

SWORD Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2022, Zoom

Host: Region 9 – Laura Lewis Marchino, Heather Otter

Attendees:

Shak Powers, Steve Garchar, Marsha Porter-Norton, Andrea Phillips, Annie Diaz, Laurel Schafer, Martha Johnson, Ronnie Maez, Chauncey McCarthy, Austin Lashley, Chief Robert Brammer, Erin Hyder, Bobbi Lock, Marshall Justen Goodall, Haley Leonard, Father N. Augustine, Staci Russell, Martha Minot, Will Finn, Amanda Mullen, Imo Succo, Kent Aikin, Amy Berkowitz Caplan.

Meeting called to order at 2:34 pm by Shak Powers.

Quorum established – Heather Otter verified a quorum was present.

Introduction of members – Shak Powers gave a reminder that all voices are welcome and encouraged advisory members to provide input to ensure the work of SWORD is informed by all members of the council.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2022-04-06. Shak Powers called a motion to approve the minutes, Steve Garchar moved, Chauncey McCarthy seconded – motion passed unanimously, minutes approved.

- **Updates since last meeting**

- **AG Office: Local Government Opt Out** - Amy Berkowitz Caplan provided an update on the process for local governments to opt out using the COST (Colorado Opioid Settlement Tracker) online tool. It is recommended that fiscal agents review the guidelines for using the tool. There's a webinar on April 25th at 10am.
- **Work with the Tribes** – Marsha Porter Norton provided an update on funding and roles for Tribes in the opioid settlements and the feasibility study. They have their own settlement funds from the State of Colorado and their own ARPA funding. Southern Ute Indian Tribe plans to conduct their own feasibility study. SWORD will not interfere with the Tribes' goals but will stay in communication and an open invitation to participate in SWORD as advisory members and indirectly through our information sharing.
- **Congressionally Directed Funding** – Marsha Porter Norton provided information about La Plata's request for \$5M to use for re-purposing the DeNier Center to fill treatment center gaps based on findings of the feasibility study. Communication was had between La Plata County and neighboring counties to establish support. Montezuma County provided a letter of support.
 - Discussion was had regarding the number and types of treatment centers our region might support. This will be a focus of the feasibility study. Members discussed touring the DeNier Center and agreed it would be worthwhile.

- **Decision Items**

- **Review and approval of Bylaws*** - Changes to the bylaws were identified and reviewed. Shak Powers called a motion, Marsha Porter-Norton moved, Ronnie Maez seconded – motion passed, bylaws were approved.

- **Two Year Plan Discussion**

- Heather Otter reviewed the requirements for submitting the two year plan, reviewed sections of the two year plan, and proposed Region 9 filling out the template based on the

premise that the feasibility study needs to happen to inform how the two year plan will be implemented. Changes can be made to the plan as best uses for funding are determined throughout the process. A draft will be presented to the council for review and possible approval during the next meeting.

- **Feasibility Study Discussion**

- Laura Lewis Marchino addressed key elements needed for the feasibility study. Discussion was had regarding potential needs for treatment facilities, number of facilities, catchment area, populations served, ability to pay, funding sources, cost estimates, dual diagnosis, transition from detox to home to work, programs and services, potential stigma of accessing services for some populations, overlap of services between Tribal Members, non-members, and broader community.
- Laura suggested council members consider who would like to help draft feasibility study RFP and identify consultants to do the feasibility study.
- **Distribution of Information and Resources and Frequency of Meetings**
 - Laura reminded members to forward information they would like added to the SWORD page on Region 9's website to her or Heather Otter.
 - The group agreed that meeting twice per month is good for now and can be re-assessed after the two year plan and RFP for the feasibility study have been submitted.

- **Next Steps**

- **Agenda items for next meeting (May 4, 2022)**
 - Determine whether to form a working group to draft the feasibility study RFP.
 - Identify potential consultants for the feasibility study.
 - Forward resources to Region 9 for adding to the SWORD website.
 - Future SWORD meetings and orientations

Adjournment – Shak Powers called a motion to adjourn the meeting, Steve Garchar moved, Austin Lashley seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:35pm.

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter and Laura Lewis Marchino