

SWORD Meeting Minutes approved 7/13/22

May 18, 2022, Zoom

Attendees:

Imo Succo, Martha Minot, Helen Katich, John Whitney, Nathaniel Baca, Austin Lashley, Bobbi Lock, Shak Powers, Jessica Thurman, Laurel Schafer, Martha Johnson, Ronnie Maez, Fr. Augustine, Austin Lashley, Haley Leonard, Erin Hyder, Staci Russell, Andrea Phillips, Heather Otter, Laura Lewis Marchino, Heidi Williams, Bobbi Lock, Chief Brammer, Marsha Porter-Norton, Steve Garchar, Chauncey McCarthy, Kelly DiGiacomo, Annie Diaz, and Dr. Will Finn.

- I. **Shak Powers called the meeting to order at 2:34pm.** He announced that he will be leaving the County Administrator position to work with Region 9 as a Project Manager. Nathaniel Baca was introduced. He is currently serving as the Dolores County Judge and the District Court Magistrate for the 22nd Judicial District Court is interested in joining the SWORD. He could serve as a voting member for judicial representation instead of advisory member. Decision forthcoming. (The members also introduced themselves to him.)
- II. **Approval of May 6th Minutes** – Steve Garchar made the motion and Martha Johnson seconded that the minutes be approved without changes. Approved.
- III. **Updates since last meeting**
 - **Friendly reminder about opt-out deadline** – Heidi Williams with the AG office provided an update and said the opt date has been delayed. **Expect an email from Heidi by the end of this month.** She did ask for an updated roster of contacts and the finalized 2-year plan. Both will be sent. She also answered questions for the group. First Annual Colorado Opioid Settlement Conference AUG 15-16 at the AG's Office 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203
 - a. Larimer County will present on their hub and spoke model
 - b. AG will attend the whole second day
 - **Denier Tour** – The county is available for a tour of the Denier Center June 1st or 15th. It appeared that the 15th worked best for folks and Heather Otter will send out a confirmation.
 - **Congressionally Designated Funding for feasibility study process update** – Both staff for Senators Hickenlooper and Bennet were in attendance. Helen Katich and John Whitney provided information on the congressionally directed funding. There is a new round that accepting project applications. Last year's round which included this feasibility study will not see funding until Fall. This will work for the group's timeline, however an application to SAMSA still needs to be submitted. Region 9 is working on that. And Helen will flag additional funding as it becomes available.
 - **Behavioral Health Bills that passed** – Helen Katich and Heather Otter provided information on additional bills. **Senate Bill 148:** This measure would allocate \$5 million to make a grant to one or more Native American tribes in Colorado for the development of a behavioral health facility. **House Bill 1283:** Intensive residential and outpatient treatment for young people and their families would be expanded with \$54 million in federal coronavirus relief funding. **House Bill 1303:** This legislation would spend \$65

million to expand inpatient and residential treatment options in Colorado, including by supporting the addition of 16 beds at the Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan and 125 other residential treatment beds across the state.

- **Info share – members can share info for the group** – reminder that there is a SWORD page on Region 9 website and Heather Otter is willing to compile information to email to the entire group.

IV. Feasibility Study

- **Review draft RFP** – The draft RFP was distributed prior to the meeting and Laura requested edits. The scope of work is the hardest piece to outline. We now have 8 organizations that do studies of this kind that we can send the RFP to. The plan is to distribute in June and review in July. Due to the funding timeline, we might need to delay officially signing a consultant contract until the funding contract is also approved and signed. Send edits/comments/questions to Laura@region9edd.org **no later than Tuesday, May 24th**.
- **Review AXIS Regional SUD Treatment Continuum** – Heather Otter distributed the Continuum of Services that AXIS drafted and requested input on whether anything was missing. This information will be included in the RFP to inform the consultants on available services.
- **Decision to hold 2022 settlement funds request pending feasibility study** – Laura Lewis Marchino requested that the SWORD group formally vote to not utilize any opioid funds in 2022 and roll any received into 2023 for the following reasons:
 - Results of the feasibility study and can make decisions
 - Better idea of how much funding is available
 - More information on other sources of match and leverage.

There was a motion and second by Marsha Porter- Norton/ Steve Garchar. The motion was approved.

V. Next Steps

- **Establish future meeting dates & frequency**
The group felt meeting in July would be appropriate as there should be respondents to the RFP and no additional deadlines. The Tour of the DeNier Center will be scheduled for June 15th and information will go out to the group. The next meeting will be July 13th at 2:30pm.
- **Updates-** Imo mentioned having their first Indigenous Recovery meeting. Use the medicine Wheel Well-briety program. Funded by the Colorado Health Foundation. (Flyer and email distributed).

Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm – Motion Chauncey McCarthy, second Austin Lashley

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter and Laura Lewis Marchino