

Welcome to the RMCP Connector!

July-September 2026

We're so glad you're here. Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners Connector is our quarterly newsletter sharing updates, insights, and stories from across RMCP.

At the heart of our work is training and education, helping individuals, workplaces, and communities build practical skills to respond to suicide risk, mental health concerns, substance use, and crisis.

We'll also keep you connected to the programs and partnerships shaping our work, including CaringConnect, RMCP Consulting, Workplace Partners, community collaborations, and special initiatives across Colorado and beyond.

Bev's
Note

A Message from Our CEO

As we close out the first quarter of FY27, I'm proud of the momentum Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners continues to build and even more grateful for the partners, communities, and organizations who make this work possible.

This quarter, our team has been showing up in meaningful ways across Colorado and beyond. We have facilitated trainings that strengthen confidence around suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use response; partnered with organizations like Dude Talk Dinners to bring practical tools into rural community spaces; participated in important conversations about access, funding, workforce challenges, and the future of behavioral health; and represented RMCP at conferences.

One of the biggest takeaways from this quarter is that the need for practical, accessible, human-centered behavioral health education continues to grow. Organizations are navigating complex challenges: workforce stress, changing funding environments, increased demand for services, and the need to create cultures where people feel safe asking for help. RMCP is committed to being a resource in that work.

As we move into the next quarter, we are focused on expanding partnerships, reaching new communities, and helping more organizations strengthen the systems and skills that support their people. Whether you are looking for a single training, an ongoing education series, leadership development, suicide/substance use prevention or a customized approach for your workforce, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you.

Thank you to everyone who has partnered with us, learned with us, and helped carry this mission forward. There is a lot ahead, and we are excited about where we are going.

We invite you to connect with us at rmcrisispartners.org to learn more about our trainings, partnerships, and ways RMCP can support your organization.

With gratitude,
Bev Marquez
CEO, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners

SAVE THE DATE



BRIDGING THE DIVIDE

SUICIDE AWARENESS & PREVENTION SUMMIT



March 30 – 31, 2027



**Embassy Suites by Hilton Loveland
Conference Center**
Loveland, Colorado



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS
COMING SOON!**

Hosted by Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners with support from the
Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado



RMCP Leads the Next Chapter of Bridging the Divide

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is honored to lead the next chapter of Bridging the Divide, Colorado's long-standing gathering dedicated to suicide prevention, postvention, mental health, and community healing. We are deeply grateful to the **Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado** for the vision, leadership, and commitment that helped make Bridging the Divide one of the state's most meaningful opportunities for learning, collaboration, and connection. The conference has always been shaped by the people who return year after year: clinicians, researchers, peer professionals, advocates, people with lived experience, educators, first responders, nonprofit leaders, and community partners united by a shared commitment to hope, healing, and saving lives.

As planning continues, RMCP looks forward to honoring the history and collaborative spirit of Bridging the Divide while creating new opportunities for Colorado’s suicide prevention community to learn from one another, strengthen partnerships, and help shape what comes next.

Save the Date: March 30–31 in Loveland, Colorado, at the Embassy Suites, by Hilton Loveland Conference Center

Stay tuned for additional conference updates, and visit rmcrisispartners.org to learn more about RMCP’s work, programs, trainings, and upcoming opportunities.



UPCOMING RMCP TRAININGS

Practical trainings that build confidence around suicide prevention, mental health, and substance use response.

[→ rmcrisispartners.org](https://rmcrisispartners.org)

safeTALK — In Person
Thursday, October 29, 2026 | 12:00–4:00 p.m.
Castle Rock Library, Colorado

This interactive LivingWorks training helps participants recognize when someone may be thinking about suicide, engage them directly, and connect them with additional support.

VitalCog — Virtual
Tuesday, November 3, 2026 | 12:00–2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, December 2, 2026 | 12:00–2:00 p.m.

VitalCog is a practical suicide prevention training that helps participants recognize warning signs, start meaningful conversations, and connect people with support.

Substance Use First Aid (SUFA) — Virtual
Tuesday, December 8, 2026 | 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. MST

SUFA is a practical, skills-based training that helps participants recognize possible substance use concerns, respond without judgment, and support connection to appropriate help using the four-step See, Understand, Facilitate, and Assist framework.

Visit rmcrisispartners.org to register for upcoming trainings and learn more about RMCP’s training opportunities.

[Click Here for RMCP Trainings](https://rmcrisispartners.org)



RMCP Joins Community Conversation on the Future of Mental Health Services

In August, Bev Marquez represented Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners on a community panel convened by NAMI Colorado Springs at the Philanthropy Collective. The discussion brought together behavioral health and community partners to explore the current state of mental health services, funding and workforce challenges, barriers to access, and the growing needs facing communities across Colorado.

Special thanks to El Pomar Foundation and the Colorado Springs Health Foundation for helping shape and support this important conversation with local funders and community partners.

Panelists also discussed how organizations are adapting to changing resources and where collaboration, investment, and policy support can help strengthen the behavioral health system moving forward.



BOARD LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Lead the Next Chapter of Workplace Behavioral Health

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is seeking business and industry leaders to join our Board of Directors.

RMCP created Colorado’s statewide peer and crisis line, including 988, and was its first provider. Today we bring suicide prevention, crisis response, peer support, and training directly to employers and communities. Our next chapter needs leaders who know how to grow a mission-driven organization.

WHY JOIN

- Shape strategy** as RMCP scales a sustainable, fee-for-service model for workplace behavioral health.
- Open doors** with employers, industry partners, and funders who need what we do.
- Put your expertise to work** where it saves lives, on a board that values business judgment.
- Grow your network** alongside leaders in business, health care, and philanthropy.

WE'RE SEEKING EXPERTISE IN

BUSINESS & FINANCE Executives, finance, sales, and business development leaders	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE Clinical, health system, payer, and EAP leaders
PEER SUPPORT Peer workforce leaders and people with lived experience	TRAINING & EDUCATION HR, learning and development, and workforce educators

READY TO EXPLORE THE ROLE?
Contact Bev Marquez, CEO
bmarquez@rmcrisispartners.org

Connection. Progress. Momentum.

[Email Bev Marquez Today!](mailto:bmarquez@rmcrisispartners.org)

RMCP Presents at the Northwest Colorado Family Behavioral Health Conference in Hayden, CO

At the Northwest Colorado Family Behavioral Health Conference, Erik Jacobsen and Cheri Skelding presented ***“From Insight to Infrastructure: Sustaining Family-Centered Systems Through Workforce Connection and Practice Alignment.”*** Their presentation explored what it takes to move family-centered care beyond a set of values and into the everyday systems, practices, and relationships that sustain the workforce delivering that care.



The session highlighted the importance of aligning organizational practices with the values we ask staff to demonstrate every day—creating environments where employees feel connected to one another, supported by leadership, and clear about how their individual roles contribute to a larger purpose. That focus closely reflects RMCP’s broader approach to workforce development: strengthening not only individual skills, but also leadership practices, psychological safety, team culture, and the organizational systems that allow those skills to take root.

Building Connection Through Dude Talk Dinners

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is proud to partner with **Dude Talk Dinners**, a growing peer-led initiative built around a simple idea: bring men together over a free meal for honest, judgment-free conversation and genuine connection. Dude Talk Dinners now serves more than 2,400 men each year across multiple communities, creating low-barrier spaces where men can talk, listen, and feel less alone.



As part of this partnership, Erik Jacobsen and Brandon Wilcox have facilitated trainings during Dude Talk Dinners, bringing practical mental health and suicide prevention education directly into these community gatherings. Their sessions have focused on helping participants feel more comfortable recognizing when someone may be struggling, starting direct conversations, listening without judgment, and connecting people to additional support when needed.

To learn more about Dude Talk Dinner please visit their website at: www.dudetalkdinners.org

Building Confidence for Conversations That Matter

During Suicide Prevention Month, Erik Jacobsen facilitated ***“Staying Grounded When It Matters Most: Bringing Care and Confidence to Conversations About Suicide”*** for RISE Against Suicide. The two-hour session gave staff and leaders an opportunity to deepen their understanding of suicide prevention, build comfort with direct and compassionate conversations, and practice how to respond when someone may be struggling.



Through discussion, reflection, and practical skill-building, participants focused on staying grounded in high-stakes moments, reducing the fear of “saying the wrong thing,” and responding with greater clarity, care, and confidence.

The training reinforced an important message: meaningful suicide prevention often begins with the willingness to notice, ask directly, listen without judgment, and help connect someone to support.



RMCP ON THE NATIONAL STAGE!





The National Crisis Continuum Conference

OCTOBER 5 - 8, 2026 | ATLANTA, GA

RMCP Selected to Present at CrisisCon26

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is proud to announce that our presentation, has been accepted for presentation at in Atlanta. **"Do as I Say, Not as I Do? Applying Behavioral Health's Expertise to Support the Workforce,"CrisisCon26.** This national conference brings together crisis response professionals, behavioral health leaders, and innovators from across the country, providing RMCP an opportunity to share

emerging strategies for workforce well-being, resilience, and organizational support within helping professions.



RMCP Selected to Present at EAPA Institute & Expo 2026

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is proud to announce that Bev Marquez, CEO, and Cheri Skelding, Clinical Program Director, have been selected to present at the Employee Assistance Professionals Association (EAPA) Institute & Expo 2026, the world's largest gathering of Employee Assistance Program professionals, workplace well-being leaders, and organizational consultants.

Their presentation, **"Caring Contacts: Applying an Evidence-Based Suicide Prevention Intervention to Support the Workforce,"** will explore how organizations can use simple, proactive outreach to strengthen connection, reduce isolation, and support employees during critical life and workplace transitions.



Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is honored to share that Cheri Skelding, LCSW, Clinical Program Director, has been selected to present at the 2026 American Subcontractors Association of Colorado Health & Safety Summit! Her session, **"Beyond Awareness: Building Peer Support Systems in the Construction Industry,"** will explore how construction organizations can move beyond awareness campaigns and create practical, sustainable peer support systems that strengthen workforce wellbeing, reduce isolation, and encourage help-seeking before a crisis occurs. Thank you to the American Subcontractors Association of Colorado for the opportunity. We'll see you on November 11th!



RMCP Bringing Substance Use First Aid® to Chicago

In February, Patricia Markwell and Erik Jacobsen will represent Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners at the 6th Annual Construction Mental Health & Wellbeing Conference in Chicago, where they will provide Substance Use First Aid® training.

The conference brings together construction industry leaders, mental health professionals, and suicide prevention advocates focused on improving mental health, reducing suicide and overdose, and strengthening wellbeing across the construction workforce.

Patricia and Erik's Substance Use First Aid® training will give participants practical tools to recognize substance use concerns, respond without judgment, and help connect individuals to appropriate support bringing RMCP's training expertise to a national audience.



A special congratulations to Bev Marquez, who welcomed her first grandson, Zenith, on August 3rd, and to Patricia Markwell, who welcomed her son, Murphy Stephen Markwell, on July 21st.

We're excited to celebrate these newest additions to the RMCP family and wish both families lots of joy as they settle into this special new chapter.



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