

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Carly Larson, Co-chair, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners
Rica Rodriguez, Co-chair, Peer Support Specialist
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Maureen McGinn, Valley Hope
David Huff, Community Member
Susanna Velie, Christlife Ministries
Wendy Sachs, Behavioral Health Group
Coreen Braden, Young People in Recovery
Tracey Ritter, Community Member
Mike Orrill, Chaffee County Public Health
OBH: Alia Andrews, Stephanie Salkin,
Advocates for Recovery Colorado: Tonya Wheeler, James Gannon
Signal Behavioral Health: Amber Nicoletti, Heather Dolan
The Phoenix: Mike Mielke, Emily Petroskey
Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association: Keaton Sheagley, K.J. Bergfalk,
Michael Refice
Consortium: Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Judy Solano, Lindsey Simbeye, Rosemarie MacDowell
Absent: See attached roster.

Carly Larson, Work Group Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. She introduced Rica Rodriguez, new work group co-chair, and asked Rica to review the work group vision and mission for work group participants.

Carly reviewed the work group norms and Jen Place asked participants to note any questions in the chat box.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the February 2021 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

ED-RSS Updates:

Swedish Hospital: James Gannon reported that he is now back in the ED and they are now seeing a lot more engagement.

Peer Support Workforce Legislation:

HB 21-1021 passed unanimously during the first reading and will be referred to the Finance Committee. The second amendment includes suggested changes made by the work group, including more robust references to supervision and training required for RSSO supervisors. Since there may be some opposition to the bill, Jen asked for 3 to 5 volunteers to testify on

behalf of the bill either in person at the Capitol or virtually. Volunteers can email either the work group co-chairs, program manager, or Consortium coordinator:

Carly: carlyl@rmcrisispartners.org

Rica: Rica.rodriquez@viventhealth.com

Jen:: Jennifer.place@cuanschultz.edu

Rosemarie: rosemarie.macdowell@cuanschultz.edu

Residential Roll-out Issues:

Carly requested work group input regarding this issue. Jessica indicated that a Boulder coalition is planning a panel discussion next Wednesday regarding this topic. Anyone interest in attending can email Jessica: Jessica.eaddy@cuanschultz.edu

Tonya Wheeler reported that Medicaid patients are having difficulty entering treatment due to issues with the Medicaid benefit for treatment providers. Tonya also reported that the ED is seeing a considerable increase in fentanyl use.

Rica commented that fentanyl is being found in methamphetamines as well as opioids. She suggested further discussion with Tonya and James and the possibility of providing fentanyl test strips and Narcan to discharging patients. James indicated that the fentanyl he has encountered in the ED has been related to intentional use (pills or smoking). Judy Solano reported concurrent use of methadone and fentanyl.

Facebook Content Calendar:

Carly and Rica will be working on this together. The calendar should be ready by the next work group meeting.

ROSC Updates/Ideas:

Tonya Wheeler asked work group participants to email her with any ideas they may have: tonyawheeler@advocatesforrecovery.org.

The work group discussed the ROSC concept. Jen mentioned the possibility of creating a presentation for the Provider Education Lunch & Learn series in order to educate clinicians about the ROSC model. Tonya volunteered to put together several slides for this purpose. Jen also suggested slides from the Faces & Voices toolkit.

One-Page Information Flyer:

Jen provided an update of the recovery-focused language flyer that will be disseminated to providers, others involved in recovery and treatment services, and other Consortium work groups. She reviewed the current rough draft and asked for comments. An update is attached to the minutes.

Comments:

- Add statistical information regarding the impact of addiction on employers, i.e., information about the cost of ED services (this could contribute to stigma and discrimination, however.)
- Include statistical data showing the benefits derived from recovery.
- Faces and Voices of Recovery has recently determined best practices for RCOs which Tonya will share with the work group. Tonya also mentioned a SAMHSA document “Words Matter, How Language Choice Can Reduce Stigma.”

https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/programs_campaigns/02_webcast_1_resources-508.pdf

- Carly will edit some of the paragraphs.
- The intended audience for the flyer includes community members, employers, medical providers, law enforcement, and other work groups.
- Multiple recovery pathways – important to show that there are other options.
- Prevention information, testing, harm reduction, MAT. Brief description on additional information available.
- Positive recovery language
- How people can become an ally and help with recovery

Consortium Announcements:

Jose is coordinating the legislative updates. Jose will be providing a presentation to Boulder County Health, according to Jessica Eaddy.

Tonya mentioned SB 21-137, the Behavioral Health Recovery Act. Jen said this bill includes language from last year’s recovery bill. It also has funding for an RCO grant program in addition to funding currently offered through the MSOs and separate from recovery block grants. Link to bill summary: <https://openstates.org/co/bills/2021A/SB21-137/>

Stephanie Salkin addressed SOR II available funding through MSOs and how the process works. Jen also discussed the MSO funding application process and opportunities. Jen will email Marc Condojani for additional funding information.

The OBH site that can be used to find the appropriate agency by region: <https://cdhs.colorado.gov/behavioral-health/find-behavioral-health-help>

For additional information: stephanie.salkin@state.co.us

Employment Opportunities:

The Peer Coaching Academy is currently hiring four peer positions in Denver and Colorado Springs 10 – 20 hours per week.

The Phoenix is seeking a Denver Program Manager. For questions: Info@thephoenix.org or email Mike Mielke: mikem@thephoenix.org

Embark/PCA: “Deep Dive” will be held the first week in April and continue two hours a week for six months. They are also hosting a weekly gathering on Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m.

Youth Sober Night will be held at Skate City on March 20th from 8 to 10 p.m.

Advocates for Recovery will hold a Recovery Rally at Civic Center Park on Saturday, September 18th.

There will be a candlelight vigil on March 28th from 7 – 9 p.m. at Kendrick Lake Park in Lakewood sponsored by the Drug Epidemic Awareness Walk Across America.

Other Business:

Coreen Braden is creating a Power Point presentation on the Good Samaritan Act. She would like ideas, concepts, and information references for the presentation. Anyone open to discussing this project should contact her directly: coreen.braden@youngpeopleinrecovery.org

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Attachments:

One-page information flyer
Work group roster

Selected Chat Comments:

Signal Behavioral Health : Our RCO RFP is available and on the signal website:
<https://signalbhn.org/>

Stephanie Salkin : We had an MAT Task force put together materials for providers arguing for treatment services. There are some provider materials there that are free.
<https://liftthelabel.org/>