I am ready to graduate from the program and am able to responsibly live without its framework by utilizing my Higher Power and the support of my sponsor and friends of the AA program. It is because of this I am requesting my discharge for February 2010.

I wish to thank the Nursing Peer Health Assistance Program and especially my case manager, Jennifer Noonan MA, NCC, CAC II. Since my acceptance into the program, I have not felt judged or less than encouraged. Jennifer has always been prompt, professional and empathetic in her approach. My experience with the program has been very positive. Thank you for the support and “being there” for those of us who have slipped into the darkness of addiction.

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After completing the “Examining Your Family Background” exercise, many participants expressed the realization that they are empowered to create the family they want. They looked at habits and practices from the family they grew up in, answering questions such as, “How did your family communicate, did your family eat meals together, what type of discipline was practiced in your family?” Participants looked at what they knew as a child and decided which practices they will leave behind or bring into their family now.

The program works with many participants from other countries. Many have reported feeling glad to have been reminded to implement some of their cultural traditions. They remembered getting together with relatives on weekends and sharing meals and stories with each other in their native countries. They realized that while here in the US their focus has been on working and they have neglected spending time with their families. The pursuit of the “American Dreams” had led them to sacrifice their traditional family values. The classes reminded them of the reason they had come here—to create a better life for their families. A “better life” is not just material or financial, but also a closer, more loving life.


HIV/HEPATITIS C PROGRAM

ABOUT A PARTICIPANT

The HIV/ Hepatitis C program utilizes the Holistic Health Recovery Program to provide HIV/ Hepatitis C and substance abuse relapse prevention to the minority re-entry population through referrals from Mile High TASC. The HIV/ Hepatitis C Program is in its fifth and final year and has had a number of great successes. One participant was very resistant to the HIV/ Hepatitis C education and intervention. However, over time, this participant opened up and was able to share his struggles and became an inspiration to the other participants. He enjoyed HHRP so much that he came to the January Steering Committee meeting to express his appreciation for the program. “I truly hope this program will continue because I am a better person after participating.”

FUNDING: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

SBIRT COLORADO FROM HEALTH EDUCATORS

A patient was screened one year ago and received six free Brief Therapy sessions. He recently came back to the clinic and was re-screened. One year ago, he was doing tobacco, alcohol and marijuana frequently. When re-screened, he only reported using marijuana and not as heavily. The SBIRT Colorado Health Educator asked the patient what had helped him make such big changes. The patient said there were many reasons and many people involved in his success, but that it all started with the SBIRT screening at the clinic. He said the Health Educator motivated him and helped him realize the harm he was doing to his body.

One of the Health Educators screened a 23-year-old girl who loved sports. This patient was not doing any substances so her score was negative. The Health Educator took time to congratulate her for her wonderful choices. At the end of the screen the patient said, “You know, it feels really good to hear from people, other than my mom, what a good job I am doing staying away from drugs. My friends tried to make me feel that I am a weird person by making healthy choices, but it is good to know that it is the other way around.”

FUNDING: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment grant awarded to Colorado Governor Bill Ritter, Jr., administered by the Division of Behavioral Health.

Legislation affecting prevention and intervention efforts

PAROLE REFORM—FIGHTING RECIDIVISM, SAVING MONEY AND MAKING COLORADO SAFER

HB 1360: Reducing Revocations for Technical Violations
Sponsors: Representative Sal Pace (D) and Senator Pat Steadman (D)

Governor Bill Ritter signed House Bill 1360 into law on May 25. The bill establishes intermediate sanctions prior to re-incarceration of technical parole violators, allowing community punishment instead of re-imprisonment for people on parole for low-level, nonviolent crimes. Technical violators have not committed any new crime, but have broken the terms of their parole—like missing required meetings, failing a drug test, etc. Currently these offenders are often sent back to prison when they commit a technical violation. The maximum time for technical violations by lower risk parolees has also been reduced from 180 days to 90 days.

The bill saves $15 million annually through the Department of Corrections (DOC) by using a graduated risk-based assessment to determine the number of days that a technical parole violator will spend in incarceration. Most of the savings go into recidivism reduction programs—like intensive residential treatment, mental health beds, and drug and alcohol treatment programs. Law enforcement officials, including the DOC and the DA’s Council, supported the bill.

“The bill saves the state millions of dollars by providing more intermediate sanctions for technical parole violators, like Community Return to Custody beds, mental health and addiction treatment,” said bill sponsor Rep. Sal Pace. “These programs not only save the state money, but more importantly they are proven through research to reduce recidivism rates. That means fewer crimes, fewer victims and greater cost savings in the future.”

SBIRT FOR MEDICAID RECIPENTS

HB1033: Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment
Sponsors: Representative Tom Massey (R), Senator Betty Boyd (D) and Senator Gail Schwartz (D)

This bill was signed into law on June 7 by Governor Bill Ritter. The bill is to activate reimbursement for screening and brief intervention services under the State’s Medicaid program. The bill’s funding is tied to HB 1284, Medicaid Marijuana Sales Tax. A portion (an estimated $1 million) of the sales and use tax generated from the sales of medical marijuana will be allocated to the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) for individuals at risk of substance abuse who receive their health insurance through the Medicaid program. Federal Medicaid matching funds are available for this Medicaid benefit.
Statement of support for SBIRT

SBIRT Colorado is gathering supporters for the SBIRT practice. Please consider adding your name to this growing list of organizations and individuals who support the following statements demonstrating the demand for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment services in healthcare settings in Colorado.

- Alcohol and other drug misuse, including tobacco, is a major public health problem in Colorado.
- Alcohol and other drug misuse, including tobacco, results in lost productivity, higher health insurance premiums and other expenses for Colorado employers.
- Colorado spent $1.6 billion on the burden of substance abuse on public programs including healthcare, the justice system, education programs, child and family assistance programs, public safety and the local workforce. This spending amounted to 15.1% of the state’s budget in 2005.
- The effectiveness of SBIRT has been demonstrated in numerous studies; is considered best practice by leading national healthcare associations for identifying and treating substance misuse even at an early stage; and is being funded in a number of states, including Colorado, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.
- SBIRT can be implemented in healthcare settings as a routine, universally administered part of any healthcare visit in a manner that overcomes stigma and other cultural or socioeconomic barriers.

We support Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment services being implemented in healthcare settings throughout Colorado under the coordination of SBIRT Colorado.

Please join the following organizations and individuals and show your support for this statement by sending an email to SBIRTInfo@peerassist.org. We will add your name or your organization’s name to a list on our website, improvinghealthcolorado.org. It may also appear in various publications and awareness efforts. Please indicate that you are showing your personal support or are authorized to show support on behalf of your organization.

**SBIRT SUPPORTERS**

- Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse (AMERSA)
- Boulder County Public Health
- Camellia T. Muhiz, Executive Director, Colorado Providers Association
- Carol Mills, RN, CAC III, MA, Behavioral Health Education Specialist, Kaiser Permanente, Denver
- Center for Impaired Driving Research and Evaluation, Boulder
- Charles Mains, MD, Trauma Program Medical Director, Trauma Services, St. Anthony Central Hospital
- Claire Meares, LCSW, Clinical Social Worker, Infectious Disease Group Practice
- Clínica Family Health Services
- Colorado Community Managed Care Network
- Colorado Providers Association
- Colorado Public Health Association
- Colorado Society for Public Health Education
- Colorado State Employee Assistance Program
- Cynthia Beck Crousdale
- David S. Timken, Director, Center for Impaired Driving Research and Evaluation, Boulder
- Denver Health Infections Disease Clinic
- Division of Behavioral Health, Colorado Department of Human Services
- Elizabeth Dunn, RN, Trauma Program Manager, Trauma Services, St. Anthony Central Hospital
- Employee Assistance Professionals Association
- Erica Lewis Kennedy, Former Mayor, City of Montrose
- Health TeamWorks (formerly known as Colorado Clinical Guidelines Collaborative)
- Howard Dental Center, Denver
- High Plains Community Health Center
- Jaywalker Lodge, Carbondale
- John Maynard, PhD, CEAP, Chief Executive Officer, Employer Assistance Professionals Association
- Kendrick P. Gallegos, LCSW, Director of Integrated Services, North Range Behavioral Health
- Kendra Reiche, MS, Dragon Youth Project Coordinator, San Juan Basin Health Department
- Larimer Center for Mental Health
- Laurie Sinner, Director of Human Resources, Community Hospital, Grand Junction
- Linda Henry, RN, BSN, MA, (retired) Director of Public Health Services, Department of Public Health & Environment, Greeley
- Littleton Adventist Hospital, Littleton
- Marge Seabourn, LPC/CAC III
- Memorial Health System, Colorado Springs
- Mitzi M. Moran, President/Chief Executive Officer, Sunrise Community Health, Greeley
- Northern Colorado AIDS Project
- OMNI Institute
- Pamela Bongi, RN, Trauma Program Director, Trauma Services, St. Anthony Central Hospital
- Patricia A. Hettly PhD, RN, Rocky Mountain Research
- Peer Assistance Services, Inc.
- Prowers County Public Health
- Randi C. Wood, LCSW, DCFSW, CEAP, Director, Colorado State Employee Assistance Program
- Ryan White Early Intervention Program, Beacon Center for Infectious Disease, Boulder Community Hospital
- Salad Family Health Centers
- School of Nursing at Platt College
- St. Anthony Central Trauma Services Department
- Steven A. Clark, San Luis Valley Mental Health Center
- Steven Wright, MD, Harvard Park Family and Adult Medicine, board certified in Family Medicine, and Addiction Medicine, Medical Pain Management
- Sunrise Community Health, Greeley
- The Children’s Hospital Immunodeficiency Program
- University of Colorado HIV/AIDS Clinical Program
- Vail Valley Medical Center
- Vicky Cassabaum, RN, Injury Prevention Coordinator, Trauma Services, St. Anthony Central Hospital
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**SBIRT SUPPORTERS (continued)**

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- Patricia A. Herlihy PhD, RN, Rocky Mountain Research
- Pamela Bourg, RN, Trauma Program Director, Trauma Services, St. Anthony Central Hospital
- OMNI Institute
- Mitzi M. Moran, President/Chief Executive Officer, Sunrise Community Health, Greeley
- Memorial Health System, Colorado Springs
- CALLER TO actions!

**We CELEBRATE** our staff for years of dedicated service!

- 26 YEARS • ELIZABETH PACE
- 18 YEARS • JACQUELINE WESTHOVEN
- 10 YEARS • KARIN WAGNER
- 5 YEARS • TRACI HUEY • ANTHONY WASH
- 4 YEARS • CHRIS KESTERSON • JONATHAN TISHER
- 3 YEARS • MEKKA BANKS • LEON FISCHER • BRENDA KANE • NILSA RODRIGUEZ-BOSQUE
- 2 YEARS • BRYN BROCKLESBY • JENNIFER NOONAN • NELLE TOSHEIM • MICHAEL WILKINS
- 1 YEAR • MARGARET YARWOOD • JOANN ZEPPE

**F R E E S P OR T GRO U P F AC I L IT AT O RS**

We would like to acknowledge the PAS Peer Group Support facilitators for the years of dedicated and caring service to Peer Assistance Services and our clients. Thank you!

- MARY CORCORAN • KATHERINE GARCIA
- DIANNA GILMORE • ESTHER KAISER • HO LOCHELL
- MARTA MARTINEZ-EVANS • JANICE SCHULZ
- COLLEEN TODD • MARY JANE VALDEZ
- MARGARET TAYWOOD • JOANN ZEPPE

**P A S STAFF A CC O M P LISHM EN TS**

We are proud to announce the following:

- CARLA GARCIA earned her MSN from Regis University

**J E F F E R I N E M O R G A N T O ,** manager of Healthy Relationships and Families programs, accepted a position at the Colorado Department of Human Services to work on the Responsible Fatherhood Program. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck.

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Thanks to all of our supporters for making the 2010 Awareness Event a grand success.

2010 DONORS

**BENEFACOR**
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Dr. Robin S. Mower

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Harmony Foundation
Jason’s Deli
Lola and Red Fehr
Mark Tokheim and Lee Ann Aden
Sara and Howard Jarrett
Valley Hope Association

2010 FOUNDERS AWARDS

**CeDAR**
CeDAR is a residential addiction and co-occurring disorder treatment facility located on the Anschutz Medical Campus of the University of Colorado Hospital. Frank Lisnow is the executive director of CeDAR.

**KERRY B. BRODERICK, M.D.**
Dr. Broderick is Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the School of Medicine, University of Colorado Denver. She is an emergency attending physician at Denver Health Medical Center. She is currently SBIRT Colorado’s medical advisor.

**HOWIE MADIGAN**
For the last 24 years, Howie has been an interventionist and community relations representative for the Harmony Foundation Inc., a residential treatment facility. In May 2010, Howie celebrated 44 years of his own recovery.

**GOVERNOR BILL RITTER JR.**
SBIRT Colorado, an initiative of the Office of the Governor, has been working to integrateScreening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment into the standards of practice for healthcare. In 2007, Governor Ritter signed legislation that amended the nurse practice act to expand services under the Nursing Peer Health Assistance/Nurse Alternative to Discipline program. Over the past several years he and his administration have recognized the value of the Colorado TASC which provides case management services for parolees. In 2009, Governor Ritter, with Lieutenant Governor Barbara O’Brien, issued a proclamation for the first statewide Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness week.