

Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention

Recovery Work Group Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Jennifer Loth Hill, DDPHE, Co-chair
Rourke Weaver, Spero Recovery
Chris Conn, Spero Recovery
Stephanie Salkin, OBH
Jessica Triplett, OBH
Mike Mielke, The Phoenix
Trudy Hodges, Springs Recovery Connection
Heather Dolan, Signal Behavioral Health
Michele Ryan, BHG Recovery
David Huff, Community Member
Carly Larson, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners
Joan Holtz, Illuminate Colorado
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Helen Parker, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Rica Rodriguez, Peer Coach Academy
Carmen Jackson, Southeast Health Group
Latisha Quintana, Fourth Judicial District
Consortium: Jen Place, Jessica Eaddy, Lindsey Simbeye, Judy Solano, Rosemarie MacDowell

Absent:

Michael Miller, Co-chair, Jefferson County Public Health; Sarah Humble, Colorado Mental Wellness Network; Joseph Ellis, Jefferson County First Judicial District; Beverly Sloan, Retired Health Professional; Julie Corbett, Authentically U Marketing; Deidre Tygart, Stout Street; Tom Roth, Step Seven; Denise Vincioni, Denver Recovery Group; Tabitha Shackleton, Community Member; Don Stader, M.D.; Jennifer Drapeaux, The Refuge; Melissa Mouton, 5280 High School; Stacey Oster, Community Member; Molly Smith; Qing Li, Epidemiologist; Timothy Harrington, Sustainable Recovery; Jessie Wheeler, Recovery Data Solutions; Heidi Lightenburger, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners; Edward Tilton, Valiant Living; Mark Macintosh, A Stronger Cord; Matt Holmes, The Phoenix; Ann Ault, Illuminate Colorado; Darcy Koehn, Foothills Integrated Health; Anna Hebert, Adventures in Soberland, Jean Howard, Crossroads Turning Points; Amy Van Voorhis, CeDAR; Daniel Fuchs, Oxford House; Evelyn Hardy, TJCC Denver; Rachael McLoughlin, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners; Steve Pietrafeso, Denver Rescue Mission; Butch Lewis, David's House; Bryan Standley, Creative Treatment Options; Michael Arnold, Harmony Foundation; Allison Harden, Beyond Betty; Mary Nunnery, VA; Kathleen Hernandez, AspenPointe; Jalyn Ingalls, Colorado Health Institute; Cathy Plush, Springs Recovery Connection; Anna Michaels-Boffy, Illuminate Colorado; Hattie Landry, Illuminate Colorado; Rod Rushing, Peer Coach Academy; Jody Gamel, Denver Health; Thomas Hernandez, TRIBE Recovery Homes; Jim Geckler, Harmony Foundation; Larena Hatley, CDHS; Daniel Darting, Signal Behavioral Health; Christopher Coddington, Community Member; Frank Cornelia, CBHC; Harding, CDHS; Elizabeth Owens, CDHS; Sherry Gillespie, CDHS; Emily Hanson, CDHS; Dana Smith, The Phoenix; Charlotte Whitney, OBH; Lauren Snyder, Mental Health Colorado; Teri Smith, Peer 2 Peer Recovery Resources; Michelle Williams, Oxford House; Carmen Jackson, SEMHS; Daun Gillam, Springs Recovery Connection; Seth Forwood, Denver Rescue Mission; Emily Costello, Mental Health Colorado; Alia Andrews, OBH; Gabrielle Rodriguez, Youth Seen; Krista Stansbury, Mile High Hope Project; Taylor Wright, Oxford House;

and Jordan Smith, Illuminate Colorado; Jeffrey Riley, Summit Healing; Lindsey Kato, CDC; James Gannon, Advocates for Recovery; Victor King, Mental Health Partners; Lawrence Wall, Wall Consulting; Tracey Ritter, CRAFT-P/TCHD Work Study Group; Trina Faatz, Boulder County Public Health; Duke Rumley, Sober AF Entertainment; Consortium: Rob Valuck, Jose Esquibel, Gina Olberding, Susanna Cooper, Tyler Payne, Jamie Feld, Michael Davidson

Jenny Hill, Work Group Co-chair, called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the May 2020 work group meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Work Group Norms

Jenny reviewed the work group norms.

Announcements/Updates:

The Colorado Health Foundation has announced another cycle of funding for peer support services that is due June 15th. Grant funding is only available through the end of June. There may be additional funding available related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trudy Hodges reported on the Memorial Hospital/Springs Recovery Connection program and when they expect to have peer support specialists back in the ED. Currently, the hospital is only allowing patients one visitor per day. She reported eight iPad referrals to date from the ER.

Helen Parker and Tonya Wheeler with Advocates for Recovery reported that Swedish Hospital is requiring a substantial amount of credentialing for them to be able to work within the hospital setting. Trudy offered to provide Tonya with information that could simplify this process.

Rica Rodriguez, with Peer Coach Academy, is currently training support specialists and has started a "virtual club house" for people in recovery. The club house programs includes yoga, wellness activities, and access to resources. She also indicated that they now have a halfway house in Larimer County and in Lakewood.

Jessica Triplett reported that the next round of SOR funding begins on September 30th. Funds will continue to support peers. Funding will also be available for RCO peer positions. Peer coach reimbursement is available until the end of September. Jessica will have more information available regarding SOR at the next meeting.

Mike Mielke said that The Phoenix has been operating virtually for the last several months and are gradually returning to in-person encounters. They will be starting with outdoor activities. He said they also have a possibility of working within the Denver jail system.

Tonya Wheeler said her organization's peer coaching is now virtual. They will be opening a new office in Sterling, which is also the location of a criminal justice halfway house where they are also providing recovery support services.

Judy Solano reported that the Southern Colorado Harm Reduction Association (SCHRA) received a harm reduction grant which will allow them to work with the local sheriff and within the jail system. They are planning a 12-week personal development program for incarcerated individuals which will focus on life plans, personal/professional skills, and emotional and social skills. Upon release, individuals will be referred to a peer to help with healthcare, work, and housing.

Carly Larson has a new position as Peer Support Program Manager. Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is launching a peer support co-reflection/supervision program for peer supporters working in the crisis services system. Supervision hours can count towards certification. They plan to make this program available once applications are disseminated. She will provide more information once the program has started.

Rourke Weaver said Spero Recovery is now opening their program to volunteers. They are utilizing personal protective equipment during in-person encounters. A women's program will begin in August and an LGBTQ program will launch within six months. Spero is expanding and recently hired Chris Conn. Chris just recently relocated to Colorado from Minneapolis.

Jen mentioned Duke Rumley's next music festival event. A copy of the program is attached to the minutes. Both Spero and Phoenix representatives spoke highly of the program.

Legislative Updates:

All bills from the Interim Study Committee containing a fiscal note are no longer under consideration due to funding issues. Other parts of the bills will proceed, including components of the recovery community organization grant funding. This section of the bill will be added to OBH's block grant application, which could then be funded through SAMHSA.

HB 20-1411 Help Colorado Flatten the Second Curve: Support Mental & Substance Use Disorder, includes funding related to COVID-19 through the CARES Act. \$3.53 million will be directed to SUD providers and another \$3.53 for Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) unanticipated expenses. Distribution of funds will be through the existing MSO system. Information regarding this program is attached to the minutes.

Work group members discussed funding cuts in general. They also discussed the increase in overdoses and overdose deaths that are occurring as a result of COVID-19 and questioned how the connection could be proven. According to CDPHE, statistical data related to COVID-19 will not be available for several months. Jen suggested that someone with more knowledge about this subject could join the July work group meeting in order to provide additional information.

Any upcoming opportunities to provide testimony in support of pending bills will be emailed to the work group. It is likely that all testimony will be on a virtual basis. The Consortium staff is available to provide testimony preparation assistance.

Strategic Planning Work

Jenny reviewed the work group strategic plan objectives and asked for member suggestions.

Objectives include the following:

- a. Public Relations - Promoting recovery-related services and events (targets: social media posts, Google analytics, create/develop website, utilize the Recovery Ready Colorado framework).
- b. Promotion – Supporting the development and promotion of ROSC principles and RCO services.
- c. Data - Develop data collection and measurement tools (targets: meet with Center research staff, develop/provide program evaluation training).
- d. Professionalization - Promoting standard credentials, job descriptions with essential duties, promoting payment and funding, and explore practice/trade association for peer-based workers.

Jen said the sub-committees planning to address the above objectives have not yet had a chance to meet. She is working on a ROSC training model for the Consortium Provider Education Work Group to incorporate into their lunch and learn series. Tonya has experience in ROSC training and said she would be willing to assist. Jessica Eaddy also volunteered to assist.

Carly Larson brought up the importance of protecting remote workers, which would fall under the professionalization category. She suggested work group members provide information on how their respective organizations are dealing with remote and blended (combination of remote and in-person) work situations and access to technology.

Trudy said it would be beneficial to learn more about technology grant funding. Jenny suggested this could be pursued further at a future meeting that would include RCOs. Trudy and Tonya will discuss this further offline. Mike Mielke summarized what his organization has done concerning worker professionalization and said he would be willing to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Jen said grant funding has allowed MAT expansion. She will be advocating for the collection of recovery-related data from MAT providers involved in the program. Tonya's organization is utilizing the recovery data platform from Faces & Voices of Recovery. The Springs Recovery Connection also uses this platform as does Rica Rodriguez's organization. Spero Recovery uses the BARC 10 platform. The Phoenix collects a survey at six months and indicated that data collection has been a challenge.

Jessica Eaddy provided a link to funding from the Federal Communications Commission for rural broadband projects. The FCC authorized over \$7.5 million in funding over ten years to expand rural broadband in Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, and Oklahoma. The investments will connect over 3,100 unserved rural homes and businesses. Link: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364360A1.pdf>

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m. The next work group meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Attachments: SAFE Music Festival Flyer and Flatten the Second Wave Information

