

Newsletter April 2026 - June 2026



Welcome to the RMCP Connector!

We are so glad you're here. Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners Connector is our quarterly newsletter dedicated to sharing updates, insights, and stories from across RMCP. As we enter a new chapter focused on community-rooted, trauma-informed care, this space will highlight the programs, partnerships, and people that are shaping our work, like CaringConnect, RMCP Consulting and Workplace Partners. Whether you're a longtime supporter or new to our mission, we're excited to keep you connected to the heart of what we do.



Bev's
Note

As we close out this quarter and step into our new fiscal year, I want to take a moment to say thank you.

This has been our "Bridge Year" — a period of real transition as we've moved from a long-standing public contract toward a broader, more diversified way of fulfilling our mission. I'm proud of how our team has met that challenge.

To our Board of Directors — thank you for your steady hand through this transition. Your willingness to ask hard questions and still say yes to a bold path forward has given this organization the runway it needed.

To our team — Patricia, Cheri, Erik, Brianna, Brandon, Lee Ann, and everyone who shows up for this work every day — thank you. This quarter asked a lot of you, and your resilience shows in the follow-through, the adaptability, and the fact that you never lost sight of why we do this work.

To our colleagues — the organizations, employers, and individuals who've joined us this quarter — thank you for recognizing that connection, peer support, expertise, and accountability are interdependent values in this space. You're part of how this mission grows stronger.

I'm especially pleased that our conference presentations were accepted this year, giving us the opportunity to bring our expertise and support to new audiences beyond our usual reach. And I'm excited that Bridging the Divide will be a highlight of the year ahead — a chance to collaborate with peers across Colorado and across the industry, sharing what we've learned and learning from others doing this same vital work.

As we step into this new fiscal year, we carry forward what this quarter taught us: transitions, done well, don't weaken an organization — they clarify it.

With gratitude,
Bev Marquez
CEO, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners



RMCP to Lead the Future of the Bridging the Divide Conference

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is honored to announce that we will be leading the next chapter of the Bridging the Divide Conference, Colorado's longstanding conference dedicated to suicide prevention, postvention, mental health, and community healing.

First and foremost, we want to express our sincere gratitude to the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado (SPCC) for their years of vision, leadership, and unwavering commitment to this conference. Through their dedication, Bridging the Divide has become one of Colorado's most meaningful opportunities for clinicians, researchers, peer professionals, advocates, people with lived experience, educators, first responders, nonprofit leaders, and community partners to come together to learn, collaborate, and strengthen suicide prevention efforts across our state.

We recognize that Bridging the Divide has never belonged to a single organization—it belongs to the community that has shown up year after year with a shared commitment to hope, healing, and saving lives. We are honored to continue this important tradition and build upon the strong foundation SPCC has created. As we begin planning for the next chapter, our commitment is to preserve the spirit of collaboration, learning, and connection that has made Bridging the Divide so meaningful while continuing to support Colorado's suicide prevention community.

We are excited for what lies ahead and look forward to working alongside partners across Colorado to continue advancing suicide prevention, postvention, and mental health efforts for years to come.

More information about the 2027 Bridging the Divide Conference will be shared in late summer. Please visit www.rmcrisispartners.org for updates and future announcements.



RMCP Partners with University of Denver MBA Candidates on Strategic Assessment

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners recently concluded a 10-week partnership with MBA candidates from the University of Denver's Daniels College of Business focused on assessing the organization's strategic direction and future growth opportunities.

As RMCP continues to evolve its programming and explore new opportunities to strengthen behavioral health, suicide prevention, peer support, and workforce well-being across Colorado, the organization sought an external perspective to help evaluate its current position and future potential. Through this partnership, MBA candidates worked closely with RMCP leadership to analyze the organization's strengths, opportunities, market positioning, sustainability strategies, and long-term growth potential.

Throughout the project, the students conducted research, engaged in strategic analysis, reviewed organizational data, and explored opportunities for future program development and revenue diversification. At the conclusion of the engagement, the team presented a series of recommendations designed to help inform RMCP's strategic planning efforts moving forward.

"We are incredibly grateful for the time, energy, and expertise these students invested in our organization," said Bev Marquez, CEO. "Their work provided valuable insight and fresh perspectives that will help guide our decision-making as we continue building programs that strengthen connection, belonging, and community well-being."

RMCP extends its sincere appreciation to the Daniels College of Business and the MBA candidates who contributed their talents, professionalism, and strategic thinking throughout the project. Their work will continue to influence the organization's direction as RMCP enters its next phase of growth and innovation.



RMCP Attends National Opioid Settlement Conference

In June, RMCP's CEO Bev Marquez and Director of Development Patricia Markwell attended the National Opioid Settlement Conference in Denver, joining advocates, providers, policymakers, funders, and people with lived experience from across Colorado and around the country.

The conference highlighted innovative approaches to prevention, recovery support, harm reduction, peer services, workforce development, and community-based solutions aimed at reducing the impact of substance use disorders and overdose. Attendees shared lessons learned, explored emerging funding opportunities, and discussed strategies for strengthening recovery-oriented systems of care.

A recurring theme throughout the conference was the importance of connection and follow-up support. Whether following an overdose, treatment episode, or other critical life event, ongoing outreach and engagement can play a significant role in helping individuals remain connected to recovery and support services.

For RMCP, the conference provided valuable opportunities to learn from leaders in the field, build new relationships, explore potential partnerships, and identify ways our programs and training initiatives can support communities across Colorado.

We are grateful to the Steadman Group, conference sponsors, presenters, vendors and attendees for creating a space dedicated to collaboration, innovation, and recovery. RMCP left the conference energized by the work being done throughout Colorado and inspired by the collective commitment to saving lives, supporting recovery, and strengthening communities.



Photo of: Bev Marquez and Patricia Markwell



Bridging the Divide: RMCP at the 2026 SPCC Conference

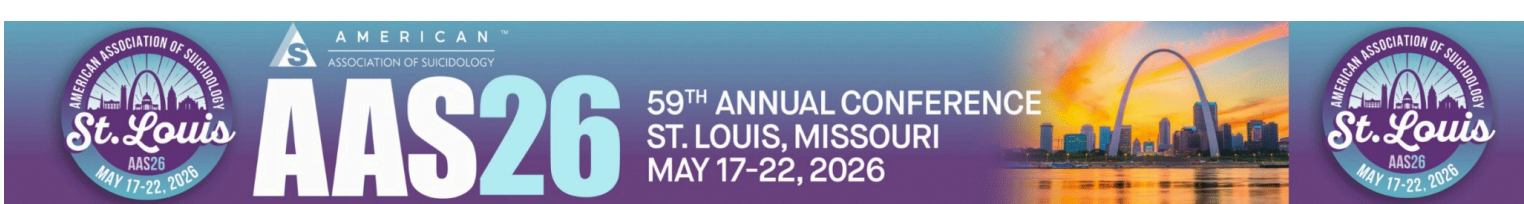
Brandon Wilcox represented RMCP at the 2026 Bridging the Divide Conference, hosted by the Suicide Prevention Coalition of Colorado (SPCC). We are grateful to SPCC for their years of leadership in advancing suicide prevention across Colorado and for hosting another outstanding conference filled with learning, collaboration, and hope.

Several presentations stood out, including Gemma Chacon Acevedo's session on culturally rooted suicide prevention, which highlighted the barriers many Spanish-speaking individuals face when accessing mental health care. Ayush Vispute, a 16-year-old youth advocate, delivered an inspiring keynote emphasizing the importance of including young people in shaping their own care.

Scott LoMurray of Sources of Strength challenged attendees to focus not only on preventing suicide but on cultivating connection, resilience, and the "leading causes of life." Finally, Wendy Martinez Farmer, VP of 988 Strategy, shared a hopeful perspective on the evolution of the 988 Lifeline, reminding us that meaningful progress—not perfection—is what saves lives.



Photo of: Keynote Speaker, Ayush Vispute



RMCP Presents at National Suicide Prevention Conference

In May, Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners, Cheri Skelding and Brandon Wilcox (pictured above) had the opportunity to present at the American Association of Suicidology (AAS26) Conference in St. Louis, one of the nation's premier gatherings of suicide prevention researchers, clinicians, advocates, and community leaders.

More than 60 conference attendees participated in RMCP's presentation, "Suicide-Safer Workplaces: Designing Prevention-Friendly Work Environments." The session explored practical strategies organizations can use to strengthen workplace culture, build supportive environments, and embed suicide prevention into leadership practices, policies, and everyday operations.

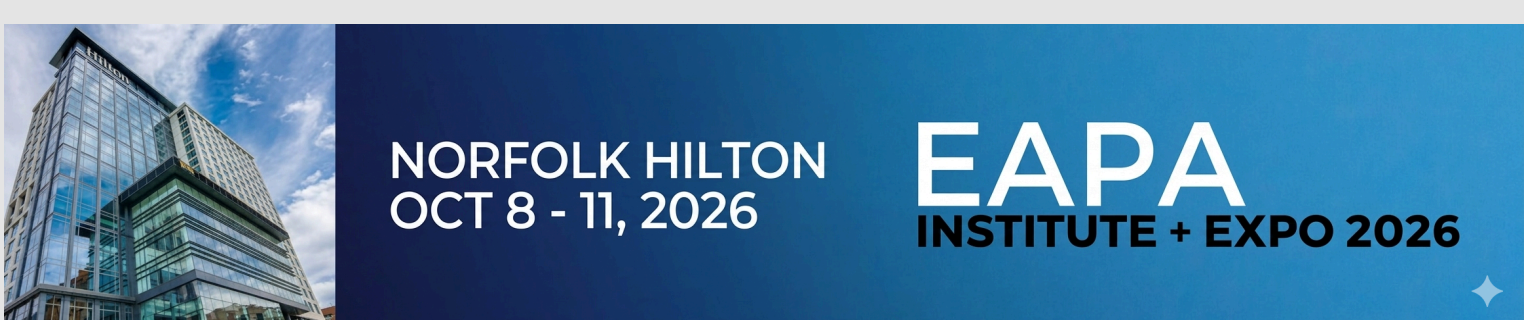
The presentation generated meaningful discussion around the role employers can play in promoting connection, reducing stigma, and supporting employee well-being before a crisis occurs. It also provided an opportunity to share lessons learned through RMCP's work in prevention, peer support, crisis response, and workplace mental health initiatives across Colorado.

We are honored to contribute to the national conversation on suicide prevention and grateful for the opportunity to represent Colorado on this important stage. Experiences like AAS26 reinforce the growing recognition that prevention happens not only in clinical settings, but also in workplaces, communities, and everyday human connections.



RMCP Selected to Present at CrisisCon26

Rocky Mountain Crisis Partners is proud to announce that our presentation, "**Do as I Say, Not as I Do? Applying Behavioral Health's Expertise to Support the Workforce**," has been accepted for presentation at **CrisisCon26** in Atlanta. 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. The construction industry continues to experience disproportionately high rates of suicide, overdose, and mental health challenges. This presentation will provide leaders with actionable strategies for integrating peer support into the workplace and building cultures where employees feel connected, supported, and empowered to reach out. Thank you to the American Subcontractors Association of Colorado for the opportunity. We'll see you on November 11th!

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