

Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Meeting Minutes – Approved 5/14/2025

Wednesday, April 9th, 2:30pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members	Attendance	Proxy
Laurel Schafer (Chair), Assistant Director Montezuma County Public Health	Present	
Vacant (Vice Chair)		
Adam Rogers (Treasurer), Finance Director La Plata County	X	Shaine Gans
Erin Hyder (Secretary), Assistant City Manager City of Durango	Present	
Andy Brock, City of Cortez	Present	
Amie Gardiner, Trustee Town of Silverton	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	Present	
Ashley Wilson, Director Archuleta County Public Health	(voted in today)	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	X	
Bill Rockensock, Police Chief Town of Pagosa Springs	X	
Bob Brammer, Assistant City Manager City of Durango	Present	
Bobbi Lock, Director Montezuma Public Health	Present	
Brice Current, Police Chief City of Durango	Present	
Chauncey McCarthy, Town Manager Town of Rico	Present	
Eric Stiasny, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
Jason Armstrong, Community & Economic Development Director Town of Mancos	(voted in today)	
John Ranson, Archuleta County Commissioner	Present	
Malynda Evans, Director Dolores County Social Services	Present	
Marsha Porter-Norton, Commissioner La Plata County	Present	
Martha Johnson, Director La Plata Human Services	Present	
Nathaniel Baca, 6 th Judicial District Judge	X	
Shaine Gans, La Plata County Finance	Present	
Tracy Anselmo, Director La Plata County Public Health	X	
Travis Anderson, County Administrator Montezuma County	X	

Advisory/Non-Voting Members	Attendance
Ashley Micikas, Behavioral Health Programs Supervisor La Plata County Public Health	Present
Ashley Springer, Communications Specialist and Public Information Officer Archuleta County Public Health	(voted in today)

Donna Mae Baukat, President and Executive Director Community Compassion Outreach	Present
Haley Leonard-Saunders, Sr. Director of Development and Public Information Officer Axis Health Systems	X
Imo Succo, Director Indigenous Wellbriety Program	Present
Mary Katherine, Psychologist	Present
Will Finn, Physician	X

Facilitators and Guests	Role
Claire West, SWORD Project Manager	Facilitator
Heather Otter, Region 9 Economic Development District	Facilitator
Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 Economic Development District	Facilitator
Charlee Sharp, Silver Lining Recovery Homes	Guest/Presenter
Chris Gonzalez, Durango Police Department	Guest
Denise Vincioni, Denver Recovery Group	Guest/Presenter
Dr. Andrea Ryan, CommonSpirit Hospital	Guest
Eric Barker, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention	Guest
Jack Patterson, Colorado Attorney General's Office	Guest
Jennifer Holcolmb, Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing (HCPF)	Guest/Presenter
Karina Schorr, Regional Opioid Abatement Council (ROAC) 5	Guest
Monique Flora, Community Compassion Outreach	Guest
Nichole Glaser, Axis Health Systems	Guest
Scott Hahn, Town of Bayfield	Guest

- Chair, Laurel Schafer, called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was reviewed.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Members and guests were introduced.

II. Approve February 2025 minutes

- i. Laurel Schafer entertained a motion to approve the February 2025 minutes. Malynda Evans motioned, Erin Hyder seconded. Discussion was prompted by Martha Johnson regarding an amendment to section III, item a.
 - ii. Original text: “Laurel Schafer entertained a motion to approve the January 2025 minutes. John Ranson motioned, Marsha Porter-Norton seconded. Motion passed.”
 - iii. Amendment: “Laurel Schafer entertained a motion to approve Eric Stiasny as a voting member of SWORD representing Dolores County. John Ranson motioned, Marsha Porter-Norton seconded. Motion passed.”
- b. Laurel Schafer entertained a motion to approve the February 2025 minutes with the discussed amendments. Malynda Evans motioned, Erin Hyder seconded. No further discussion. **Motion passed.**

III. Affirm new voting member from Town of Mancos, Jason Armstrong.

- a. Laurel Schafer entertained a motion to approve Jason Armstrong as a voting member representing the Town of Mancos. Martha Johnson motioned, Brice Current seconded. **Motion passed.**

IV. Affirm new advisory member from Archuleta County Public Health, Ashley Wilson.

- a. Laurel Schafer entertained a motion to approve Ashley Wilson as a voting member representing Archuleta County Public Health. Eric Stiasny motioned, Jason Armstrong seconded. **Motion passed.**

V. Affirm new advisory member from Archuleta County Public Health, Ashley Springer.

- a. Laurel Schafer entertained a motion to approve Ashley Springer as an advisory member to SWORD. Malynda Evans motioned, Andy Brock seconded. **Motion passed.**

VI. Short presentations

- a. Denise Vincioni, Director of Denver Recovery Group re: new site opening in Durango

- i. Denise gave a brief presentation on the basic operations of Denver Recovery Group, an outpatient treatment provider, to illustrate how the new Durango clinic location will operate once it opens its doors in May. For more information contact Denise at Dvincioni@denverrecoverygroup.com.
- b. Jennifer Holcolmb, HCPF re: Medicaid Funding Update
 - i. Jennifer provided a brief overview of the current funding landscape for Medicaid in Colorado followed by questions from the audience. Of note, it doesn't appear that the 1113 waiver will be impacted but cuts have not made it through the legal system entirely yet. Work requirement bills have not yet been finalized. For more information contact Jennifer at Jennifer.holcomb@state.co.us
 - ii. Changes to Peer Services Billing for Medicaid: Peer Services are currently billed up to 8 hours a day by a single billing code. Problems with methods for tracking time have arisen in the past year. Peer providers will likely become indistinguishable from other providers by using additional billing codes to specify their time allocation.
- c. Donna Mae Baukat – In His Time re: status of sober living homes in Durango
 - i. Donna Mae gave an overview of the 6-bedroom men's recovery home and the 5-bedroom women's recovery home, which has experienced more discharges and barriers than the men's. To date, the organization has been awarded approximately \$17,500 for rental assistance scholarships. Monthly rent is currently set at \$900 per resident. In His Time will host a fundraiser on September 15-16th.
- d. Charlee Sharp - Silver Linings Recovery Homes re: newly opened sober living home in Cortez
 - i. The men's home opened in February, which is a CARR Level M meaning that it is monitored but the operators do not live on premises. Currently there are 3 residents, but can house up to 8. CARR stands for Colorado Agency for Recovery Residences. It was designated as the certifying body for Colorado's recovery residences in 2020 by the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA). Charlee and her partner are working to open a women's home in June of this year. To date, funding partners have included the Pinon Project, the LOR Foundation, and community members. Recently, The BHA paused a grant that funded Silver Linings Recovery Homes. It remains to be seen if the pause will be lifted. Silver Linings Recovery Homes will

host a fundraiser on June 14th to raise proceeds for rental costs.
Monthly rent is currently set at \$900 per resident.

VII. SWORD Project Updates

- a. Community Grants: Anticipated launch in June. Inquiries should be directed to Claire West at west.claire@outlook.com
- b. Regional Recovery Campus: Region 9 Economic Development is finalizing a contract with The Steadman Group to assist with management of the regional recovery campus project. Initial phase includes developing a comprehensive project charter, strategy development including capital stack, and operator & developer procurement.
- c. Working Groups:
 - i. Secure Transportation: Exploring a joint application for infrastructure funding with other ROACs.
 - ii. Region-Wide Prevention Campaign: Preliminary conversations to launch using SWORD grant as funding mechanism for the work.
 - iii. Community Engagement: Preliminary conversations on a recovery event or summit later in the year.

VIII. Next SWORD meeting

- a. May 14th, 2025, at 2:30pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 4:01pm.

Minutes prepared by Claire West