

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Misuse Prevention

Treatment Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2026 from 12 to 1 p.m. via Zoom

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

Present:

Angela Bonaguidi, Michelle Lalinde, Stephanie Stewart, MD, Co-Chairs

Teresa Cobleigh, Gold Spark Studio

Steve Young, MD

James Kuemmerle, CSU

Dametria (Dee) Clough, Arapahoe County

Beth Gugino, Indivior

Jessica Angleson, Pharmacist

Ricky E. Johnson, Quiet.Josiah Is Speaking

Elizabeth Thomas, BHA

Kirsten Wulfsberg, Colorado State

Bryan (no last name)

Consortium: Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Hilary Bryant, Shayna Micucci, Kristin Carpenter, Eric

Barker, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 2026 meeting minutes. Motion approved.

CSU Presentation: Supporting Rural Behavioral Health for Farmers and Ranchers (Kirsten Wulfsberg, LPC):

Kirsten Wulfsberg is a licensed professional counselor working with the CSU Extension in rural areas of Colorado. Kirsten's background is in crisis psychology within hospital settings, including 15 years with Advent Health as a clinical supervisor for the Crisis Psychiatric Assessment Team. She now works with CSU's AgrAbility program, a joint venture between Colorado State University and Goodwill.

Presentation Summary:

In 1920, the US Census showed 30% of the population working in agriculture. As of 2020 that percentage is under 2%. Work in the agricultural sector can be very stressful, which can lead to behavioral health problems and substance use. The suicide rate among those working in farming and ranching is higher than that of veterans.

The AgrAbility program started at Purdue University. <https://www.agrability.org/> The Colorado AgrAbility Project is a partnership between Colorado State University Extension and Goodwill Industries of Colorado. The organizations work together to assist farmers, ranchers, and agricultural workers with disabilities, injuries, or chronic health conditions to improve safety and access to services, with additional support from the National AgrAbility Project. Services

include on-site assessments, education and training, mental health support, and connections to resources.

The FarmAble program within AgrAbility provides training and economic support program to help farmers become successful and sustainable producers.

<https://goodwillcolorado.org/farmable-program/>

CSU also has a Colorado Agriculture Addiction & Mental Health Program offering in-person workshops and multi-day training focusing on practical skills and peer support for rural residents, including farmers, ranchers, and veterans. Free counseling vouchers are available for armers and ranchers in Colorado. <https://www.campforhealth.org/>

The COMET training (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory) teaches people how to recognize and respond to someone in a mental health crisis.

<https://agrability.colostate.edu/comet/>

Rocky Mountain Farmer's Union AgWell project connects rural farmers and ranchers to stress management resources including, suicide prevention, substance misuse, general mental health resources, and financial resources: <https://agwell.org/>

The Land Logic Model incorporates agricultural principles and values into Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. Free training available to licensed Colorado medical and mental health professionals:

<https://www.thelandlogicmodel.com/>

Joint Working Group of Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) & Colorado Behavioral Health (BHA) is virtual and open to the public. CDA Ag Behavioral Health Work Group:

<https://ag.colorado.gov/home/about-us/ag-behavioral-health-work-group>

Discussion/Comments:

Teresa Cobleigh shared information about a concept for extended care/recovery called Shepherd's Hamlet, an intentional community similar to "wellness farm" with varied vocational training that could be relevant for agricultural communities:

<https://www.goldsparkstudio.org/shepherd>. She also mentioned Ranch House Recovery in Elgin, Texas, a ranch-based residential rehab program that combines addiction treatment with farming, animals, and community living. <https://www.ranchhouserecovery.com/>

Meeting participants also discussed Harvest Farm, a long-term residential recovery program located on a 100-acre working farm near Fort Collins, Colorado, run by the Denver Rescue Mission. The program combines addiction recovery, life skills, and farm-based work therapy.

<https://fortcollinsrescuemission.org/who-we-are/our-mission/>

Jen Place asked about sustainability, given recent funding issues. Jim Kuemmerle, AgrAbility Eastern Regional Behavioral Health Specialist, explained that the program is funded by the state's Marijuana Tax Fund, which has been decreasing.

Full presentation:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/11lo2tsY7RWj3mMXeKpkuPXs4FQYZciZu/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=112175965831052545628&rtpof=true&sd=true

For additional information: Kirsten.Wulfsberg@colostate.edu

Member Updates:

Shayna Micucci, Consortium Program Manager, is working with a consultant to facilitate an in-person Black Coloradans Substance Use Action Forum that will be held on April 23rd in Denver. The forum will bring together stakeholders to discuss the current landscape of substance use services supporting Black communities across Colorado to identify needs and gaps in services and support. Shayna asked meeting participants to let her know of any Black leaders, community members, and organizations serving the Black community, or operating within Black-led organizations, and that might want to participate. Email: Shayna.micucci@cuanschutz.edu

Angela Bonaguidi reported that the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) and the Colorado Department of Healthcare and Policy and Finance (HCPF) are working with the substance use disorder provider community to update and align BHA rules. Community feedback can be posted by March 31st at the following link: <https://bha.colorado.gov/for-service-providers/laws-and-rules>

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27, 2026 from 12 to 1 p.m. via Zoom.