

2019 *there was then*
there is now 2020

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction
Central Colorado Area Health Education Center
Colorado Association of Addiction Professionals
Colorado Association of Alcohol and Drug Service Providers
Colorado Coalition for Parity
Colorado Employee Assistance Professionals Association
Colorado Organization of Nurse Leaders
Colorado Center for Nursing Excellence United Health Foundation Grant Steering Committee
Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Colorado Counseling Association
Colorado Nurses Association
Colorado Public Health Association
Colorado Task Force on Drunk and Impaired Driving
FAST Colorado Advisory Board
Harm Reduction Action Center
Illuminate Colorado, Substance Exposed Newborns Workgroups
Imagine Zero of Larimer County
International Employee Assistance Professionals Association
Naloxone Champions
National Association of Social Workers
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Organization of Alternative Programs
No DUI Larimer County
SBIRT Advisory Council
Society for Human Resource Management
State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup
Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force

**Leading with prevention and intervention for
substance use and mental health concerns**

During this past year, we were reminded that now more than ever before we are all in this together. Leaning into our core values of grit, integrity, and compassion, and the belief in the promise of creating a positive and lasting impact, we adapted to meet the challenges.

We draw on more than thirty-six years of experience caring for professionals with stigmatized illness.

THE FIRST EIGHT MONTHS OF THE 2019-20 FISCAL YEAR were in many ways no different. We moved forward as we always do. Looking at how we could expand our reach, improve services, bring our message to more professionals, and offer leadership in prevention and intervention. The year began with program implementation; our independent audit; board elections; hiring and other staff changes; a nurse educator conference in Vail; staff trainings; multiple contract meetings; the always enjoyable staff picnic; developing FAQs for legislation affecting prevention; travel to Chicago for the American Dental Association Wellbeing conference; a successful proposal for the recently legislated Peer Health Assistance Program for Emergency Medical Services providers; presentation at Broncos stadium for the annual meeting of the Colorado Organization of Nurse Leaders; Annual Awareness Event planning; Colorado Nurses Association conference in Denver; Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council conference in Breckenridge; Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention poster session on the Anschutz campus; travel to Boston for the Association for Multidisciplinary Education and Research in Substance Use and Addiction conference, poster, and presentation; the annual holiday party; and the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association conference in Keystone...to name a few.

The accomplishments of those eight months were eclipsed by what now is an upside-down reality. With the public health emergency declared, staff transitioned over the March 14th weekend to working remotely from our homes...from Johnstown, Lone Tree, Westminster, Grand Junction, Englewood, Arvada, Fort Collins, Northglenn, Broomfield, Pine, Erie, Lakewood, Littleton, Bennett, Aurora, Denver, and Centennial. We secured a HIPAA-compliant video platform for evaluations and case management sessions, and SBIRT programming transitioned to an interactive web-based video platform.

From the safe environment of home or office, we watched our program clients march into the proverbial trenches with limited equipment, a scarcity of supplies, closing of office

FROM LEADERSHIP

practices, and some quarantined after COVID exposure, nonetheless providing quality care when it was needed the most. Inundated with the changing demands of the COVID-19 crisis, the future feels unclear with disruptions, obstacles, and new protocols for programs, clients, and services. We help each other remain focused, committed to our work and the people we take care of.

State revenue forecasts for FY 2020/21 resulted in devastating budget cuts. To provide General Fund relief, Marijuana Tax Cash Funds were targeted resulting in a million-dollar cut to SBIRT program funding. This threat to the program was mitigated by a successful application for Paycheck Protection Program funds. The agency took a deep breath of relief and continued our day-to-day work.

The Annual Awareness Event was cancelled and it will be a considerable time before rescheduling. We had invited Dr. John Kelly, professor of psychiatry and a pioneer in recovery research to be our keynote, and planned to honor the memory of Austin Eubanks. A future without COVID-19 promises the opportunity of rescheduling. Thank you to our Board and sponsors for their continued support.

Together we face an extraordinary situation. It is not business as usual. As we navigate these circumstances, we continue to effectively communicate our belief in every individual affected by substance use, addiction, and mental and physical health concerns. Working in the shadow of COVID, trying to stay safe and healthy, as a staff—and as a team—is challenging. The daily reports about the rise in overdoses, increased alcohol use, and the escalation in anxiety is daunting. This moment reminds us that we're all connected like never before.

It's more than important to acknowledge our funders and the structured guidance they provide. They pay attention to the work, to the necessity of the effort, and to the authenticity of public-private partnerships.

To our advocates, partners, donors, colleagues, and friends—we couldn't do any of this without you. Your unwavering support is so critical to our success. We appreciate the trust you show in us and the services we provide. Witnessing our positive impact coupled with your help allows us to move forward with optimism.



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PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Prevention. Intervention. Support. Serving a growing need.

PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Evaluation, referral, and case management for individuals with substance use, mental health, and related concerns are provided to nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, dentists, veterinarians, social workers, marriage and family therapists, addiction counselors, unlicensed psychotherapists, professional counselors, and psychologists, through a contract with the Division of Professions and Occupations, Department of Regulatory Agencies. During the 2019 legislative session, SB19-065 created a peer health assistance program for Emergency Medical Services providers. PAS was awarded the contract from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in January 2020. The new program is called Path4EMS.

Over 22 health and mental health professions received services through the programs. In fact, this fiscal year saw an increased number—1,102—of professionals seeking assistance. Referrals increased by 15% along with a record number of evaluations averaging over 31 per month. The Peer Health Assistance Program is intensive, requiring up to a five-year commitment to case management and treatment participation. In FY19/20, just under 200 professionals completed all components successfully, doubling that of FY 2018/19. To enhance capacity and better serve clients, PAS transitioned to RecoveryTrek, a comprehensive case management system that provides functionality for clients, case managers, and program management. A secure web-based portal for daily check-ins and report submissions, RecoveryTrek delivers real-time tracking, management, and reporting.

Outreach for the programs included presentations to professional associations and schools, hospitals, and various organizations. We developed and hosted a Practice Monitor Training for mental health professionals, organized meetings for the Colorado Dental Wellbeing Committee, and hosted a virtual booth at the Colorado Pharmacists Society Annual Meeting.

Presenting, publishing and promoting our work remained a priority. We authored the article “Experiences and Outcomes of Nurses Referred to a Peer Health Assistance Program: Recommendations for Nursing Management” which was published in the Journal of Nursing Management, 2019; 001-8. The original research from the article, conducted by OMNI Institute, was presented at the 2019 AMERSA 43rd Annual National Conference in Boston, “Peer Health Assistance Program: Survey of Current and Former Nurse Clients.”

As a response to the safety issues surrounding the pandemic, staff worked remotely using a HIPAA-compliant video platform for evaluations and case management sessions. Presentations were provided via Zoom at the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association Annual Convention, the Dental Hygiene Program at Pueblo Community College, and the Colorado Pharmacists Society Annual Convention.

Bi-weekly facilitated client groups were implemented, providing much needed additional support. These groups used a secure telephonic platform and are available to clients of any profession, anywhere in the state.





A NEW LOOK Working remotely, zoom meetings, and HIPAA-compliant telehealth visits with clients became the rule of the day.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS These five-year programs concluded June 30, 2020.

Substance Use Prevention for Parents and Caregivers Improved knowledge, skills, and resources for parents regarding children’s substance use.

Two facilitator trainings were hosted for Strengthening Families: for Parents and Youth 10-14 in Alamosa and Denver. Monthly newsletters were sent to prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery support providers working with youth, or parents and caregivers. Three additional facilitator trainings were cancelled because of COVID-19. The Center School District in Rio Grande County completed four weeks of SFP 10-14 prior to the shutdown, with 36 individuals in nine families. PAS staff worked with facilitators and Iowa State University staff to complete the remaining three weeks online. This served as a pilot as the SFP 10-14 had not previously been provided online.

Substance Use Prevention for Working Adults Provided information to employers and employees on the impact of substance use in the workplace.

In year five, monthly prevention newsletters were sent to over 1,400 business owners, employers, and human resource professionals. More than 10,000 fact cards containing considerations, risks, and harm reduction information about alcohol, marijuana, prescription drugs, and tobacco, were distributed at conferences, exhibits, presentations, and mailed directly to healthcare facilities and businesses across the state.

The program worked with 12 companies under the EAP Pilot Project reaching almost 1,000 working adults across the state. Companies were located in Denver, Mesa, Garfield, Dolores, and San Juan counties. The businesses included treatment centers, school districts, construction, outdoor adventure, and public health organizations. Many were closed due to COVID-19. EAP services remained available to all of the employees under this project, providing counseling, crisis help, substance use support, and legal and financial services. The project was able to offer reimbursement to these companies for the purchase of personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies.

PROGRAMS AND PEOPLE

SBIRT IN COLORADO

Screening, Brief, Intervention, and Referral to Treatment is an evidence-based early intervention practice to identify, reduce, and prevent use of alcohol and other substances.

The program provides statewide training, technical assistance, and implementation support for health and mental health providers, in addition to a public awareness campaign to address stigma around conversations about substance use.

Forty-four trainings were facilitated reaching 624 professionals, in addition to two Train-the-Trainer sessions. More than 350 professionals accessed the supplementary online provider education modules and 50 organizations utilized technical assistance. The program adapted to safety restrictions due to the pandemic by offering live, virtual training.

We continued our work with High Plains Research Network at the University of Colorado Anschutz to provide training and hands-on implementation support to 14 primary care practices resulting in 22,000 patients screened for alcohol and other substance use. In October, PAS hired a practice facilitator to recruit and support clinics for training and implementation in Larimer County.

Program staff worked with School-Based Health Centers across Colorado participating in the SBIRT project. Training and technical assistance were provided to professionals in nine School-Based Health Centers. In addition, six live webinar Learning Community Sessions were provided by subject matter experts, such as Neurobiology of Adolescent Substance Use.

In January 2019, the SBIRT Advisory Council was established with 43 members to develop and implement a work plan for expanding and strengthening SBIRT in healthcare settings. In May 2019, the SBIRT Advisory Council was designated as a committee of the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force within the Colorado Office of the Attorney General. In collaboration with external partners, the SBIRT team provides leadership within the Advisory Council and two workgroups: the SBIRT Training and Education Workgroup, and the Adolescent SBIRT Workgroup.

SBIRT was promoted through presentations, exhibits, and provider- and public-facing resources, offered at nine events and conferences, reaching more than 3,000 individuals. An adolescent SBIRT toolkit and demonstration video were developed to support SBIRT training and implementation among healthcare providers and adolescent-serving organizations.

The Women's Health & Alcohol application launched in July 2019 with 172 app downloads and 4,800 webpage views since its release. Collaborating with Kognito Solutions, we promoted the public awareness campaign, One Degree: Shift the Influence, to reduce stigma surrounding conversations about alcohol and other substance use. Through realistic virtual simulations, individuals practice having difficult conversations. The campaign was viewed more than 13 million times through billboards, radio, and print advertisements and over 16 million times via digital advertising. The website, ShiftTheInfluence.org, had 46,358 views with 4,993 conversions.

WOMEN'S HEALTH & ALCOHOL



LEARN
WHAT
TO SAY...

ONE
DEGREE

**SHIFT THE
INFLUENCE**
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www.ShiftTheInfluence.org

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SUSAN OM, BA Bookkeeper

CONSULTANTS

DEBORAH S. FINNELL, DNS, RN, CARN-AP, FAAN

Clinical Consultant

WAYNE THRASH, RXN, CNS Clinical Consultant

CAROLYN SWENSON, MSPH, MSN, RN SBIRT Consultant

MEGAN MARX, MPA Parity Consultant

JOANNA ESPINOZA, MPH SBIRT Trainer

KAMAL BASHIR Data Consultant

SBIRT IN COLORADO

COORDINATORS AND FACILITATORS

GIANA CALABRESE, MPH

School-Based Health Center Implementation and Strategic Initiatives

KELSEY ROBINSON, MPH

Project Implementation and Strategic Initiatives

KEVIN HUGHES, BS, CAS

Lead Trainer, Training, Technical Assistance, and Implementation

SAM BOURDON, BA Training and Technical Assistance Facilitator

ADAM MUSIELEWICZ, MPA, CNM

Practice Facilitator, Larimer County

JILLIAN MORRISON, LCSW, LAC, MAC, ACS

PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

EVALUATORS

ANDREA FILSON, MS, LPC, LAC

CHERI GOODWIN, MS, NCC, LPC, CAS

LINDSAY MARSHALL, LCSW, LAC

NELLIE TAYLOR, LCSW, CAS

TARA BENEDICT, LCSW, CAS

CASE MANAGERS

ANGELA HARDIN, BA

EMILY SCHRADER, LPC, CAS

ERIN WEEMS, BSN

JENNIFER LEWIS, BS

KATE SIMPSON, LCSW

KAYLA GURNITZ, BS

KELLIE HARRIS, BSW, CAS

COORDINATORS

JENNIFER HOGUE, MPhil, BA, CAT Intake Coordinator

LYNN KOENCK, CAS Quality Assurance Coordinator

MAGGIE MOORLAND, BA, CPS II

Program Coordinator Grand Junction Office

FINANCIAL REPORT

Steward of our resources

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES	\$ 3,493,289
MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$ 1,050,549

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 4,543,838

FUNDING

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES **\$ 2,299,548**
 State Board of Nursing, State Board of Pharmacy, Colorado Dental Board,
 State Board of Veterinary Medicine, Mental Health Boards

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE
 POLICY & FINANCING** **\$ 1,500,000**

SIGNAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK **\$ 626,713**

**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,
 OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH** **\$ 388,729**

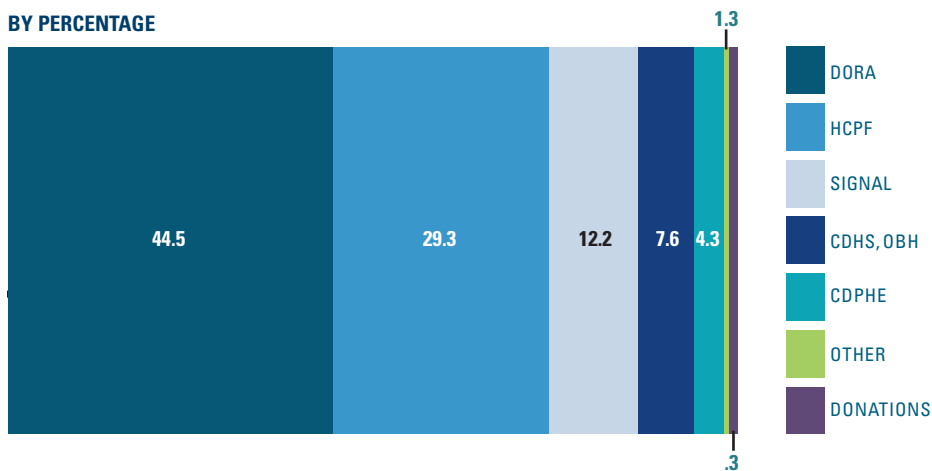
**COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
 AND ENVIRONMENT** **\$ 220,421**
 Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division
 Prevention Services Division

OTHER INCOME **\$ 66,121**

DONATIONS **\$ 17,900**

TOTAL INCOME \$ 5,119,432

BY PERCENTAGE



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Thank you to the sponsors who support our work.

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2019

2020

PEER ASSISTANCE SERVICES, INC.

2170 South Parker Road, Suite 229
Denver, Colorado 80231 | 303.369.0039

200 Grand Avenue, Suite 270
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501 | 970.986.4360

PeerAssistanceServices.org

