

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2025 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Pia Long, CU Boulder
Alia Andrews, CDHS
Ian Keith, Bicycle Health
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180
Toni Fernandez, HardBeauty
Victor King, Mental Health Partners
Laura Allem, Sagebrush Recovery
Shana Shaw, Compound of Compassion
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Dominique Knowles, Hope COS
Heather Dolan, Signal Behavioral Health
Darin Valdez, Colorado Artists in Recovery
Coreen Johnson, Young People in Recovery
Dara Mendoza, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Laura Indermuehle, Serenity Recovery Connection
John Klinghammer, Hazelbrook Sober Living
Sophia Masinelli, Community Medical Services
Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment
Ryan Hobert, Servicios de la Raza
Katie Moon, Grand County Rural Health Network
Consortium: José Esquivel, Jen Place, Eric Barker, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster

Jen Place, Program Manager, 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 May 2025 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

New Co-chairs:

Jen Place announced that Coreen Johnson and Victor King have accepted the work group co-chair positions. They will be meeting with outgoing co-chairs Rica Rodriguez and Betsy Craft. Jen expressed her thanks for Rica's and Betsy's leadership.

Jen reviewed the work group's mission and goals established in 2019. Work group members will be sent a survey to determine future goals for the recovery landscape in Colorado. A new date and time for the work group meeting and ways to increase meeting participation were also discussed. Jen mentioned that subcommittees have been established in the past to focus on specific goals such as the committees on peers in carceral settings and Medicaid billing.

Work group members discussed the importance of supporting young peers, including employment opportunities. Melissa Mouton was mentioned as a resource to help include youth

as part of the discussion. Shana Shaw agreed to facilitate contact between Coreen and Melissa.

State Partner and Guest Updates:

COPA: During the May work group meeting, Precious Collins said beginning in July the Colorado Peer and Family Specialist certification will be incorporating additional questions about harm reduction.

[Colorado Peer Policy Action Network \(C2PAN\)](#) is a statewide, peer-led coalition aimed at advancing peer support services in Colorado detention facilities. Members interested in joining this coalition can contact Betsy Craft: betsy.coloradodpc@gmail.com

Subcommittee Updates:

Medicaid Billing & Best Practices: Changes will be made in the state Medicaid billing policy for peer services. Only three provider types will be allowed to bill for peer services. Substance use treatment, safety net providers, and RSSOs will be able to bill; however, peer support specialists in RSSOs will be limited to two codes. There will be significant edits made to the white paper to address new concerns related to these billing restrictions.

Legislative Efforts: Policy comments and ideas from stakeholders are being collected. The Consortium plans to organize a small group to meet with legislators on July 29th. José Esquibel summarized the topics to be discussed, including policies related to sober living residences. The Consortium Harm Reduction Work Group has already put together ideas for potential legislation. José asked meeting participants to let Jen know if they would like to participate in this effort.

Laura Indermuehle mentioned legislation enacted several years ago prohibiting an individual from having their records sealed retroactively. She said El Paso County courts are trying to overturn this restriction.

Victor King mentioned the dismantling occurring on the federal level and inquired about the work group's efforts for national impact. José said the Consortium has an avenue available to work with the Congressional delegation through the university liaison. The Consortium has worked with both Representative Pedersen and Senator Hickenlooper in the past. José referred to a recently passed bill that allocates funding for SUD. He will provide additional information regarding this bill.

Coreen said a Harm Reduction Advocacy Subcommittee meets once a month and recently advocated for SAMHSA restructuring. Jen mentioned that the Safe Project has a national scope. Faces & Voices of Recovery also focuses on the national level.

Action Link to Protect Federal Funding for Community Recovery Programs:

<https://actionbutton.nationbuilder.com/share/SPK-QEVFQUM=>

Funding Announcements:

Work group members were encouraged to check with Regional Opioid Abatement Councils for potential funding sources.

Heather Dolan explained HB1287 funding for rural expansion, which awards two years of funding related to recovery and/or treatment and prevention services. Funds are managed by MSOs (soon to be BHASOs). For information: hdolan@signalbhn.org

- Signal Behavioral Health Grant Application Process:
chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://signalbhn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/RFA_Grant-Application-_Round-5-2024.pdf
- Rocky Mountain Health Plans' 1287 Grant opportunity is also open:
<https://www.rmhp.org/programs/mso/>

Consortium Announcements & Updates:

Peer Support Specialist Lunch & Learn Series: Select Tuesdays at noon through the summer.
[Peer Support Professionals Lunch and Learns | Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention](#)

Guest & Member Events/Opportunities:

- Colorado Mental Wellness Network Peer Support Supervisor training July 2nd and 9th. See flyer attached to the minutes. For questions: wilder@cmwn.org
- Compound of Compassion events. See information attached to the minutes. For questions: Shana Shaw compassion4free@gmail.com
- The Drug Policy Alliance/Drug Policy Coalition to host a Colorado-specific media-vetting workshop. Date TBD (Spring 2025)
- Save the Date: [Rural Peer Conference](#) in Glenwood Springs 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 (next starting in August/October)
- Sober AF Entertainment peer training: <https://soberafe.com/peer-training/>
Other recovery-supportive events: <https://soberafe.com/events/>
- Recovery Month Events: Sept 20th Denver [Recovery Rally](#) and Sept 27th Colorado Springs [SoCO Rally](#). SRC is accepting sponsorships
- Community Medical Services is hosting a resource fair at their Lakewood for members of the unhoused community as well as for people in recovery or seeking recovery.
<https://forms.office.com/r/JQgK8eW1KS>
- CMWN: Quarterly Peer Networking Event (Peer Support and the LGBTQ+ Community, June 26th 12:00-1:30 p.m.): <https://mailchi.mp/df2c76a55b08/how-are-you-staying-well-in-6423234>
- Colorado Artists in Recovery (CAiR): Drag Show Brunch Fundraiser - Denver - July 12th at Charlie's - <https://coloradoartistsinrecovery.networkforgood.com/events/87379-90-s-sing-along-drag-brunch-cair-fundraiser>
Drag Show Fundraiser in Fort Collins on August 9th 🥰 To support our programs in NoCo - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/its-giving-a-drag-fundraiser-for-colorado-artists-in-recovery-tickets-1344234665069?aff=oddttdtcreator>
Recovery Art Show at Free Recovery Community on August 1st - free tickets to attend: (artist spots are currently full) -
<https://coloradoartistsinrecovery.networkforgood.com/events/87469-cair-art-show-august-1st>

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

Recovery-related Job Announcements:

- The Region 18 Opioid Settlement Governance Council is seeking a Peer Support Professional Coordinator for 20 hours/month at \$20/hour (San Luis Valley). For complete job description, visit: <https://riograndecounty.colorado.gov>
- The Refuge in Broomfield is seeking a Peer Support Advocate for a part-time position to work with the unhoused. Requirements: 1 year of experience and certification. Resume and questions to info@therefugeco.org.
- DOC - [Peer Specialist Coordinator | Job Details tab | Career Pages](#) - Cannot have a felony
- University of Colorado – Search Keyword term: “Peer” or Req. #s 36782, 35127, 36694, 35187, 35069: <https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/moresearch.ftl?lang=en>
- Advocates for Recovery Colorado: <https://www.advocatesforrecovery.org/job-postings>
- Adams County Public Health – harm reduction & sexual health mobile supervisor: [https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/adams/jobs/4672302/harm-reduction-specialist-peer-support?department\[0\]=Public%20Health%20Department&sort=PositionTitle%7CAscending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs](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 has 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. 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 5:56 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2025 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. (date change pending).

Attachments: Work group roster, CMWN Peer Support Supervisor Training Flyer, Compound of Compassion Events