

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2022 via Zoom

Present:

Jenny Loth Hill, Co-chair
Jacob Merrion, CPFS
Victoria Laskey, BHA
Darin Valdez, CAiR
Domingo Cruz, Rooted 303
Rebecca Berg, Springs Recovery Connection
Hope Hyatt, Colorado Mental Wellness Network
Angie Bertrand, Peer 180
Yolanda Maravilla, The Sanctuary Church
Shannon Miller, Crossroads Turning Points
Stephanie Salkin, OBH
James Ginsberg, Recoveryworks
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Rachel Fowler, Recover Simply
Melinda Dorn, CHOW
Erik Borrell, Western Slope Recovery Network
Jennifer Holcomb, HCPF
Wendy White, We Face it Together
Angela Govea, New Pathways to Recovery & Wellness Counseling
Alexis Rael, Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association
Hard Beauty: Racquel Garcia, Tiffany Kuhwede
John Narine, Shana Shaw
Consortium: Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Hilary Bryant, Kristin Carpenter, Jennifer Mackender, Michael Davidson

Absent: See attached roster

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

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the July 2022 work group meeting minutes. Motion approved.

Recovery-Friendly Workplace Toolkit Update (John Narine):

The toolkit is in the final stages of completion. The next project phase will focus on the peer learning series for business leaders. Additional information can be found here:

<https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/research-and-practice/centers-programs/chwe/practice/recovery-friendly-workplace-initiative>

Recovery Month Activities:

The Recovery Work Group page on the Consortium website will have a listing of events. <https://corxconsortium.org/work-groups/recovery/>

The Denver Department of Public Health and Environment will be publishing all of the recovery events in their September newsletter.

Work group members reported the following September events:

- Darin Valdez: CAiR is planning a free six-week dance workshop on Friday nights beginning in September. They are partnering with an organization named “Beautiful Feet.” <https://www.coloradoartistsinrecovery.org/improvisational-dance>
A kickball tournament will also be held on September 11th in Lakewood from 11 to 1 p.m.
- Jacob Merrion, COPA: There will be a Rally for Recovery on September 17th.
- Racquel Garcia: An overdose awareness event will be held on August 31st in Castle Rock in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Health System, Advocates for Recovery, and the local sheriff’s department. A mobilize recovery bus will be arriving in Colorado from Las Vegas. Tonya Wheeler and Racquel will be participating in a recovery panel on September 9th. Events for Mobilize Recovery: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/denver-mobilize-recovery-across-america-recovery-remembrance-event-tickets-387607353027>
- Wendy White: There will be a sunrise march (March into the Light) and 5K race at America the Beautiful Park in Colorado Springs on September 24th.
- Angie Bertrand: There will be a Mesa County Recovery Rally on September 20th in Grand Junction. The event will include speakers.
- Jessica Eaddy: There will be an Oktoberfest event in Montrose on September 24th to educate the Community on overdose awareness and recovery options. jessica.eaddy@cuanschutz.edu

Billing Medicaid for Peer Services (Jennifer Holcomb):

Jennifer said there has been a lot of misconceptions regarding coverage of peer services. She explained the managed care model and how Medicaid billing functions. The state is divided into seven regional accountable entities (or RAEs). Denver Health is a managed care organization and also functions in that area. The managed care entities are responsible for contracting with providers for services. Many provider organizations employ peers. Peers do not have to work for a recovery support service organization to be recognized as a peer providing reimbursable services.

The billing manual contains an overview describing the scope of services professions can provide. There are approximately 130 unique codes used in behavioral health services under the managed care entities. Approximately half of the codes are services peers can provide. Jennifer mentioned new organization licensure. HCPF is building a provider type specifically tied to that license, which will have to be approved by CMS.

HCPF offers a quarterly provider forum on their website, which requires registration. The next forum will be held in October.

For billing questions. Email: jennifer.holcomb@state.co.us

Jennifer provided the following links:

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/ensuring-full-continuum-sud-benefits>

<https://hcpf.colorado.gov/sites/hcpf/files/July%202022%20USCS%20Manual.pdf>

Stephanie Salkin commented on work that parallels the above. She also addressed potential reimbursement barriers for eligible expenses due to contracting.

Work group members briefly discussed their experiences with billing and the use of the billing manual.

Jen Place said that RCOs do not bill Medicaid unless they have applied to be licensed as a RSSO. Victoria Laskey can provide guidance for those interested in becoming an RSSO. RCOs were defined in legally and can obtain funding without having to apply to be part of the RSSO umbrella.

For RSSO licensing information: victoria.laskey@state.co.us

Regional Conference Planning:

Conferences will likely be held in October and November. A hybrid event is being planned in the San Luis Valley. A statewide virtual conference will include certification as a topic. .

Jen asked work group members for conference planning suggestions. Jacob Merrion said he could assist in the workforce development area. He also offered assistance to Hope Hyatt.

Jenny suggested that some of the sessions should focus on continuing education for those professionals already in the workforce. Education should include sessions on values and ethics.

Formalizing the Field:

Association Update/Clarification (Hope Hyatt, Colorado Mental Wellness Network):

The CMWN is a nonprofit organization that provides peer support professional training and focuses on uniting the peer professional community within the state. The goal of the organization is to form a professional workforce association, including establishing a certification program and code of ethics.

Recovery Data Platform:

Jen reported that the university Evaluation Center is continuing their work on the recovery data comparative analysis.

Funding Announcements/Updates:

Reimbursements offered through the SOR Grant will continue through September. State Stimulant & Opioid Response grant: Peer Scholarship (Round Two)

<https://forms.gle/RRu8fzhipjkpvT3P8>

Caring for Denver (Registration by September 6th): Community-Centered Solutions & Care Provision grants. Funding will support provider, caregiver, and peer resources or training to better meet community needs. <https://caring4denver.org/grants/seeking-a-grant/>

The OBH/SOR Team offered \$5,000 mini-grants for overdose awareness events. The application process is now closed. Funding announcements and distributions will be issued shortly. For questions regarding IOAD event funding: desarae.allen@state.co.us

Consortium Announcements/Updates:

Grant Writing Assistance: <https://corxconsortium.org/grant-assistance/> through June 2023 or earlier if funds are depleted

Consortium Virtual Annual Meeting: October 27, 2022.

Fentanyl Awareness Campaign (Michael Davidson): The Consortium has been working on a media campaign to educate the public and help prevent fentanyl overdoses. The campaign is focused on 18- to 45-year-olds who are engaging in risky behavior. The campaign will be launched in several weeks.

Guest and Member Announcements/updates:

The SOR Peer scholarship will be active until the end of September. Registration link: <https://forms.gle/sJPcaHYL9PSBnzq17> To date, 71 people have registered.

Peer Reimbursements for CPFS: <https://www.coprovidersassociation.org/peer-scholarships>
Application fees must be paid and will then be reimbursed.

John Narine has established a new nonprofit organization that is currently seeking board members. The aim of the organization is to train company managers and supervisors how to support employees impacted by addiction to help them in recovery journey. For more information: John.narine88@gmail.com

The Department of Human Services Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) is now the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA).

Other Upcoming Events:

Listing of IOAD events in August: <https://www.endoverdoseco.com/>

Western Slope Regional Peer Professional Conference: August 11 & 12, Hotel Colorado, Glenwood Springs.

Fentanyl Prevention and Awareness Day: August 21, 2022, Denver.

Ethics in Peer-Based Services: A Fundamental Exploration of Theory and Practice;
Wednesday, August 24, 2022, 1:00 pm - 2:30 p.m. Eastern (11 a.m. Mountain) Register:
https://umsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJclf-mopjMpHdKYret0biw963uf_WgkzVIG

Rebecca Berg: An IOAD event will be held on August 31st on the steps of City Hall in Colorado Springs. For information: rberg@srchope.org

Angela Govea: There will be an IOAD event on August 31st at New Pathways in Sterling from 10 – 6 p.m.

Alexis Rael: The Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association in Pueblo will hold an IOAD event August 31st from 5-8 p.m.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Attachments: Work group roster