



Peer Assistance Services, Inc.
Colorado 501(c)(3) non-profit agency since 1984

Mission:
Dedicated to quality, accessible prevention and intervention services in workplaces and communities, focused on substance use and related issues.

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Peer Assistance Services, Inc.

- Contractor with the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) since 1992
- Administer the Peer Health Assistance Programs for:
 - State Board of Nursing
 - Colorado Dental Board
 - State Board of Pharmacy
 - State Board of Veterinary Medicine
 - Colorado Mental Health Boards
 - State Board of Psychologist Examiners
 - State Board of Social Work Examiners
 - State Board of Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners
 - State Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners
 - State Board of Addiction Counselor Examiners
 - State Board of Registered Psychotherapists

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Other Professions Referred

- Physical Therapists
- Athletic Trainers
- Optometrists
- Massage Therapists
- Speech and Language Pathologists
- Surgical Technologists
- Chiropractors
- Dental Hygienists
- Podiatrists
- Certified Nurse Aides
- Respiratory Therapists
- Nursing Home Administrators

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Nursing Peer Health Assistance Program

- Nurse Practice Act - §12-38-131
- LPNs and RNs with active licenses or pending applications are eligible
- CNAs and students of nursing may access the program on a fee for service basis

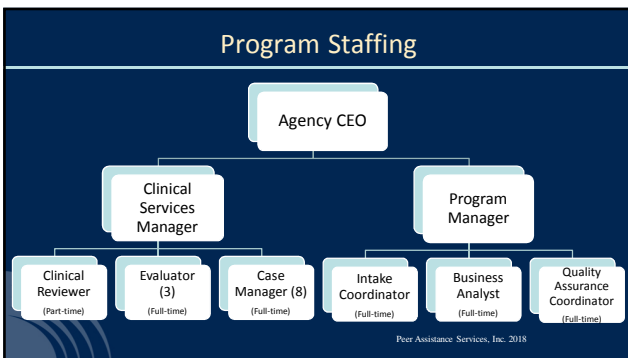
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Colorado Revised Statute – Title 12 Professions and Occupations – Article 38 Nurses

- §12-38-131 **Nursing peer health assistance or nurse alternative to discipline program** - As a condition of licensure and for the purpose of supporting a nursing peer health assistance program or a nurse alternative to discipline program, every applicant for an initial license or to reinstate a license and any person renewing a license issued pursuant to this article shall pay to the administering entity designated a fee in an amount set by the board, not to exceed twenty-five dollars per year.

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- Offer assistance and education to licensees concerning the recognition, identification, and prevention of **physical, emotional, psychiatric, or psychological problems or behavioral, mental health, or substance use disorders** and provide for intervention
 - Evaluate the extent of **physical, emotional, psychiatric, or psychological problems or behavioral, mental health, or substance use disorders** and refer the licensee for appropriate treatment;
 - Monitor the status of a licensee who has been referred for treatment, including assessing continued public protection;
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- ### Scope of Work
- Evaluation/Assessment
 - Case Management (Average 3 – 5 years)
 - Referrals for treatment
 - Monitoring compliance
 - Reporting to the Regulatory Board
 - Education and Outreach
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Referral Source

- Regulatory Board
- Self Referrals
- Employer
- Treatment Facility
- Attorney
- Schools
- Family Member
- Co-worker

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Methods of Participation

- Voluntary
- Board Order – Mental Status Evaluation
- Board Order – Confidential Agreement to Participate
- Board Order – Public Stipulation

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Challenges

- Stigma/Discrimination
- Employment
- Staffing
- Public disclosure of protected health information

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Return to work restrictions

- Controlled substances restriction for a period of time (Up to 12 months)
 - If diversion occurred
- Overtime
- Overnights
- Settings
 - Home healthcare
 - Hospice
 - Travel nursing

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Thank You!

Denver: 2170 S Parker Rd, Suite 229 Denver, CO 80231 303-369-0039	Grand Junction: 200 Grand Avenue, Suite 270 Grand Junction, CO 81501 970-986-4360
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www.peerassistanceservices.org

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