, Toni Minor
HardBeauty: Toni Fernandez, Suzanne Plenus
Consortium: José Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jessica Eaddy, Eric Barker, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster

Senior Program Manager, Jessica Eaddy called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. on behalf of Jen Place, who was unable to attend the meeting. Jessica cited the work group's mission and norms.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the January 2025 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

State Partner Update (Alia Andrews):

Alia was unable to attend the meeting. Jessica provided the following update for Jessica Triplett. CRAFT is sponsoring a Train-the-Trainer Course. For details: www.craftcolorado.org or <https://calendly.com/jessica-triplett/craft-agency-support>
Registration: <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/30624ae621774b01a9c2dd55d3ae6d1d>
For questions: jessica.triplett@state.co.us.

Survey for RCO leaders: [RCO survey](#)

Subcommittee Updates:

Advancing the Peer Support Workforce in Carceral Facilities (Betsy Craft): Betsy reported on the pilot program with Arapahoe County to establish a peer support policy for jails to help reduce overdose deaths.

Peer Support Professionals Association (Hope Hyatt/CMWN): Update tabled for a future meeting. <https://coloradopeersupport.com/>

CARR (Rourke Weaver): Update tabled for a future meeting.

COPA (Precious Collins): COPA is currently finalizing updates for both the Colorado Peer and Family Specialist and the Colorado Certified Prevention Specialist positions. A considerable amount of research and time was spent on revising and updating the application process and manuals. A new section has been added to the application and additional training is being developed. The new application will be effective in March. Precious will be providing more information about updates in a presentation scheduled during the March work group meeting. The manual will use SAMHSA's definition of recovery and a list of definitions and clarifications. The manual will still include self-reporting, i.e., if someone has a relapse or has otherwise violated any codes of ethical conduct. Katie is COPA's credential specialist and can assist applicants with technical assistance and training.

While not included in current updates, the peer committee would like to require a training session for Medicaid or peer specialists since many grievances are related to Medicaid billing and a lack of understanding the complexities of the healthcare system. Precious asked work group members to let her know if they are aware of any training in this area as COPA would like to post a listing on their approved training site.

Coreen Johnson said she would be willing to assist with a Medicaid training presentation.

Medicaid Billing & Best Practices: A white paper is in process and will include reimbursement recommendations to be presented to the Interim Study Committee when they meet in the summer.

Recovery Data (Jen Place): No updates were reported.

Other Work Group Efforts:

Compassionate Overdose Efforts (Betsy Craft): Colorado has joined a call to action and commitment to compassionate overdose responses and best practices. A Compassionate Overdose Summit was held last year in Philadelphia and attended by harm reduction organizations. Other states embracing compassionate overdose response include New York, California, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania.

Betsy spoke about research pertaining to low dose naloxone best practices and the benefits related to administration of oxygen in overdose situations (rescue breathing) to avoid precipitated withdrawal.

Work group members discussed reports of improper naloxone administration and the importance of education and training, including for law enforcement. Jose cited research that has shown that even 4 milligrams of Narcan can cause precipitated withdrawal in about 19

percent of people and 8 milligrams can cause withdrawal in 37% of people. Currently, in the State of Colorado, standing orders are only for up to 4 milligrams of naloxone. Any amounts higher than 4 milligrams require a physician's prescription.

Compassionate Overdose Response: Summit Highlights and Key Takeaways:

<https://www.healthmanagement.com/insights/briefs-reports/compassionate-overdose-response-summit-highlights-and-key-takeaways/>

Webinar replay: Compassionate Overdose Response Summit and Naloxone Dosing Meeting:

https://www.healthmanagement.com/insights/webinars/compassionate-overdose-response-summit-and-naloxone-dosing-meeting/?utm_campaign=HMA%20Webinars&utm_medium=email&hsenc=p2ANqtz--4t3l6-fJu72zmzXTUdWOnkDU3ED2BjYauyJKanwRWg2lXMsii9F1OICrMdqXicx1SohDLED0E1FhPx2aWLULPh9ZW99L3aKF9jUaFChu-36XvqS8&hsmi=300283320&utm_content=300283320&utm_source=hs_email

A call for compassionate opioid overdose response:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0955395924002718>

SB 25-066 Concerning Appropriate State Contracting with Opioid Antagonist Businesses:
chrome-

extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2025A/bills/2025a_066_01.pdf

Payne ER, Stancliff S, Rowe K, Christie JA, Dailey MW. Comparison of Administration of 8-Milligram and 4-Milligram Intranasal Naloxone by Law Enforcement During Response to Suspected Opioid Overdose — New York, March 2022–August 2023. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2024;73:110–113. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7305a4>

Lemen, P.M., Garrett, D.P., Thompson, E. et al. High-dose naloxone formulations are not as essential as we thought. Harm Reduct J 21, 93 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-024-00994-z>

Alcohol Placement in Grocery Stores: The Liquor Enforcement Division is holding quarterly working group meetings to discuss placement of alcohol in grocery stores. Jose Esquibel updated meeting participants regarding last year's legislation that asked for alcohol placement in less trafficked areas of grocery stores. The alcohol industry resisted, and an agreement was put together to form a working group focused on regulation recommendations. The working group is heavily represented by the alcohol industry. Work group members were encouraged to attend meetings. An email can be sent to: joseph.gaffney@state.co.us to be added to the LED's Substance Use Disorder Recovery Working Group meetings

Funding Announcements:

- SAMHSA - Tribal Behavioral Health Program (Short Title: Native Connections) Due March 6th: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/pdf/fy-2024-tbh-nofo.pdf>
- SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) program. Due Feb 21st: <https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/grants/pdf/fy-2024-spf-pfs-communities-tribes-nofo.pdf>

Consortium Announcements/Updates:

Interim Study Committee (Jose Esquibel): Work group members interested in joining a subgroup to discuss recovery policies to recommend to the legislature can contact Jen Place: jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu Subgroup members will be able to speak about work accomplished, provide testimony, and present policy recommendations to the ISC. ISC meetings will begin in July and continue through October.

For more information about the ISC and its aims and its accomplishments:
<https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/opioid-and-other-substance-use-disorders-study-committee/2023-regular-session>

Consortium legislative webpage: <https://corxconsortium.org/resources/legislature/>

Guest & Member Events and Announcements:

- The Drug Policy Alliance is organizing a media interview preparation workshop. For information: betsy.coloradodpc@gmail.com
- Recovery Advocacy Day at the State Capitol: Wednesday, February 19th at 7:30 a.m.
- Drug Policy Alliance/Drug Policy Coalition will host a Colorado-specific media-vetting workshop – date TBD (Spring 2025)
- A two-day Virtual Peer Specialist event: April
- Yampa Valley Wellness Conference will be held on Thursday, May 15th: <https://thehealthpartnership.org/yampa-valley-wellness-conference-2025-registration/>
- Save the Date: Rural Peer Conference in Glenwood Springs July 30 – Aug 1, 2025
- The Foundry is offering two Love in Action training sessions for both [Admissions](#) and [Intervention](#) individuals (cost associated) at their Broomfield location in February (click links for more information).
- Free COPA-approved peer support professional training opportunities for those living in Denver, Boulder, Mesa, or Weld counties. Four different cohorts (each starting in March/May/August/October) <https://soberafe.com/peer-training/>
- Other sober tailgate and recovery-supportive events: <https://soberafe.com/events/>
- Colorado Artists in Recovery Art Show on April 4th at Free Recovery Community. Tickets and flyer: <https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org/>
- Cross Purpose: February 21st Recovery Warrior Drum Circle, Greyhound Coffee House, Commerce City.
- CrossPurpose: Denver person-centered recovery options, including yoga, art, and poetry workshops. Meetings are held on Fridays from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. at 3050 Richard Allen Court. Gatherings include childcare, complimentary food, guest speakers, and breakout sessions covering various topics.
- YPR Arapahoe chapter is seeking volunteers to assist with a town hall or roundtable discussion focusing on the Colorado Good Samaritan Law. For information: coreen.braden@youngpeopleinrecovery.org

Other events can be posted on the Facebook page. Email info/graphic to Jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

<https://www.facebook.com/RecoveryReadyColorado>

Recovery-related Job Announcements:

- Denver Health - [R9737 - Peer Recovery Coach I](#) and [R9635 - Peer Support Specialist II](#)
- CHOW – part-time (5 hrs/week) peer support group facilitators. Email admin@chowco.org for more information or to apply.
- CU School of Medicine – Hospital Follow-Up Program & others: <https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/moresearch.ftl?lang=en>
 - Search Keyword term: “Peer”
- Advocates for Recovery Colorado: <https://www.advocatesforrecovery.org/job-postings>
- Adams County Public Health – harm reduction peer support specialist: [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/adams/jobs/4672302/harm-reduction-specialist-peer-support?department\[0\]=Public%20Health%20Department&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/adams/jobs/4672302/harm-reduction-specialist-peer-support?department[0]=Public%20Health%20Department&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs)
- [AllHealth Network](#) – Scroll down to find peer support positions
- [Colorado Village Collaborative](#)
- Advance Pathways: <https://advancepathways.org/careers/>
- Support for returning to the workforce: <https://www.crosspurpose.org/career-tracks/> and <https://wageesco.org/>

Recovery Resources:

- SAMHSA Office of Recovery new publications: [here](#).
- National Association of Peer Supporters: <https://www.peersupportworks.org/membership/>
- The National Peer-Run Training and Technical Assistance Center for Addiction Recovery Support (CARS) is now open. Visit the new website to access Technical Assistance, Resource Directories, and helpful tools: www.carsrecovery.org
- [Weekly Calendar & Journal](#) resource created by Temple University
- The Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network is a multidisciplinary resource for professionals in the addiction treatment and recovery services field <https://attcnetwork.org/training-and-events-calendar/>
- Mobilize Recovery (national advocacy & resources) workshops recorded through their [Interconnected Recovery Community Classroom](#).
- Recovery Research Institute: recorded Seminar Series on a variety of topics: <https://www.recoveryanswers.org/addiction-research-summaries/seminar-series/>

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster