

## **Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention**

### **Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes**

July 13, 2021 via Zoom

#### **Present:**

Carly Larson, Co-chair

Rica Rodriguez, Co-chair

Wendy Sachs, BHG

Angie Bertrand, Peer 180

Chris Conn, Spero Recovery

Coreen Braden, Young People in Recovery

Duke Rumely, Sober AF Entertainment

James Gannon, Advocates for Recovery:

Rachel Fowler, Recover Simply

Wendy White, Face it Together

Ernest Bilinski, CDPHE

Alexander Schnell, Colorado Association of Recovery Residences

OBH: Alia Andrews, Stephanie Salkin

Maureen McGinn, Amber Nicoletti

Consortium: Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Jamie Feld, Lindsey

Simbeye, Michael Davidson, Rosemarie MacDowell

**Absent:** See attached roster.

Carly Larson, Work Group Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m. and reviewed the work group norms and focus areas.

#### **Approval of Minutes:**

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

#### **ED-RSS Update - Swedish Hospital**

James Gannon provided an update. The hospital RSS position has been filled. They expect the credentialing process will be finished by mid to late August in order to have complete access to the ED.

#### **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS):**

Jen provided background information regarding how the survey was developed. Colorado was one of the first states to ask questions related to recovery. The work group discussed the questions and how they could be tracked in future surveys for barriers such as difficulty finding services or childcare. The following suggestions were made:

- Add another option for the reason why individuals did not access services. Is it possible they are not aware of other support services since AA is so widely available?
- It can be complicated to differentiate between support services.
- Obtain more data about whether or not individuals are aware of multiple pathways. If individuals knew of other options, would they utilize them or are they unaware of those options?

**Legislative Update:**

SB 21-137 Behavioral Health Recovery Act was signed by Governor Polis on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Alia Andrews said that most of the funding will be provided to MSOs. She suggested work group members contact their MSOs regarding RFPs that will be issued in the near future. The Consortium is available to assist organizations that do not have grant writers. RFP turnaround times were discussed. Both Diversus and West Slope Casa's turnaround times were three weeks.

Funding includes \$1.6 million for the recovery grant program and another \$10 million earmarked for the MSOs for treatment and recovery.

The OBH certification fees for recovery residences are being reduced. More information about this fee reduction will be addressed in future meetings. Oxford house is exempt from certification in Colorado.

Links to SB 21-137 and a summary of legislation:

<https://corxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/SB137-Bill-Summary-6.18.21.pdf>

<https://corxconsortium.org/2021-legislative-wrap-up/>

Grant writing program: <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/>

**RCO Organizing:**

Work group participants discussed how to support RCOs. Comments:

Angie Bertrand: Participation in the Recovery Work Group has been very helpful. Tonya Wheeler has also supported RCO efforts. Mentors are valuable and can provide information on setting up infrastructure. The length of time involved in obtaining reimbursement can be an issue for some RCOs.

Faces & Voices of Recovery has an RCO toolkit. A one-page "how to" guide could provide information.

Sustainability, particularly in rural areas, could be included in grants.

A grant-funded project to provide training for peers and peer supervision could be proposed.

Carly Larson: Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is now offering a peer-specific training program. They are currently enrolling peers.

Ernest Bilinski: The Colorado General Assembly approved up front CDPHE grantee payments for up to 25% of the total value of a contract. This could be very helpful for new or smaller organizations. For additional information: [ernest.bilinski@state.co.us](mailto:ernest.bilinski@state.co.us)

James Gannon: AFRC is a statewide RCO and now has an office in Montrose and Delta. They also have a statewide advocacy grant that could be utilized to connect people.

Link to legislation: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1247>

<https://diversushealth.org/mso-resources/#proposals:-sb202-rfa>

HB 21-1021 Peer Support Professional Behavioral Health  
<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1021>

### **Public Relations:**

The Support Recovery in Colorado infographic was discussed. Printed versions will be available shortly and should be distributed widely to emergency rooms, probation offices, recovery organizations, among other locations. Jen is compiling a distribution list.

Link to infographic: <https://corxconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/Supporting-Recovery-1-Pager-2021.pdf>

Content calendar: Rica said she would help manage the Facebook page. Coreen Braden offered to help. Posting on Facebook can be scheduled ahead of time.

### **Updates:**

Jen will check with Susanna Cooper to see if there is a recording of the recent educational seminar held in Grand Junction.

### **Announcements:**

\$50 million from the opioid settlement will be provided to the state. The funding will be distributed to regional county commissioners. Work group members were encouraged to contact and work with their local governmental officials regarding how the funding disbursement should be prioritized. The AG's office is recommending collaboration across regions. Work group members could also join regional boards.

RM Crisis Partners is hiring peer support specialists. Information regarding available positions can be found on their website: <https://rmcrisispartners.org/home/about/rmcp-hiring/>  
Carly Larson: [carlyl@rmcrisispartners.org](mailto:carlyl@rmcrisispartners.org)

Duke Rumely held a "country jam" on June 24<sup>th</sup>. 618 Rockies' tickets were sold for a "sober section" at the event. Senator Pettersen was one of the speakers attending. For additional information on upcoming events: Duke Rumely. [Duke@soberafe.com](mailto:Duke@soberafe.com)

The Affected Families & Friends Work Group completed 20 videos produced by family members of loved ones affected by a substance use disorder. The stories address recovery and difficult losses. Link: <https://corxconsortium.org/projects/beyond-the-numbers-echoes-of-the-opioid-epidemic/>

Steve Koestler is working on a digital story project funded by the State Health Department. The videos will feature individuals who have successfully reversed overdoses and saved lives using naloxone. The videos are intended to reduce stigma and increase awareness and the availability of naloxone. The project is currently recruiting individuals to tell their stories. A \$250 gift card will be provided to participants. <https://clas.ucdenver.edu/anthropology/digital-storytelling-project>

The Recovery Coach Academy in Montrose is planning a movie night under the stars on September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. They plan music and will also have a telescope available.

A fundraiser is planned on October 10<sup>th</sup> for Peer 180. A 15-hour Epics class will be held on August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> in Delta. Other events on the Western slope are being planned in connection with Overdose Awareness Day. For information: Angie Bertrand, Peer 180 RCO Phone 970-462-7303 or [GrandJunctionRecovery@gmail.com](mailto:GrandJunctionRecovery@gmail.com)

A Rally for Recovery is being planned in Denver's Civic Center Park on September 18<sup>th</sup> in connection with Recovery Month. Volunteers are needed. For information, email James Gannon: [jamesgannon@advocatesforrecovery.org](mailto:jamesgannon@advocatesforrecovery.org)

#### **Adjournment/Next Meeting:**

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Attachments:

BRFFS Questions 2020

Work Group Roster