

Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Meeting Minutes – Approved 6/11/2025

Wednesday, May 14th, 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	Present	
Erin Hyder (Secretary), Assistant City Manager City of Durango	X	Bob Brammer
Andy Brock, Assistant Chief of Police, City of Cortez	Present	
Amie Gardiner, Trustee Town of Silverton	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	X	
Ashley Wilson, Director Archuleta County Public Health	Present	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	Joined at	
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	X	
Eric Stiasny, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
Jason Armstrong, Community & Economic Development Director Town of Mancos	Present	
John Ranson, Archuleta County Commissioner	Present	
Malynda Evans, Director Dolores County Social Services	Joined at	
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, Grants Specialist, La Plata County	Present	
Tracy Anselmo, Director La Plata County Public Health	Present	
Travis Anderson, County Administrator Montezuma County	X	

Advisory/Non-Voting Members	Attendance
Ashley Micikas, La Plata County Public Health	X
Ashley Springer, Archuleta County Public Health	Present
Donna Mae Baukat, Community Compassion Outreach	Present
Haley Leonard-Saunders, Axis Health Systems	Present
Imo Succo, Indigenous Wellbriety Program	Present
Mary Katherine, Psychologist	Present

Will Finn, Physician	X
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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
Andrea Ryan, CommonSpirit Mercy Hospital	Guest
Anessa Miner-Lee, Antelope Recovery	Guest
Eric Barker, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention	Guest
Jacob Abbas, Pagosa Medical Center	Present
JK Costello, Steadman Group	Guest
Mariah Reeves, San Juan County Public Health	Guest
Nichole Glaser, Axis Health Systems	Guest
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado	Guest

- Chair, Laurel Schafer, called the meeting to order at 2:32pm.
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was reviewed.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Members and guests were introduced.

II. Approve April 2025 minutes

- a. Laurel Schafer made a motion to approve the April 2025 meeting minutes. Marsha Porter-Norton seconded. Motioned passed.

III. Regional Recovery Campus

- a. The Steadman Group presented an update on the Regional Recovery Campus project, outlining recent progress and the official kickoff of the campus workplan. A draft charter and workplan have been developed, building on previous efforts. The Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA)

has been engaged to explore funding opportunities. For more information reach out to JK Costello at jkcostello@steadmangroup.com

- b. Questions from the group focused on land acquisition, potential locations, estimated number of people served, and resident eligibility, including criminal backgrounds and family housing; discussion centered around how the Kentucky model manages these resident requirements. JK Costello also shared outcome data from similar programs and clarified Medicaid's limited role in funding, noting it may only support reimbursable services like peer coaching—not capital or non-clinical expenses.

IV. SWORD Community Grants

- a. Claire West presented an overview of the 2025 SWORD Community Grant application process, highlighting updates from the previous cycle and the rationale behind the changes.

V. General Updates

- a. Heather Otter reviewed Council voting procedures, including proxy assignments and voting eligibility, and described orientation opportunities through both the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC) and SWORD.
- b. Mothers for Awareness and Prevention of Prescription Drug Abuse (MAPDA) is hosting a meet and greet event on 5/15 from 4-6pm at Perbacco's in Durango. Heather Otter, Claire West, and Laurel Schafer will attend and speak about the work that SWORD is doing.
- c. Brown & Greer, the national administrator, may be sending out communications. Typically, this means that another settlement has occurred. Reach out to Heather Otter if you have any questions regarding these communications.
- d. The COAC has shared formal guidance on how to address interest earned on opioid settlement funds, which the SWORD facilitator and fiscal agent are aware of and have been collaborating on compliance for. Interest earnings must be used on Exhibit E approved uses.

- e. Recognition for the state of Colorado. During the 2024 North Carolina Opioid State Administrators meeting the COAC was recognized for best practices in opioid response.

VI. Poll on dates for an in-person SWORD gathering this fall

- a. In January SWORD Council members indicated they would like at least one in-person meeting this year. Heather and Claire are planning this meeting and request that you complete a poll to provide input that will help guide the planning process. Heather will provide the poll via email.

VII. General Updates

- a. Eric Barker shared that Denver Recovery Group will be opening its doors in Durango soon.
- b. Eric requested information regarding potential funding resources or emergency funds for behavioral health groups impacted by the changing State and Federal funding landscape.
- c. Marsha Porter Norton shared a fact sheet for Medicaid funding changes.

VIII. Next SWORD meeting

- a. June 11th, 2025, at 2:30pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

Minutes prepared by Claire West