

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024 from 4:30, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Rica Rodriguez, Betsy Craft, Co-chairs
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180 RCO
Bob Schulz, Denver Health
Darin Valdez, CAiR
Erik Olson, CO Strategy
Ernest Bilinski, CDPHE
Frank Montesano, Serenity Recovery Connection
Grace Kane, Consultant
Heather Dolan, Signal Behavioral Health
Heather Lister, Illuminate Colorado
Heather Anderson, Benefits in Action
Jacob Merrion, Colorado Providers Association
Jazmyn Gray, Cross Purpose
Keith Pinter, Community Member
Kindra Faulkner, Oxford House
Shana Shaw, Compound Youth & Young Adults in Recovery
Mika Mumme, The Phoenix
Steph Salkin
BHA: Jody Gamel, Danielle Gillespie
Milestone Community Wellness: Rebecca Stieb, Angela Govea
Colorado Mental Wellness Network: Hope Hyatt, Wilder Hickney
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Shayna Micucci,
Michael Davidson, Eric Barker, Teresa Cantwell
Absent: See attached roster.

Co-chair Betsy Craft called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Betsy reviewed the work group's mission, norms, and focus areas.

Approval of Minutes:

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

State Partner Updates:

Jody Gamel, BHA: BHA has hired a new commissioner (Danette R. Smith). She will be starting her position on March 18th. Danette was with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. She has a Bachelor's in Psychology and a Master's in Social Work.

Hope Hyatt and Wilder Hickney, Peer Support Professionals Association: The website will be launched within several weeks. Hope provided background information regarding the purpose and goals of the association. To join the organization:

<https://cmwn.jotform.com/231217922383151>

There will be no charge for the first year's membership. Subsequent memberships will cost \$39 per year.

2024 Focus Areas:

Supporting Collegiate Recovery Chapters: Betsy Craft asked for work group member ideas.

Peer Support Professionals in Correctional Facilities: A subcommittee has been established and has been meeting on a regular basis. A landscape survey is in process to determine the number of peer support professionals working in correctional facilities and identify any barriers they may be encountering. The survey will be sent to all work group members. Rebecca Steib suggested including peers that are already working within correction facilities in the survey. Ernest Bilinski is working with the Department of Corrections on an unrelated project and said he could help facilitate communications, if needed.

HCPF is planning to expand Medicaid coverage to incarcerated individuals (1115 waiver). HCPF is accepting waiver comments through February 24th.
<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/1115sudwaiver>

Jose Esquibel mentioned that peers can serve an important role by helping incarcerated individuals enroll in Medicaid before they are discharged from jails.

Supporting Diversity Training for PSPs: Another subcommittee may be formed to address this topic. Betsy asked for work group member input. The rural peer support conference planning committee has been meeting and discussing upcoming training. The conference may be held at the Hotel Colorado in Glenwood Springs. Any work group member who would like to join the committee was asked to contact Jen: Jennifer.place@cuanschultz.edu

Commercial Insurance Coverage for PSPs: Tabled for future discussion.

Colorado Recovery Summit/Conference: A subcommittee may be formed to address this project.

Recovery Data - Recovery Capital Survey: The survey is available on the Consortium website and is attached to the minutes. This topic will be discussed further at the next work group meeting. Seventy-seven people completed the survey.

BRFSS Review/Results: Tabled for future discussion.

Public Relations:

Recovery Ready Facebook page announcements/posts can be submitted to Rica or Betsy for posting; Promotores5280@gmail.com or betsy.craft@csuglobal.edu
<https://www.facebook.com/RecoveryReadyColorado>

Job Announcements:

- Colorado Artists in Recovery: part-time bilingual (English/Spanish) program coordinator.
<https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org/jobs>

- Colorado Village Collaborative peer positions:
<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/recruiting/jobs/All/c35955cf-4464-422c-902c-3fb599341454/Colorado-Village-Collaborative>
- CU – <https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/moresearch.ftl?lang=en>
 - (1) ARTS - Job # 32516
 - (2) .2 FTE Peer Support Supervisor for MAT Expansion Program (“Open Rank Peer Support Specialist – 31979)
- Peer180 RCO, Grand Junction: Three positions available: part-time office assistant, full-time family program coordinator, and full-time program supervisor. For information: Angie Bertrand: recovery@gmail.com

Funding and Other Updates:

Jen Place: Another application for funding to support peers in hospitals will be submitted to the Opioid Abatement Council in partnership with the Colorado Hospital Association.

AG Funding Opportunities: <https://coag.gov/funding-opportunities/> Focus areas for AG grant: A. Strengthen Peer Recovery Support and Peer Services; B. Promote Culturally Responsive Substance Use Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery Services; C. Expand Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, Naloxone, Contingency Management and Other Evidence-Based Clinical Interventions; D. Bolster Housing for People with Substance Use Disorder (SUD); E. Develop Family Peer Support Services and/or Expand Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women; F. Promote Recovery-Friendly Workplaces.

The Colorado Agency for Recovery Residences (CARR) has been researching recovery capital management software. All residences in Colorado may adopt and utilize the same software system with recovery capital measurements.

Ernest Bilinski, CDPHE: The Overdose Prevention Unit operates Colorado’s naloxone bulk purchase fund and can provide eligible entities with naloxone at no charge. For information: ernest.bilinski@state.co.us
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/naloxone-bulk-purchase-fund>

Colorado Artists in Recovery activities and events: <https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org/>
CAiR Art Show at Free Spiritual Community on April 5th. Free tickets:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cair-art-show-friday-april-5th-tickets-820483306657?aff=oddtcreator>
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13taFvgk3xyPZumoVnpWopV-Q5ejyDvQY/view?usp=sharing>

Consortium Updates:

The current Recovery Bill Draft (Bill D) can be found [here](#).
Work group members interested in providing testimony should contact Jen Place.

Jen Place and Michael Davidson are discussing a recovery calendar for the Consortium webpage or distribution with the meeting minutes. Calendar suggestions should be emailed to Jen: Jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

Grant Writing Assistance is not currently funded: <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/>

Recovery Announcements/Resources:

Power of Nutrition in Recovery course open for 2024 registration:
<https://aminoacidtherapy.com/peer-coach-training-and-recovery/>

[Peer Recovery Center of Excellence](#) Materials, meetings, communities of practice and more!
Join their monthly meetings and be a featured stakeholder by applying [here](#).

Recovering from Benzodiazepines for Peer Specialists training available in April for peers in Colorado (CEU credits). For information: <https://corxconsortium.org/projects/benzo-peer-support/>

Registration: <https://choicesrecoverytrainings.com/product/recovering-from-benzodiazepine-use-for-peer-specialists-colorado/>

Quarterly statewide harm reduction training for peers and allies: Tuesday, February 27th from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Hosted by High Rockies Harm Reduction. Registration [here](#).

Co-chairs, Rica Rodriguez, CPFS Founder and Executive Director of Promotores de Esperanza, and Betsy Craft, BS, CPFS Marketing Manager of Promotores de Esperanza and Colorado Drug Policy Coalition Policy Advocate, invite all work group members to participate in the *Intersections of Harm Reduction Lobby Day* a 2-day event on March 7th and March 8th. See attached flyer for details.

Co-chair Betsy Craft is working with Anthropologist Marty Otanez, on the [Naloxone Champion Graphic Novel project](#). Betsy was one of 76 individuals across Colorado who shared a non-fatal overdose story in the 2021 Naloxone Champion Storytelling project as a way to destigmatize preventable non-fatal opioid overdoses and life-saving harm reduction strategies. Phase two of the Naloxone Champion project will create a graphic novel from the overdose stories. Currently, there is a call to find one graphic novel artist, specifically an individual (age 21-85), who uses or has formerly used heroin and/or fentanyl and resides in Colorado, to collaborate with the team in the creation of concept art (10 pages) with multi-panel illustrations. This is a \$1000 paid opportunity.

The deadline for artists to apply has been extended to Feb 29th. For more information on how to apply: <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/anthropology/naloxone-champions>

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Attachment: Work group roster, Recovery Capital Survey Summary, Harm Reduction Lobby Day Flyer