

**START BELIEVING.**

we are here

trust

grit

**PEER ASSISTANCE SERVICES  
ANNUAL REVIEW  
2018~2019**

compassion

integrity



Peer Assistance Services

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**LOOKING BACK AT THE PAST YEAR**, there are many moments of inspiration found in the courage and determination demonstrated by our clients and colleagues to bring lasting change for individuals at risk of addiction or mental health concerns—and also reminders of the challenges we face.

One defining moment came after our Annual Awareness Event. The featured speaker, Austin Eubanks, gave a moving presentation, sharing the narrative of his trauma, addiction, and recovery. He had made it his life's work to help others who faced similar issues. Sadly, addiction took its toll—and Austin's life—less than a month after our event. His story and struggle connect us on a very deep level to the difficulties of recovery, and serve as a springboard to reinvigorate our dedication.

As you read this review, you'll see many accomplishments to celebrate. We are united as we move forward with our core values of grit, integrity, and compassion, and the belief in the promise of creating a positive and lasting impact.

The promise truly lives in our programs and staff. Every step of the way, a light shines on a potential problem and solution—beginning with a prevention program where through a social media campaign more than a quarter of a million adults received access to resources about the risk for substance use in their children. Prevention and intervention efforts continue through SBIRT in Colorado where during the past year over 13,000 were screened in clinics in northeast and southeast Colorado. Over 500 health and mental health professionals were trained in SBIRT statewide. Each screening and conversation was an opportunity to change behavior and risky substance use. In the Peer Health Assistance Programs, over 350 new referrals to the programs represent a small portion of the healing ripple effect to thousands of individuals. Our positive impact allows us to move forward with optimism.

Along with the reinvigoration of our mission, we're taking this opportunity to examine how exactly we tell our story. Our goal is to effectively communicate our support and belief in each and every individual touched by risky substance use, addiction, mental health and other concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing support and interest, and to all our advocates, partners, donors, colleagues and friends—we couldn't do any of this without you.

Sara Jarrett  
President, Board of Directors

Elizabeth M. Pace  
Chief Executive Officer

# FOUNDERS AWARD

The Founders Award recognizes individuals and organizations who make contributions that exemplify our mission. Visit [PeerAssistanceServices.org](http://PeerAssistanceServices.org) for a full list of individuals recognized.

## 2019 AWARDEES

### DARLYN MILLER



#### REGIONAL HEALTH CONNECTOR, CENTRAL CO AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

The Regional Health Connector program, funded by the Colorado State Innovation Model Office, promotes projects supporting the integration of behavioral and physical health. Miller works closely with PAS to promote screening in primary care practices, and in schools and community organizations. Miller has organized multiple trainings for health professionals, in particular, Motivational Interviewing to Address Social Determinants of Health. She is pursuing her psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner degree at University of Colorado.

### MIKE ORRILL



#### REGIONAL HEALTH CONNECTOR, CHAFFEE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Orrill's position serves Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, and Lake counties out of the Chaffee County Public Health Office in Salida. Orrill hosts medical and mental health trainings for service providers regarding the issues of addiction including the national opioid crisis. He facilitates LGBTQ Safe Zone workshops, and community awareness events on substance use disorders and the opioid epidemic and also co-facilitates the Ark Valley Substance Abuse Regional Coalition. As administrator of the Chaffee County health and wellness website, he organizes and promotes SBIRT trainings.

### JOSÉ ESQUIBEL



#### VICE CHAIR FOR PREVENTION, SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREND AND RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Esquibel was co-director of the first SAMHSA-funded SBIRT grant awarded to the Colorado Office of the Governor, administered by PAS. In 2011, he was appointed vice chair for prevention on the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force. In collaboration with PAS, Esquibel convened an SBIRT Advisory Council to bring together community partners to share prevention information with the Task Force. He is one of the architects of the Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention and also championed the Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee, working with legislators, community organizations, and experts to shepherd six bills addressing the substance use epidemic to the legislature.

# ANNUAL EVENT

We celebrated 35 years of Peer Assistance Services with our Annual Awareness Event on April 11, in the Studio Loft in the Ellie Caulkens Opera House.

The featured keynote address was given by Austin Eubanks, a nationally recognized speaker on behavioral health and addiction recovery. An injured survivor of the 1999 Columbine shooting, Austin's traumatic experience as a teen was the catalyst to his painful journey through addiction. He devoted his career to helping those who have turned to substances as a result of trauma. Austin had spoken to thousands about his personal journey while discussing strategies to address issues of substance use.

At the event, we shared an enjoyable evening with our colleagues and friends, and a powerful presentation from Austin. On May 6th, Austin posted an event picture and caption on Instagram (photo featured below). In an article posted on May 18, 2019, his family shared that Austin "lost the battle with the very disease he fought so hard to help others face. Helping to build a community of support is what meant the most to Austin, and we plan to continue his work."



Below are a few responses that came into our office. These comments speak to the sadness around the unnecessary loss because of trauma and addiction—and to the importance of the work we do, as we mourn friends and clients lost to this disease.

“Thank you for all you have done for so many years to prevent and provide support for exactly this.

This is beyond sad to me. Can we ever figure out how to really help others?

So sorry, I want folks to understand ALL kinds of trauma.

This hit so close to home. It shows how vitally important the work you do is.

So much life and passion impacted for so many years ago. Our priorities as a society are so upside down and inside out.

The power of pain and addiction is exactly why we do this work.

It is heartbreaking—it keeps the fire lit that we need to do whatever we can to help.

A stark reminder that there is still much to be done.”



# PROGRAMS

## PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

### DENTAL, NURSING, PHARMACY, VETERINARY, AND THE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Providing assessment, referral and case management, and monitoring for healthcare and mental health professionals with substance use, mental health, stress and related problems that affect practice. PAS was awarded a five-year contract with the Department of Regulatory Agencies to provide Peer Health Assistance Programs to RNs, LPNs, pharmacists, pharmacy interns, dentists, veterinarians, social workers, marriage and family therapists, addictions counselors, registered psychotherapists, professional counselors, and psychologists.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Served 18 healthcare and mental health professions
- Provided services to 1,023 healthcare and mental health professionals throughout the state
- 392 new referrals to the programs
- 317 evaluations completed
- 66 healthcare and mental health professionals successfully completed programs
- Presentation and outreach to more than 30 organizations, schools, professional associations, and hospitals
- Developed and hosted a Practice Monitor Training for Mental Health Professionals
- Stakeholder input to the Office of Policy, Research, and Regulatory Reform regarding the Mental Health Professionals and Nurse Practice Act Sunset process
- Organized and hosted Colorado Dental Wellbeing Committee meetings

## PREVENTION PROGRAMS

**ONE STEP AHEAD: SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS** Improves knowledge, skills, and resources for parents regarding children's substance use.

#### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **SPEAKNOW! DIGITAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN** 6,661,190 impressions, with 9,141 click-through conversions
- **SPEAKNOW! DIGITAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN** Boosted Facebook posts reaching 256,553 adults, with 9–20 year-old children; in 230 western and southern Colorado zip codes; with 60,929 post engagements
- **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES** An evidence-based program that promotes family protective and resiliency processes, and reduces family risk related to adolescent substance use and other problem behaviors
- Collaborated with other state agencies to implement the **STRENGTHENING FAMILIES** in western and southern Colorado
- **PODCAST** Eight episodes produced with topics of risky alcohol use, promotion of protective factors, and adolescent mental health

**ALL IN COLORADO: SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION FOR WORKING ADULTS** A statewide program providing employers and employees information about the impact of substance use in the workplace.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Seven workshops delivered to small businesses
- Presentation at the Western Colorado Human Resource Association Fall conference
- Lunch-and-learns delivered in Grand Junction and Denver on marijuana use in the workplace
- Distribution of 1,000 informational materials on alcohol, prescription drugs, tobacco, and marijuana
- Technical assistance to 24 audiences about drug-free workplace policy review, dissemination to staff, drug testing, and marijuana in the workplace

**SBIRT IN COLORADO** Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment is a comprehensive public health approach to identify substance use risk, deliver early intervention and refer those with high risk of addiction to treatment.

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- 41 trainings throughout the state reaching over 500 health and mental health providers
- 515 professionals accessed online provider education training modules
- Development of the app, *Women's Health and Alcohol*, to educate women on health effects of alcohol
- More than 13,000 individuals screened in 15 clinics in northeast and southeast Colorado. Training, technical assistance, and implementation support provided to clinics through a partnership with High Plains Research Network at the University of Colorado
- Trainings and technical assistance to 17 school-based health centers; and community-learning sessions for health center staff on topics of adolescent brain development, substance use risk and protective factors, and Healthy Kids Colorado survey data
- Technical assistance provided to 93 individuals and organizations, nationwide
- Two Train-the-Trainers sessions, expanding training reach by enabling educators from Colorado and New York to train others

**THE ONE DEGREE: SHIFT THE INFLUENCE** application and public awareness campaign

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- An adult-to-youth conversation was added to app
- Statewide training and technical assistance in school-based health centers
- Targeted public awareness campaign in northeast and southeast Colorado
- Public awareness campaign seen by Coloradans more than five million times through billboards, radio, print and digital media
- 5,171 app downloads, and 19,743 website views

# LEADERSHIP

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT** Sara Jarrett, EdD, MS, CNS, RN

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## **MANAGEMENT**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER** Elizabeth M. Pace, MSM, RN, CEAP, FAAN

**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER** Lee Ann Aden, MS, CPA, CEAP

**OPERATIONS MANAGER** Alicia Trujillo, BA

## **PEER HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS**

**CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER** Katherine Garcia, MA, LAC, MAC

**PROGRAM MANAGER** Chris Kesterson, BS, CAC I

## **PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS, AND WORKING ADULTS**

**PROGRAM MANAGER** Annie Klein

## **SCREENING AND BRIEF INTERVENTION (SBIRT IN COLORADO)**

**PROGRAM MANAGER** Bethany Pace-Danley, BSW, MA



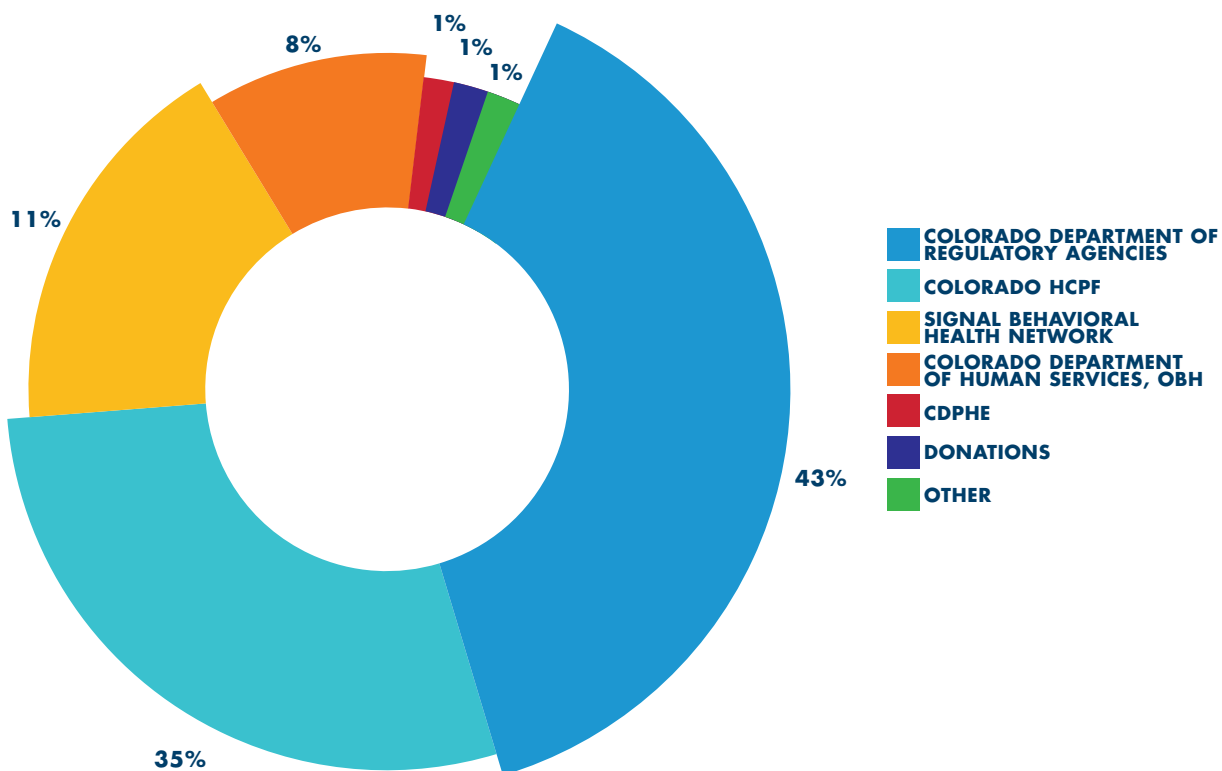
# FINANCIALS

## EXPENSES

<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>	<b>\$ 3,524,295</b>
<b>MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,002,651</b>

## FUNDING

<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REGULATORY AGENCIES</b> State Board of Nursing, State Board of Pharmacy, Colorado Dental Board, State Board of Veterinary Medicine, Mental Health Boards	<b>\$ 2,032,188</b>
<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY &amp; FINANCING</b>	<b>\$ 1,675,000</b>
<b>SIGNAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NETWORK</b>	<b>\$ 511,452</b>
<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</b>	<b>\$ 405,563</b>
<b>COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>\$ 61,560</b>
<b>DONATIONS</b>	<b>\$ 37,649</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 58,638</b>



# DONORS

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along the way

we believe

**PEER ASSISTANCE SERVICES**

Since 1984

Providing accessible  
substance use and mental health  
prevention and intervention  
in the community

grit

we protect

understanding



Peer Assistance Services

