

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2024 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present:

Rica Rodriguez, Co-chair
Angela Govea, Advantage Treatment Centers
Claire West, SW Opioid Response District
Coreen Johnson, Young People in Recovery
Dean Taylor, Health Partnership
Erik Olson, Face it Together
Ernest Bilinski, CDPHE
Gabriella Turnbull, Ke'Nekt Recovery
Gary Coleman, ARTS
Heather Dolan, Signal Behavioral Health
Jack Devie, Milestone Community Wellness
Jacob Merrion, Advance Pathways
Jenny Loth Hill, Colorado Village Collaborative
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Kelly Aaronson, University of Denver
Laura Allem, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Laura Indermuehle, Serenity Recovery Connection
Precious Collins, COPA
Robyn Winters, Stout Street Foundation
Sara Summerfield-Dempsey, Hard Beauty
Shana Shaw, Compound of Compassion
Shelley Marie, Health District of Northern Larimer County
Wendy Sachs, Denver County Court
Behavioral Health Administration: Alia Andrews Danielle Gillespie
Consortium: José Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Jennifer Place, Eric Barker, Jennifer Mackender, Teresa Cantwell

Absent: See attached roster.

Co-Chair Rica Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the July 2024 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

State Partner Updates:

BHA (Alia Andrews): The Fentanyl Education Video will be launched on August 15th. Anyone who has been convicted of a fentanyl offense is required to take a fentanyl education course.

Subcommittee Updates (Jen Place):

Advancing the Peer Support Workforce in Carceral Facilities. Committee members have several speaking engagements planned, including a presentation to the County Sheriffs of Colorado. Presentations will address the barriers experienced by peer support professionals who work in carceral facilities.

Medicaid Billing & Best Practices. Committee members met recently for a full-day workshop focused on parity for peer services billing. The committee is also looking into billing for services rendered in shelters. Committee meetings are held every other Thursday at 2:30 p.m. Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81195923743>

Events/Seminars:

The recent Rural Peer Conference included a panel discussion of hospital-based peer work. Advocates for Recovery Colorado and the Hard Beauty Foundation participated in the panel. Similar conferences may be planned statewide in the future.

Co-chair Betsy Craft attended the RMHIDTA Drug Symposium meeting in July. She reported that gaps still exist in the Good Samaritan Law. Work group members were invited to attend the next Consortium Harm Reduction Work Group meeting on September 10th from noon to 1 p.m. Zoom Meeting: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/94571382156>

A press conference is planned on August 26th in connection with Overdose Prevention Center Solidarity Week.

Robyn Winters provided information and a link to the Behavioral Health Sector Partnership, a Denver metro behavioral health partnership. <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14487170/>

National Fentanyl Awareness Day/Maddie Wright Foundation. Denver City and County Building lighting in blue: <https://www.denvergov.org/Government/Agencies-Departments-Offices/Agencies-Departments-Offices-Directory/Office-of-Special-Events/CCBLightingRequest/2024/National-Fentanyl-Prevention-and-Awareness-Day>

Serenity Recovery Connection is hosting the 2024 Recovery Rally on September 14th from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in America the Beautiful Park. Booths are still available. <https://srchope.org/soco-recovery-rally-2024/>

HardBeauty's *Mobilize Recovery* National Bus Tour event: <https://hardbeauty.life/mobilizerecovery2024/>
https://forms.zohopublic.com/hardbeauty/form/MobilizeRecoveryBusTourColoradoVendorTableSignup/formperma/5OWG4aWF75cLFLUvmHlpC_uyf2qeota2Cus9V4QJ6QY

Face It TOGETHER's *March into the Light* walk: September 21st in America the Beautiful Park, Colorado Springs. The march symbolizes marching from the darkness of addiction into the light of recovery.

Stout Street events: <https://www.stoutstreet.org/event/aor/>

Recovery Research Institute seminars: <https://www.recoveryanswers.org/addiction-research-summaries/seminar-series/>

Gabriella Turnbull said Community Medical Services is holding several open houses. They provide MAT services on a walk-in basis.

The complete events calendar is attached to the minutes.

Consortium Announcements:

The 2024 Consortium Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 31st in-person and virtually. This year's meeting will focus on integrating individuals with lived experience in treatment and harm reduction settings. The meeting will also include medical professionals.

The next quarterly Fentanyl Response Stakeholder Session will be held on Thursday, September 5th from 10 a.m. to Noon: Advance registration: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcpf-GqqTMuGNPkb3IPx5AU4a5Ra3-DSB3>

Job Announcements:

- [AllHealth Network](#)
- [Colorado Village Collaborative](#)
- CU PSP jobs – <https://cu.taleo.net/careersection/2/moresearch.ftl?lang=en>
Search term: "Peer"
- Serenity Recovery Connection: www.srchope.org/careers
- Advance Pathways: <https://advancepathways.org/careers/>

Other Business:

Recovery Bill* Work Group (Jen Place): This bill includes a section pertaining to the sale of alcohol in convenience and grocery stores. Jen attended one of the recent work group meetings and said there were many representatives from the alcohol industry present and few individuals representing the recovery sector. Jen will notify work group members of future meetings. Jose said the meeting could provide an opportunity for the recovery sector perspective. Precious Collins said it would also be important to have those involved in the prevention field attend the meetings.

*Recovery from Substance Use Disorders: <https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb24-048>

Robyn Winters asked about Narcan availability and funding. Jennifer Mackender suggested that Robyn contact local public health departments. Jose suggested contact with local police departments about expired naloxone that is still usable.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Attachment: Work group roster, recovery events listing