

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

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

Present:

Rica Rodriguez and Betsy Craft, Co-chairs
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180
Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment
Dara Mendoza, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Erik Olson, We Face it Together
Darin Valdez, Colorado Artists in Recovery
Precious Collins, Colorado Providers Association
Coreen Johnson, Young People in Recovery
Laura Allem, Sagebrush Recovery
Russ Eckardt, Mind Springs Health
Shana Shaw, Compound of Compassion
Laura Indermuehle, Serenity Recovery Connection
Kristen Orzel, Colorado Mental Wellness Network
Lorraine Hoover, Raymond Rountree, Jr. Foundation
Farrell White, Axis Health
Rob Shearon, Reconnected Foundation
Brandi Drtina, North Colorado Health Alliance
Ryan Hobart
Illuminate Colorado: Joan Holtz, Toni Minor
Consortium: Jessica Eaddy, Eric Barker, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster

Co-chair, Rica Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. She reviewed the work group's mission and norms.

Approval of Minutes:

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

State Partner Updates:

Colorado Association of Peer Support Professionals (Kristen Orzel): The association is in the process of developing peer support groups in addition to training sessions. Quarterly peer networking meetings focus on grief support as well as providing support for individuals who are or have been incarcerated. The association is also planning to host a panel to discuss forming nonprofit peer organizations. An advocacy workshop was recently held. The recording will be available on the association's website: <https://coloradopeersupport.com/>

COPA Review of Colorado Peer and Family Specialist Recertification Updates (Precious Collins): Precious reviewed the updated CPFS manual and the COPA website. Link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Fx8LN2GYeY6loRUPs--VcumCf5QOs7zf/view>

Presentation summary:

In response to requests, the manual font size was increased. The prevention credential is still in the process of being updated. The manual provides an overview of all recertification instructions, requirements, and the application process. The appendix includes a list of resources. Applicants must have a minimum of two prior years in recovery before they can apply.

The approved training list has increased. Some organizations are on the statewide training scholarship list. There are no changes to work experience requirements except that peer supervision must align with peer recovery principles and competencies per SAMHSA's recommendations.

The new application includes questions regarding lived experience, self-care, and recovery. Self-reported recovery is acceptable at this time. In the future, a supervisor might be required to provide an attestation. The application includes a release statement that allows necessary investigations to be concluded into allegations or violations related to the code of ethics. A registration fee is required when the application is submitted.

The committee meets twice a month to review applications. A registry of credentialed individuals will be posted on the website.

Work group members discussed self-attestations, peers who might be struggling, supervisor roles, ethical standards, and scholarships.

Precious cited the ICRC credential definition of recovery: *peers are individuals with lived experience and recovery from substance, use, mental health, and co-occurring challenges. They use their recovery experience to provide support and hope to individuals working through their own recovery.*

SAMHSA defines recovery as *a process of change through which individuals improve their health and well-being.* Definitions can evolve if necessary.

Precious recommended that peers complete their recertification application at least two to three months prior to the expiration date to allow for any required training. The manual appendix contains a helpful recertification checklist. COPA is currently working with HCPF regarding Medicaid training and billing for peers, which will be a requirement next year.

Peer Support in Jail Coalition Update: Rica reported on behalf of Betsy Craft. There are now 52 coalition members statewide. Three priorities have been identified for completion prior to the April 4th meeting: draft policies and procedures, including a framework for a community advisory oversight board, training curriculum, and a one-page information document to share with partners. The coalition's goal is to function as a partner to assist with jail safety and recovery transition that improves continuity of care. Precious Collins would like to attend the coalition meetings: Precious@coprovidersassociation.org

2025 Subcommittee Updates & Tasks:

Subcommittee on Medicaid Billing & Best Practices (Jen Place): A white paper has been submitted to HCPF. A meeting to discuss the paper is planned.

Recovery Data: No updates this month.

Other Areas to be Addressed: Laura Indermuehle asked about the plans to designate four milligrams of naloxone as a high dose and a petition that is currently being circulated to maintain the dosage at four milligrams. Laura provided the link:
<http://www.change.org/NaloxoneAccessColorado>

Liquor Enforcement Division Hearing: A hearing pertaining to placement rules for alcohol in grocery and convenience stores will take place on April 1st at 1:30 pm. Work group members were encouraged to attend the hearing.

Consortium Announcement/Updates:

SB25-199 is a new bill that suspends legislative interim committee activities during the 2025 legislative period (likely related to proposed budget cuts). The suspension includes the Opioids and Other Substance Use Disorders Study Committee. The Consortium will continue to work informally on policy ideas despite the committee suspension.

Guest & Member Events:

- The Denver Recovery Group is opening a Breckenridge Medication Unit. An open house will be held on April 11th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Information: <https://www.denverrecoverygroup.com/>
- Drug Policy Alliance/Drug Policy Coalition to host a Colorado-specific media-vetting workshop – date TBD (Spring 2025)
- Free 2-Day Virtual Peer Specialist event sponsored by COPA: April 28th & 29th. Register [here](#).
- Yampa Valley Wellness Conference: Thursday, May 15th. <https://thehealthpartnership.org/yampa-valley-wellness-conference-2025-registration/>
- SAVE THE DATE: Rural Peer Conference in Glenwood Springs will be held July 30 – Aug 1, 2025.
- 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/>
- Sober tailgates and other recovery-supportive events: <https://soberafe.com/events/>
- CAiR Art Show at Free Recovery Community on Friday, April 4th 5-8 p.m. in Denver. Flyer: <https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org>

Events can be posted on Facebook. (Email info/graphic)
<https://www.facebook.com/RecoveryReadyColorado>

Recovery-related Job Announcements:

- CHOW – part-time (5 hrs/week) peer support group facilitators. Email admin@chowco.org for more information or to apply.
- CU School of Medicine – Doula 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](#)

- [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. 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) has 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