



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Behavioral Health Work Group

Tuesday, October 28: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Virtual

Meeting Attendance

Working Group Members:

Clinton Wilson

Julie Elliot

JC Carrica

Richard Harland

Jacob Walter

Chad Reznicek

Meghan Shelton

Tim Miller

Kaleigh Kessel (sitting in for CDPHE seat)

Michael Lozano

Julissa Sotto

CDA Support Staff:

Robert Sakata

Rosie Skovron

Consuleo Villagomez (Interpreter)

External Presenters

Jamie Hurst

Meeting Minutes

Meeting commenced at 1:01pm

Introduction/Overview (Clinton Wilson)

- Introduce Spanish language interpreter for explanation of translation services
- General Public participation welcome via Q&A function or written comment via email anytime
- Member Introductions: Any short program updates and if you are able to attend the ABHS?
 - **JC Carrica** has started Coffee Break offshoot called HAY in Durango
-  Ag Behavioral Health Work Group September 23rd Meeting Minutes
 - **Action: September Meeting Minutes approved.**

Presentation from Tri-County Health Network (Jamie Hurst)

- Tri-County Health Network actually serves 6 counties: Gunnison, San Miguel, Hindsdale, Delta, Ouray, Montrose. This region has many isolated communities and a mix of ski towns and agricultural communities.
- Suicide Prevention, Awareness, and Recovery Coalition (SPARC) focuses on serving community members who may be thinking about suicide or experiencing behavioral health challenges.
- **Jamie Hurst** spoke to what has and hasn't worked thus far in their work in rural communities:
 - Farm Talk: tried to emulate the Coffee Break project but saw no attendance
 - Rough n Rowdy Bronc & Cattle Battle: table event, few people stopped by but still good to be in the community and increase visibility
 - Replicating Dude Talk Dinners: the orgs with the funding to host events don't always have the best connections and credibility in agricultural communities
 - Workplace Wellness Challenge Cards: spreading information in the community to encourage conversation
 - COMET: hosted at fairgrounds and advertised widely but very few have showed up
 - GSP & Gun Shows: table event, great interactions at a two day gun show
 - Multi-Cultural Access Team: focused on Worker's Rights & Hispanic Agricultural Workers,
 - Man Therapy: lack male therapists and Spanish-speaking therapists
- Success has come from relationship building, inserting behavioral health and suicide prevention into the norms of community events, start with challenging basic stigma, there is not one way or silver bullet solution to support all ag communities.

- What is next?
 - We Are The Ones: everyday actions that people can take to support their communities, building on strength of a rural community (protective, well-connected, history), meet people where they are with small ways to encourage people to think about these issues and cultivating connection such as postcards and calendars and flyers
 - Identify trusted messengers in each county and partnering with local groups and orgs
 - Firearm Norms: conversations about this topic are often shut down very quickly, work on building trust to get past preconceived notions
- **Julissa Soto** agreed that when it comes to male Spanish-speaking agricultural workers, it is very difficult to build trust. She is looking forward to TCHN partnering with her to present conferences in Spanish across the state.
- **Julie Elliot** thanked Jamie for her work and easy partnership.
- **JC Carrica** added that he will be in Montrose at the Axis clinic and would love to meet up and chat about collaboration. JC shared about his investor group (40 or so across 14 counties in the SE) who “invest” their logo behind the Coffee Break project message and promotional materials to build community familiarity and commitment.

Sub-Committee Updates (Chad, Katherine, Clinton)

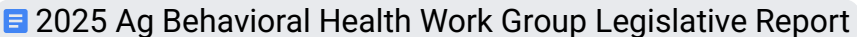
- Best Practices (Chad Reznicek)
 - Putting together an outline to synthesize the best practices and create a guiding principles document.
- Data Collection and Gaps (Chad Reznicek)
 - Interviews with 13 different producers and key stakeholders within agriculture. Four of them have been conducted.
 - Hoping to finish in November. Chad will reach out to the sub-committee to keep things on-track.
 - **Action: If anyone would like to take on sub-committee leadership, help would be welcomed!**
- Outreach (Rosie Skovron)
 - Post Summit Communications efforts: Robert is reaching out to the Colorado Sun, we will plan to write a blog post after the event, and capture lots of images.
 - Focus on tangible goals and reprioritization of efforts from our original communications and outreach strategy. Brainstorm about what efforts we want to be reflected in the upcoming report to the legislature about our first year.
 - Strengthen network of interagency coordination for resources/trainings/events
 - Continual updated archive of online resources and events on CDA's website

- Visibility and promotion of the annual summit

Ag Behavioral Health Summit update (Rosie Skovron)

- **Action: please RSVP and send [the RSVP page to others who might be interested](#)**
 - The [agenda can be accessed here](#).
 - 60 people have registered so far and we have one more week of time for folks to register.
 - 12 organizations will be giving spotlight presentations.
- Table Facilitation
 - How to support agricultural workers - Julissa Soto
 - Stories of success; what is working, what is not, what has potential? - Julie Elliot
 - Social Connections and gatherings for people working in agriculture across the state - Carlyle Stewart
 - Collaborative fundraising, grant collaboration - Rosie Skovron Or Robert Sakata
 - Ag Resources and available behavioral health training across the state - Chad Reznicek
 - Sponsors (corporate, institutions, etc.) and partnerships: financial, outreach, marketing - Clinton Wilson & JC Carrica
- **Julie Elliot** asked about funding for a migrant worker who is interested in attending. Clinton will ask RMFU about the remaining budget to support their travel.
- Travel can be reimbursed for work group members:
 - [Work Group Reimbursement FAQ](#)
 - [Reimbursement Request Submission Form](#)

CDA Updates (Robert Sakata and Rosie Skovron)

- CDA and CSU AgrAbility are hosting a screening of the Legacy Film in Montrose Monday Nov 17 following the Gunnison Basin Roundtable meeting. Our strategy is to host a "water" meeting because so many people are interested in water. EVERYBODY IS INVITED! 
- Suggestion to add the following message to the work group charter: *"The Commissioner of Agriculture or their designee at their discretion can replace any appointed Work Group member who has more than 4 absences per calendar year, where they did not arrange for a designated alternate to fill their responsibilities on the work group"*
 - **Action: please be prepared to vote on this on November 13th in Monte Vista.**
- Legislative Report is due on December 31, 2025
 - Draft report is underway: 

- **Action: look at the report and think about what you want to be sure is included in this year's report.**

- Future meeting schedule
 - November 13: 10 AM - 11 AM in Monte Vista prior to the Summit
 - December 16: 1:00 - 2:30 PM (instead of December 23rd)

Public Comments

- **Can non-voting members attend the in-person meeting at the summit?**
 - Yes!
- **Have you offered Behavioral Health or Trauma Informed Care practices to "Future Farmers" or anyone especially students entering the Farming and Ranching Industries?**
 - **Jacob Walter** mentioned Legacy showings and workshops to all Ag teachers and FFA leaders in the state. Working on programming for the Colorado/Wyoming conference for Young Farmers and Ranchers.
 - **Chad Reznicek** said Agribility presented at the 4H state conference for the past few years. Lacking systematic services and attempts but smaller pockets like county specific extension agents have led programming. Growing interest and desire to equip young producers with behavioral health literacy and normalize asking for support. We should look for greater opportunities to move the needle
 - **Clinton Wilson** mentioned partnering with the New Agrarian Program from Quivira Coalition to present on behavioral health.

What is going on in your communities? (Group Updates)

- **Michael Lozano** shared that after they hosted a retreat at Warhorse Ranch an attendee called him to say that she felt so supported after her time on the ranch.
- **Richard Harland** has started a talking circle for people in his community to come out and support their neighbors. Providing food. Four groups a week, open groups with some themes and responding to immediate tragedies. Huge success on the reservation! Involve smudging and prayers in the circle as well. Peer support.
- **JC Carrica** mentioned that Larry Brown is now a COMET facilitator! He will be leading a facilitation in Alamosa with JC on November 13th.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm