

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Misuse Prevention

Prescriber & Provider Work Group Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2026 via Zoom

Present:

Josh Blum, MD, and Ryan Jackman, MD, Co-chairs
Brooke Bender, Denver Health
Mellie Ryan, Epifluence
Lynn Parry, MD
J. Ely Walker, MD
Susan Somerset, DMD
Sharon Langerdoerfer, MD
Jackie O'Hara, Jet Marketing
Margaret Rich, Crossroads Turning Point
Rachel Linger, Rocky Vista University
Amber Quartier, Common Spirit Health
Consortium: Jennifer Place, Jessica Eaddy, Shayna Micucci, Eric Barker, Teresa Cantwell,
Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster

(The minutes and discussion are for informational purposes only and do not represent the position of the University of Colorado.)

Co-chair, Josh Blum, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

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

Jen Place, Consortium Assistant Director, spoke briefly about work group restructuring and reminded work group members that meetings are open and participation is optional. While all opinions and ideas are welcome and encouraged, they do not necessarily represent the position of the Consortium or the University.

Jessica Eaddy, work group Program Manager, welcomed Dr. Ryan Jackman, new work group co-chair. Dr. Jackman is a family and addiction medicine physician in Grand Junction.

Overview of Previous Work Group Efforts (Josh Blum, MD):

Dr. Blum presented an overview of prior work group initiatives and initiated a discussion on how the work group might evolve in order to meet the needs of providers.

Prior projects included:

- Prior/current agency collaborations: Colorado Pain Society, Colorado Society for Addiction Medicine, Colorado Medical Society, Compass Healthcare Collaborative, ROOTS/Epifluence, CDPHE, DDPHE, Denver Center for Addiction Medicine, Colorado Dental Association, Jet Marketing)

- Live Lunch & Learns: Enduring CME Modules: Hosted online at <https://coloradoconsortium.compasshcc.org/>
- Responding to community requests for local training sessions or consultations (e.g., Gunnison Valley Hospital, SLV AHEC, Memorial Hospital)

In 2022/2023 the CU Evaluation Center conducted a Provider Education Work Group Evaluation which included post-training surveys and interviews with individuals who had taken training. Approximately 7% of Colorado providers who prescribe opioids or benzodiazepines completed a core training, over 3,000 unique individuals registered, and over 2,500 completed at least one course. The training objectives focused on safe opioid prescribing and stewardship, non-opioid pain management, and the identification and treatment of substance use disorders.

Evaluation: <https://www.the-evaluation-center.org/project/provider-education/>

Jessica Eaddy spoke about the training transition to Compass and the course reorganization required. Lunch & Learn sessions are conducted collaboratively with either COSAM or the Denver Center for Addiction Medicine and funded by CDPHE, DDPHE, and other state funds. The work group also provides CME credit training during the annual Colorado Pain Society conference and has accepted training requests from other organizations such as Gunnison Valley Health, San Luis Valley AHEC, and Memorial Hospital on the western slope. Lunch & Learns have been converted to on-demand online modules offering CME credits for three years. Due to rising costs, there may be a change in the vendor hosting the training.

Discussion - Existing Education Initiatives and Future Needs:

Meeting participants were asked to comment about the current educational program, their future needs, coordination/support/technical assistance with training offered by other organizations, and marketing of existing training. Dr. Blum mentioned that the Consortium website is currently being redesigned and could eventually function as a “one-stop shop” for educational offerings statewide.

In response to a question from Dr. Jackman, Jessica said that course participation has decreased, and the number of registrants who actually attend a course has dropped below 50%.

Jackie O’Hara said Jet Marketing has been driving traffic to the enduring modules, Lunch & Learns, and other events via email marketing. The marketing list currently has 4,200 addresses. Jet Marketing also utilizes Google Pay-Per-Click, which has shown high numbers of people searching for CME. She believes the “pull through” (people who register and eventually take a course) has decreased and one of the reasons for this might be the user experience with Compass (log-in issues).

Dr. Jackman asked if the click rate justified the hosting cost, whether providers are aware of the educational offerings, and how the intended audience is being reached.

Dr. Parry, Chair of the Colorado Medical Society accrediting committee, stated that Colorado was one of the last states to require CME as a condition of licensure, which presents an opportunity. On the physician level, training barriers may include a lack of awareness about what educational offerings are available and where they can be accessed.

Brooke Bender said it would be helpful to have one coordinated location with all educational activities to ensure content is not duplicated. A Denver Health needs assessment indicated

there is a need for basic primary care physician education in the areas of stimulant and alcohol use disorder. Denver Health is currently developing workshops to meet this need.

Meeting participants discussed whether educational courses resulted in changes in opioid prescribing practices. Josh indicated that reasonably high rates of providers reported they were already practicing what they viewed in modules or that the module contributed to a change. Data has not been collected since the end of 2023.

Dr. Walker spoke about an upcoming Rural Addiction Summit sponsored by Hope in the Valley (an organization he helped found). Hope in the Valley is a residential treatment and medical withdrawal management organization located in the San Luis Valley. The summit is currently seeking speakers. Dr. Walker asked if the Consortium would be interested in partnering with the summit. Rural Resilience Summit: <https://ruralresiliencesummit.com>

Jessica said the partnership would be something for the Consortium to consider. She also mentioned the need for providers to accept patients who no longer have access to providers whose practices were closed by the DEA following investigations into unscrupulous practices.

The broad categories of specialties taking courses and various licensing credits were discussed, e.g., School of Pharmacy AAFP, which is equivalent to AMA PRA Category 1 credits. Dr. Somerset said she would check if dentists and oral surgeons accept this category. The Council for Continuing Medical Education accepts both AMA PRA Category 1 and AAFP credits; however, AAFP appears to be more specific to family medicine.

Dr. Parry said that when the legislation requiring CMEs was passed, there was little knowledge about CME accreditation. CME is only for physicians (MD, DO). General medical education can apply to other clinicians.

Mellie Ryan, with Epifluence, said her organization has been receiving more requests for podcasts than CME training, while many of the videos viewed are only partially completed and credits are not being sought. Dr. Jackman said he felt there might be a role for podcasts.

Dr. Blum asked participants to provide information regarding their educational offerings so they could potentially be marketed by the Consortium. The Consortium could function as a clearinghouse for CME offerings in the state. Information can be sent to Jessica Eaddy: Jessica.eaddy@cuanschutz.edu

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026 from 1 to 2 p.m. via Zoom.

Attachment: Work group roster