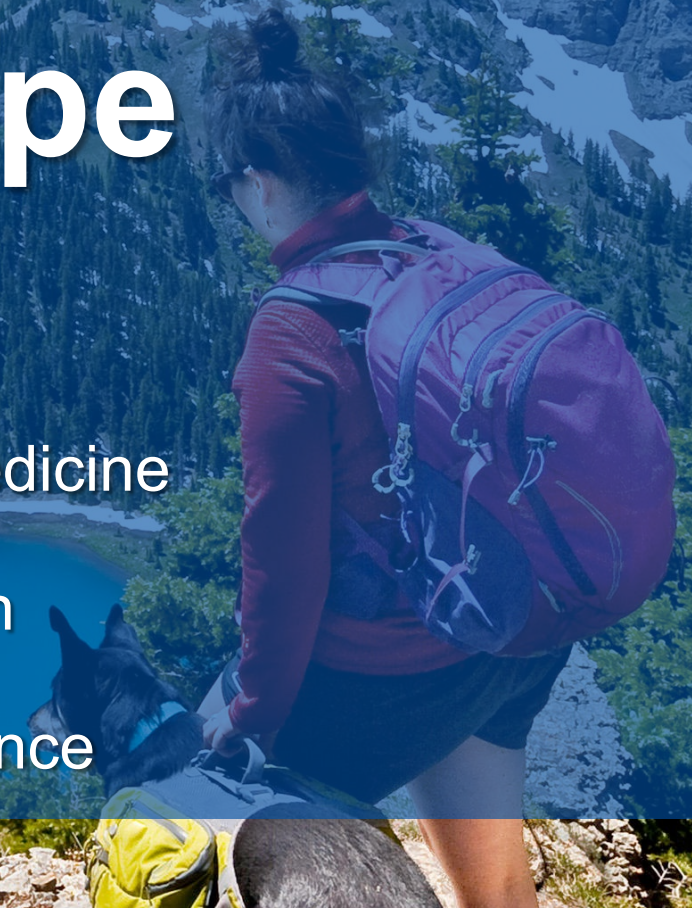


The Power of Peers: The growing landscape of peer support work

Britt Westmoreland, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Trina Faatz, Boulder County Public Health
Ginger Ross, CHOICES Addiction & Recovery Education
Rica Rodriguez, Promotores de Esperanza
Laurie Johnson-Wade, Peer Recovery Center of Excellence





Britt Westmoreland, CAT

A recovery coach, **doula** and certified addictions technician with the University of Colorado's College of Nursing, Britt is the program coordinator and head recovery coach doula for the University's Recovery Coach Doula Program. Britt also serves as the recovery coach at the University's FQHC, working with adults with SUD and runs a youth program for teens impacted by substance use and/or the criminal justice system.



Trina Faatz, CPFS

Opioid Outreach Navigator for Boulder County Public Health and facilitator for the county-wide Substance Use Advisory Group (SUAG). Trina founded and directs the program Youth in Recovery, bringing educational presentations, stories of recovery, and Naloxone trainings into Boulder Valley high school classrooms. She is also a CRAFT facilitator for parents, and an AcuDetox Specialist. Trina has contributed to the design and delivery of the **benzodiazepine training for peer support professionals**.



Ginger Ross, NCPRSS

Founder of CHOICES Addiction & Recovery Education in New Hampshire, Ginger has over eight years of experience helping people with substance use disorders and developing curriculum and delivering training courses for peer support professionals across the United States. She designed the **Benzodiazepine curriculum** for the BAWG.

Rica Rodriguez-Hernandez

Full-time Director of the Life-Line Colorado Urban Impact Team, providing gang intervention and prevention, mentorship and support to misunderstood and at-risk Denver youth. She is a certified trainer in peer recovery coaching, peer support professional, AcuDetox Specialist and is a fearless grassroots organizer in the Denver metro area.

Part-time Director of The **Promotores De Esperanza** program, aiming to promote racial/ethnic health equity through the provision of culturally and linguistically competent peer services, designed to minimize barriers in the Latinx and other marginalized communities.



Laurie Johnson-Wade

Co-Founder & Director of Lost Dreams Awakening Recovery Community Organization in Pennsylvania, Laurie is an Advanced Implementation Specialist with the Opioid Response Network, a Steering Committee Member for the Peer Recovery Center of Excellence's Workforce Development Division, adjunct faculty member of Faces and Voices Recovery Training Institute, a Certified Behavioral Consultant, Certified Recovery Specialist, Recovery Support Supervisor, Forensic Peer Specialist, Recovery Coach Professional, and has a degree in Health Administration.

Laurie is a proud member of Black Faces Black Voices and seeks **to integrate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion within all systems of care** - spanning prevention, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction.



[GET INVOLVED](#)

PROJECTS

Benzodiazepine Peer Support Training

New Training Course!

The [Benzodiazepine Action Work Group \(BAWG\)](#) at the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention announces the very first training course of its kind, **Recovering from Benzodiazepines for Peer Specialists**. This 12-hour training course is designed to educate peers, counselors, caregivers and providers on specialized information regarding benzodiazepine use, its associated complications such as withdrawal and [benzodiazepine-induced neurological dysfunction \(BIND\)](#) (protracted withdrawal), and how to support the individual as they taper, heal, and find wellness.

Next Workshop: Nov. 7 and 14 (Colorado-residents only)

We are happy to announce we are now taking registrations for our next course, which will be on Nov. 7 and 14. The meeting will be online via Zoom. Participants can receive continuing education credit. This course is open to Colorado residents only. Please check back to see workshops open to residents from other states.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



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Center for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

SKAGGS SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Thank you!

Jennifer Place, LPC, LAC jennifer.place@cuanschutz.edu

Plenary session resumes at 2:45 p.m. in the Fulginiti Pavilion

Online: Please visit www.corxconsortium.org/2023-Annual-Meeting for link to the next presentations