

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2023 via Zoom

Present:

Jenny Hill, Co-chair
John Narine, Consultant
Gary Coleman, CU Anschutz
Jessie Henderson, CU Worth Program
Celique Hatcher, The Steadman Group
Megan Colwell, We Face it Together
Lorraine Hoover, Raymond Rountree Jr. Foundation
Sara Summerfield-Dempsey, Hard Beauty
Wendy Sachs, Denver County Court
Heather Dolan, Signal Behavioral Health
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Claire Founie, Northpoint Recovery
Hope Hyatt, CMWN
Ciara Gregovich, DEA
Alia Andrews, CDHS
Ernest Bilinski, CDPHE
Chris Poma, Recovery Café Longmont
Hailima Yates, Hazelbrook
Cameron Lundstrom, NAS Recovery Solutions
Donna Mae Baukat, CCO Community Compassion Outreach
Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment
Rick Carpenter, Crossroads Turning Points
Waltrina DeFrantz-Dufour, Denver University
Shana Shaw, Compound of Compassion
Margaret Rich, Hector Gonzales
P2P Recovery Resources: Bruce Edmonstone, Michael Sanchez
Serenity Recovery Connection: Laura Indermuehle, Grace Kane
Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Jen Place, Shayna Micucci, Lindsey Simbeye, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent: See attached roster.

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

Approval of Minutes:

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

Guest Update: DU Collegiate Recovery Community (Waltrina DeFrantz-Dufor):

Dr. DeFrantz-Dufor is the Director of the Collegiate Recovery Program, which is part of the Health and Counseling Center at the University of Denver. She has also served on the board of the Association of Recovery in Higher Education (ARHE): <https://collegiaterecovery.org/>

The ARHE website lists all of the collegiate recovery programs currently available. Additional information is available on the Association of Recovery Schools website:

<https://recoveryschools.org/>

The collegiate recovery program serves many students with substance problems developed while in high school. The program provides student scholarship support, access to recovery meetings, and housing support. Some states have mandated universities to establish a recovery program if they are receiving federal funds. Data has shown that students have a higher chance of reaching consistent sobriety by the age of 26 if they attend a university with a recovery program. The program also includes training for university faculty. Grants have supported other states in establishing collegiate recovery programs.

Dr. DeFrantz-Dufor would like to see other Colorado universities adopt similar programs. She is also supportive of recovery friendly workplace initiatives for veterans, women, and minorities.

Work group member comments:

Jenny Hill suggested the topic of program expansion in Colorado might be addressed with the Interim Study Committee.

Ceilique Hatcher asked if program cost/benefit analysis information is available (some information is available on the ARHE website).

Grace Kane asked about partnerships with recovery high schools.

Jose Esquibel suggested the work group establish a subcommittee including decision makers from university and school leadership. Jenny asked participants to indicate their interest in joining the subcommittee. The following responses were noted:

- Jenny Hill, work group co-chair
- Claire Founie, Northpoint Recovery
- Ciara Gregovich, DEA
- Sara Summerfield-Dempsey, Hard Beauty
- Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment
- Lindsey Simbeye, CCPDAP
- Heather Dolan, Signal BHN (Signal, RMHP and Diversus as potential funders)
- Ceilique Hatcher, The Steadman Group
- Alia Andrews, BHA
- Rick Carpenter, Crossroads Turning Points
- Donna Mae Baukat, CCO Community Compassion Outreach
- Hope Hyatt, CMWN

Formalization of the Peer Support Professional Field:

Colorado Association of Peer Support Professionals objectives and update (Hope Hyatt):

CAPSP is a grassroots organization serving the peer support workforce by connecting and elevating peer support members, advocating for relevant legislative issues, developing a higher quality standardized training curriculum for peer support professionals and supervisors, and supporting adequate pay and advancement opportunities.

The organization was founded in response to advocacy work related to House Bill 21-1021 Peer Support Professionals Behavioral Health: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1021>
The bill was signed into law and establishes a definition of peer support professionals as well as a framework for professional training.

The association website will be launched on October 19th. There is no cost for the first year of membership. To register for membership: Colorado Association of Peer Support Specialists <https://coloradopeersupport.com/> For more information: Hope Hyatt hope@cmwn.org

The association is also seeking a manager.

Hope will provide association brochures to Jen Place for further distribution.

Recovery Promotion:

SAMHSA National Model for Peer Support Certification: Jenny asked work group members about the recently released SAMHSA model. Laura Indermuehle said it brought recognition to the peer support profession.

Colorado Hospital Association: CHA supports peer specialists in hospital settings. The Consortium will be collaborating with CHA and The Steadman Group to apply for funding to be used to create a guidance toolkit for hospitals.

Conferences/Training:

- The rural peer conference will be held in Glenwood Springs on July 27th and 28th. Registration information was sent to work group members. The conference is being organized by the Health Partnership in NW Colorado and The Steadman Group.
- The Benzodiazepine Action Work Group sponsored peer support specialist training in June. Shayna Micucci, program manager for the work group, reported that 19 people participated in the training. Additional training sessions are scheduled to take place this year and next, with registration available nationally.
- Virtual PSP conference videos are available on the Whova site: https://whova.com/portal/webapp/cpsps_202302/ Contact Jen Place for additional information. Jennifer.place@cuanschultz.edu
- Alia Andrews, BHA, updated the work group on forthcoming grants and workforce conferences. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUufuqvqzkuGNRTBaXDX6x1g5y-Jb37LDY5#/registration> Conference recordings will be available on the website. For information: alia.andrews2@state.co.us

Opioid and Oher Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee:

Jose Esquibel reviewed prior discussions with legislators regarding the peer workforce and recovery related systems of care. Medicaid and private insurance reimbursement challenges still exist for peer services. Ongoing efforts are required to educate legislators regarding the role of peer professionals. There will be an opportunity to address the committee again on August 19th. Jose asked work group members to suggest topics.

Laura Indermuehle spoke about a recent visit to Washington, D.C. when she had the opportunity to speak with legislative staff about funding for treatment and the possibility of retracting the legal requirement that anyone with a drug charge record is not eligible to apply for food stamps. She also spoke to legislative staff about the lack of adolescent treatment for substance use.

Jose suggested it might be useful to review what other states have done to address adolescent treatment.

Jenny mentioned the lack of options for chronic pain management for people in recovery.

Jose said legislators did pass legislation related to alternative pain management, including acupuncture and physical therapy. He mentioned the upcoming Consortium collaboration with the Colorado Pain Society for their annual conference in October.

John Narine asked about grants that might be available for recovery friendly leader organizations that do not qualify under a strict definition of behavioral health services. Jose said there would be an opportunity to obtain some input regarding language pertaining to grants when the bill drafting process begins.

Grace Kane suggested broadening the definition of recovery to comply with the SAMHSA definition.

Donna Mae Baukat pointed out the challenges for people who self-medicate with street drugs because they do not have insurance to cover pain medications. She also mentioned issues that exist with city councils and county commissioners. One region is supporting a treatment center with opioid funds without considering the necessity of recovery housing.

Jose said there are plans to conduct a learning series for commissioners regarding treatment and recovery strategies. He recommended that work group members start now to educate 2024 political candidates who may be overseeing the opioid settlement funds in the future.

Work group members were asked to send any additional policy recommendations as soon as possible to Jen Place: Jennifer.Place@cuanschultz.edu

Announcements/Events: *Announcements can be sent to Jen, Rica, or Jenny prior to each monthly meeting to include with the agenda. Articles for Facebook can be sent at any time.*

- Duke Rumely, with Sober AF Entertainment spoke about the sober events organized for music festivals, concerts, and sporting events. For information on upcoming events: <https://soberafe.com/event-calendar/>
- Mini grants will be available for regional awareness events. For information: stephanie.salkin@state.co.us
- Advocates for Recovery Colorado is planning their annual rally on September 16th in downtown Denver.
- SRC and Face it Together are hosting a regional recovery rally on September 23rd at America the Beautiful Park in Colorado Springs.
- Consortium Grant Writing Assistance: <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/> shifting to supporting BHA grants only.
- Consortium Fentanyl Awareness Campaign: www.keepthepartysafe.org

- Recovery Heroes: Stories can be submitted to SRC: <https://srchope.org/category/recovery-hero-stories/>
- Into Light exhibition, Denver University, highlighting portraits of those lost to overdose. <https://intolightproject.org/submit-application-colorado/>
- Recovery Cards Project: seeking artists for additional virtual and hard-copy cards.
- Lift the Label newsletter. To subscribe: <https://mailchi.mp/liftthelabel/subscribe>
- Alma Program (English or Spanish speaking): support for mothers (pregnancy through one year post-partum) www.almaprogram.com
- Colorado Artists in Recovery events: <https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org/events>
- Hard Beauty events: <https://www.hardbeauty.life/events-workshops/>

Consortium Announcements/Updates:

Legislative Updates: The Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee will be meeting in July/August.

Grant Writing Assistance: <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/> shifting to supporting BHA grants only (if/when open)

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster, SRC/Face it TOGETHER Recovery Rally Announcement