

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Misuse Prevention

Affected Families & Friends Work Group

May 21, 2026 from 12 to 1:30 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:

Sarah Werner and Tracy Ritter, Co-chairs
Annette Cannon, Jefferson County Coroner
Charity Bellerdine, CDHS
Kase Wille, Hazelden Betty Ford
Lorraine Hoover, Raymond Rountree, Jr. Foundation
Ames Stenson, Englewood Municipal Court Restorative Justice Program
Community Members: Teresa Cobleigh, Marlo Alston, Gigi
Otero County Health Department: Christopher Menges, Jeff Richardson
Denver County Court: Hanohn Al-Abduljalil, Molly Somogyi, Erica Herrin, Andrew Land
Consortium: Jen Place, Hilary Bryant, Kristin Carpenter, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster.

Sarah Werner, Affected Families & Friends Work Group Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Program Manager Hilary Bryant provided an overview of the work group's current projects. Co-chair Tracy Ritter reviewed the meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Presentation – Role of Forensic Peer Navigators:

Hanohn Al-Abduljalil, Erica Herrin, and Andrew Land, Forensic Peer Navigators with the DCC Specialty Court, shared information about their roles as peer navigators within the court system and how they interact with families impacted by the justice system. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. Summary:

- The DCC system includes specialty courts that address the root causes of criminal behavior.
- Specialty Court programs include the following courts: Competency, Sobriety, Recovery, and Outreach.
- Members of the team are certified Colorado Peer and family Specialists (CPFS). Andrew Land has a nationally recognized peer certification (NCPRSS).
- Forensic peer support specialists maintain a neutral role to help individuals within the justice system.
- Support specialists are client focused and utilize their lived experience with substance use.
- Participation is voluntary; peer interactions with the client family members are at the client's request.

- Referrals come from various stakeholders, including judges, attorneys, and probation officers.
- Peer specialists work within the harm reduction model, providing Narcan and fentanyl test strips to keep people safe.

Clients often lack support from family members. Hanohn, Andrew, and Erica spoke about specific clients and how they were able to facilitate interactions with family members for additional support.

A flyer of peer support services is available upon request. To obtain a copy or for more information about the program:

Hanohn Al-Abduljalil hanohn.al-abduljalil@denvercountycourt.org or (720) 450-5385.

Discussion:

Hanohn explained that the forensic part of their work is very specific to understanding the intricacies and navigation of the judicial system.

The initial contact is usually made during the client's first court appearance once peers are notified by the court clerks. Attorneys also ask peers to work with some of their clients.

Ames Stenson spoke briefly about the restorative justice program in Englewood, which is part of the Municipal Court.

Christopher Menges and Jeff Richardson spoke about their program in Otero County, which includes street outreach. They also work with the local ER and faith-based organizations as well as the court system. Some of the work includes providing transportation for clients to attend court hearings.

For more information about the Otero County Substance Use Disorder Program or the Southeastern Colorado Coalition on Substance Use Disorder (virtual attendance option): Christopher Menges, Otero County Health Department (719) 241-4446 and cmenges@otero.gov

Hilary suggested the work group could be of assistance, i.e., by providing compassion cards or by arranging a Stories in Black and White exhibition. She asked Christopher and Jeff to let her know if they have other suggestions on how the work group could be of help.

Sarah asked how the peer specialists navigate the difficulties involved in securing treatment for their clients. Hanohn said that relationships have been developed with treatment centers.

Sarah also mentioned a current ballot measure related to possession of any amount of fentanyl: <https://leg.colorado.gov/initiatives/penalties-for-fentanyl-crimes-85> Gigi provided a link: <https://www.ccjrc.org/fentanylballotmeasure>
Contact Teresa Cobleigh for more information: Teresa@goldsparkstudio.org

Announcements:

The Stories in Black and White exhibition will be held at Denver Health and in Pueblo in August. The exhibition will also be held in Gunnison in September and during the Attorney General's Opioid Abatement Conference in October. Participation is still open for all locations.

Ames Stenson offers a monthly virtual presentation about the restorative justice program. For information: astenson@englewoodco.gov or (303) 242-7020.

For information about Hazelton Betty Ford care and support for families contact Kase Wille: KWille@hazeldenbettyford.org www.hazeldenbettyford.org/family

For information on events sponsored by the Raymond Rountree, Jr. Foundation:
<https://sosrjrffoundation.org/>

Adjournment/next meeting date:

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Upcoming meetings will be held on the following dates: Thursday, August 20th and Thursday, November 19th from 12 to 1:30pm (via Zoom)

Attachments: Work group roster, Forensic Peer Navigator Presentation