Message
from our Board President & CEO

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are pleased to bring you our 2013-2014 Annual Report. Enclosed you will find program descriptions and highlights, year-end financials, a listing of the many communities and organizations in which our staff participate, and the names of our generous supporters.

This year we celebrated 30 years of providing prevention and early intervention programs throughout Colorado at our Annual Event. Keynote speaker David Sheff, journalist and author, was very complimentary of our agency programs, even calling SBIRT “God’s work!” During the event, our agency video was debuted with rave reviews. The video can be accessed on our website at www.PeerAssistanceServices.org.

While the metrics remain impressive, and our staff exceed every expectation and goal, the most important and the most valued accomplishments are epitomized by those individuals who are well again, those who complete a substance abuse treatment program, and those who are back to work again.

It is the success of the health professional that completes treatment and can return to practice, monitored and safe, that has the greatest worth. It is the parolee who enrolls in treatment, obtains employment, is able to maintain sobriety and is part of a safer community, that is of such significance. It is the small business with a high incidence of substance use that adopts a drug-free work place policy and embraces an employee assistance program that makes prevention and early intervention a reality. Facilitation of community collaboration and education has been demonstrated through multiple events on prescription medicine abuse and opioid prescriber awareness. Clinics that implement the practice of patient screening for alcohol use exemplify SBIRT sustainability because “if you don’t ask, you won’t know.” These are outcomes that serve to reduce the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs.
Our year included the work to maintain our structure and foundation that includes databases, external program evaluation, enhanced analysis and reporting, professional development, Board work and oversight, and sustaining the important relationships with our funders and colleagues that share in our efforts.

Our agency was saddened with the loss of friend, colleague and Board member, Reverend Don Davis, on July 30, 2014. Don selflessly volunteered his time to our Board and mission for seven years. He contributed to our fundraising efforts, strategic planning, bylaws revisions and many other board projects. In addition to his work with PAS, Don was a mathematics teacher at the middle school, high school and college level. He contributed to the community through his work as a minister, coaching children in a variety of sports, serving as a precinct captain for the Democratic Party and mentoring youth. The Board and Staff of Peer Assistance Services will sorely miss Don and his passion for helping the community.

As we look forward to another year, we extend our deep appreciation to you for your trust and support.

Thank you,

David Stuhr, President

Elizabeth M. Pace, CEO
Events

30th Anniversary Celebration:
Peer Assistance Services celebrated 30 years of prevention programming on May 22, 2014, at the Denver Art Museum. While Peer Assistance Services has hosted many Annual Awareness Events in previous years, this one was special, as it was a celebration of the agency’s longevity, adaptability, and success. We were honored to host David Sheff, renowned journalist and bestselling author of Beautiful Boy: A Father’s Journey through his Son’s Addiction and Clean: Overcoming Addiction and Ending America’s Greatest Tragedy, as our keynote speaker for the evening. We would like to thank all donors, board members, attendees, speakers, and staff, both past and present, for your support as we look forward to continuing our work in the future.

Founders Awards:
In 1999, the PAS Board of Directors created an award named in honor of those who founded this agency in order to recognize individuals, foundations, corporations, community organizations and others who have made outstanding contributions that further the mission of Peer Assistance Services. An awards reception was held on February 20, 2014, to honor this year’s recipients. Attendees included staff, board members, and honoree family, friends and colleagues. The 2014 honorees included Jeannie Ritter, former first lady of Colorado and Mental Health Ambassador at the Mental Health Center of Denver, Kelly Perez, Human Services Policy Advisor to Governor Hickenlooper, and Tonya Wheeler, Executive Director of Advocates for Recovery.

David Sheff
“Presenting at the Peer Assistance Services 30th Anniversary Celebration was a wonderful experience. I appreciated the opportunity to learn about the agency and was impressed by the wonderful people I met. I look forward to working with Peer Assistance in the future; and am grateful for the work that you do to address substance use”
Publications


Alexa Cares MPH, Elizabeth Pace MSM RN CEAP, Jean Denious PhD & Lori A. Crane PhD MPH (2014): Substance Use and Mental Illness Among Nurses: Workplace Warning Signs and Barriers to Seeking Assistance, Substance Abuse, DOI: 10.1080/08897077.2014.933725


Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities (TASC):
Colorado TASC is a statewide case management program that provides services to offenders with substance use and related issues. Case managers conduct assessments and match clients to appropriate treatment services, thereby guiding their re-entry into community life. This year, the evaluation of Colorado TASC was presented at the National TASC Conference in Birmingham, Alabama. The evaluation highlighted the impact that Colorado TASC has had on parolee clients. The evaluation showed statistically significant findings in the delay of new crime and the delay of returning to prison for TASC clients versus the comparison group.

Colorado TASC is funded by the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT):
Screening and Brief Intervention strives to change healthcare practice and help people earlier on the continuum of substance use by connecting alcohol and drug use to health screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment into the curriculum of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.

SBIRT Colorado is funded through a grant awarded to the Colorado Office of the Governor and administered by the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

PAS was awarded funding from the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health’s Community Prevention Partnership for Success initiative to integrate screening and brief intervention for adolescents in schools, school-based health centers, and youth probation offices in Adams, Weld, Pueblo, and Denver counties.

PAS was also the recipient of funding from the University of Colorado College of Nursing to provide technical assistance for integrating substance use screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment into the curriculum of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs.
Peer Health Assistance Programs:
These programs provide comprehensive case management, including assessment, referral, and monitoring services for dentists, nurses, pharmacists, veterinarians, and mental health professionals with substance use, mental health, and related issues. This year, our Peer Health Assistance Programs served 488 healthcare professionals. In addition to providing these direct services, we continue to collaborate with professional organizations and student and faculty groups to present information about substance use within the health professions, increasing the visibility and utilization of these services. Over 7,500 individuals were reached through these efforts.

**Dental Peer Health Assistance Program**—Funded by the Department of Regulatory Agencies, Colorado Dental Board.

**Nursing Peer Health Assistance/Nurse Alternative to Discipline Program**—Funded by the Department of Regulatory Agencies, State Board of Nursing.

**Pharmacy Peer Health Assistance Program**—Funded by the Department of Regulatory Agencies, State Board of Pharmacy.

**Veterinarian Peer Health Assistance Program**—Funded by the Department of Regulatory Agencies, State Board of Veterinary Medicine.

**Mental Health Professionals Peer Health Assistance Program**—Funded by the Department of Regulatory Agencies,
- State Board of Addiction Counselor Examiners
- State Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners
- State Board of Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners
- State Board of Psychologist Examiners
- State Board of Registered Psychotherapists
- State Board of Social Work Examiners

Peer Health Assistance Programs

This year, our staff provided services to 488 healthcare professionals.
Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention:
The Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Program is a statewide initiative to raise awareness about prescription drug misuse and abuse. The program follows the four-pronged plan created by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, which includes: education, monitoring, disposal, and enforcement. Many of the program activities are focused on encouraging dialogue and strategizing solutions among diverse audiences through educational events and collaboration with community organizations. This year the program hosted the Statewide Discussion on Prescription Drug Abuse Among Youth: Denver Town Hall. Over 200 community members attended the live event and approximately 180 attended via live stream at 10 sites throughout Colorado.

Workplace Prevention Services:
The Workplace Prevention Services (WPS) Program uses primary prevention strategies to prevent and reduce the impact of substance use and other issues among working age adults in Colorado. Through the program, 10 small businesses in Denver and Grand Junction received no-cost, comprehensive EAP services for a maximum of two years. Services included confidential assessment, referral and short-term problem resolution sessions for employees, as well as supervisor training and policy consultations for employers. Following their no-cost period of two years with our program, 40% of the small businesses served purchased traditional EAP services. Our staff also promoted the use of screening and brief intervention for risky substance use by training EAP providers on those practices.

The Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Program is funded by the Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services.

The Workplace Prevention Services Program is funded by the Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services.
Board of Directors:
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Lee Ann Aden • Chief Finance Officer
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Leigh Fischer • Director, SBIRT Colorado and Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Program
Chris Kesterson • Director, Colorado TASC Operations
Donna Strickland • Director, Clinical Services and Interim Director, Peer Health Assistance Programs
Nanette Biggers • Director, Southeast TASC
Brian Ferrans • Director, Northeast TASC – Ft. Collins, Greeley, Longmont
Luxie Gannon • Director, Western TASC
Anthony Wash • Director, Northeast TASC – Westminster
Anita Hoffman • Director, Mile High TASC

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Maureen Carney • Manager, Workplace Prevention Services
Laurie Lovedale • Manager, Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Agnieszka Baklazec • Manager, Mental Health Peer Health Professionals Program
Carolyn Swenson • Manager, Training and Consultation, SBIRT Colorado
Community Participation

Throughout the year, Peer Assistance Services and our staff support the community through professional organization membership and leadership, volunteer time, and sponsorships. These efforts align with our mission, unite our staff, and contribute to the community. Selected organizations include:

ACHMA: The College for Behavioral Health Leadership
Advocates for Recovery
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
AMERSA: Interdisciplinary Leaders in Substance Use Education, Research, Care and Policy
Behavioral Health Transformation Council
Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council
Bridging the Divide Suicide Prevention Conference
The Brief Intervention Group—BIG—Hospital SBIRT Initiative
Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America
Colorado Association of Addiction Professionals
Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition
Colorado Human Resources Association
Colorado Nurses Association
Colorado Organization of Nurse Leaders
Colorado Pain Initiative
Colorado Pharmacists Recovery Network
Colorado Pharmacy Coalition
Colorado Providers Association
Colorado Society for Clinical Specialists in Psychiatric Nursing
Dental Wellbeing Committee
Denver Drug Strategy Task Force
Denver Epidemiological Work Group
Employee Assistance Professionals Association, Colorado Chapter
Faces and Voices of Recovery
Flippin’ the Script – Open Door Youth Gang Alternatives
International Employee Assistance Professionals Association
International Nurses Society on Addictions
International Network on Brief Interventions for Alcohol and Other Drugs
The JP Prescription Drug Awareness Foundation
Metro CareRing
National Association for Addiction Professionals
National TASC
Society for Human Resource Management
State Task Force on Medication Disposal
Substance Abuse Trends and Response Task Force
Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado
Winter Symposium on Addictive Disorders, Behavioral Health and Mental Health
2013-2014 FINANCIALS

Funding Sources

- Colorado Department of Corrections $5,652,072.00
- Office of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services $2,279,922.00
- Colorado State Board of Nursing $731,968.00
- Colorado State Board of Pharmacy $193,340.00
- Colorado Dental Board $192,540.00
- Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine $150,000.00
- Colorado State Mental Health Boards $150,000.00
- Other Income $139,555.00
- Donations $55,885.00

Total Funding $9,545,347.00

Expenses

- Program Services $9,170,291.00
- Management & General $114,220.00
- Fundraising $53,865.00

Total Expense $9,338,376.00
Thank you to all of our generous donors!

Advocates for Recovery  
Affinity eHealth  
Alkermes  
Andy Volin  
Anonymous Donor  
Anthony Wash  
Arapahoe House  
Bonnie Mucklow  
Brian Ferrans  
Brie Reimann  
Caitlin Kozicki  
Carolyn Hayes  
Carolyn Swenson  
CeDAR—Center for Dependency, Addiction and Rehabilitation  
Centennial Peaks  
Cherry Creek Benefits  
Chris Kesterson  
Chris Knoepke  
Colleen and Edmund Casper  
Colorado Dental Association  
Colorado Lawyers Helping Lawyers  

Colorado Nurses Association  
Colorado Nurses Foundation  
Colorado Physicians Health Program  
Colorado Veterinary Medical Association  
David Stuhr  
David Ternus  
Don and Mary Davis  
Don Perl  
Donna Strickland  
Elizabeth M. Pace  
Erin Sharp  
Frank DeBord  
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Lauren Roberts  
Lee Ann Aden and Mark Tokheim  
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Rocky Mountain Health Plans  
Rose Community Foundation  
Sara and Howard Jarrett  
Sarah Hopfenbeck  
Sharon Clark  
Tracy Ayers  
TRIAD EAP  
USW 920 Staff Pharmacists  
Valley Hope Association  
Vel Garner  
Viola M. Pace  
Walgreens Company  
Windstream
Dedicated to quality, accessible prevention and intervention services in workplaces and communities, focused on substance use and related issues.