

**SWORD Meeting Minutes approved 8/10/22**

July 13, 2022, Southwest Memorial Hospital 1311 N Mildred Rd, Cortez, CO 81321; KIVA Room with Zoom option

**Attendees:**

<b>Voting members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Proxy</b>
Vacant (Chair)		
Dolores County Commissioner Steve Garchar (Vice Chair)	present	
La Plata County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton (Treasurer)	present	
Pagosa Spring Town Manager Andrea Phillips (Secretary)	present	
San Juan County Commissioner Austin Lashley	present	
Archuleta County Commissioner Ronnie Maez	present	
Rico Town Manager Chauncey McCarthy	present	
Dr. Will Finn	present	
Erin Hyder	present	
Martha Johnson	X	Marsha Porter Norton
Mancos Town Marshal Justen Goodall	present	
Durango Police Chief Bob Brammer	X	Justen Goodall
Annie Diaz	present	
Laurel Shafer/Bobbi Lock	present	
Malynda Evans	present	
Jessica Thurman	present	

<b>Advisory Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Ed Fields, Ph.D.	X
Donna Mae Baukat	X
Martha Tinsley Minot	X
Kelly DiGiacomo	X
Father Augustine Bellary	present
Stacie Russell or Haley Leonard	present
Imo Succo	present
Dr. Amanda Mullen	present
Dr. Kent Aikin	present
Dr. Jacob Anderson	present
Breeah Kinsella	X

<b>Facilitator &amp; Guests</b>
Heather Otter, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitator
Paul Reich, Axis Health
Jessica Eaddy, CO Consortium
Lisa Gates, Chief Nursing Officer SW Health System
Butch Lewis, Colorado Association of Recovery Residences (CARR)
Caitlin DeCrow, SW Health System

I. **Commissioner Steve Garchar called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.** Meeting started late due to tech issues with Zoom.

II. **Approval of May 18<sup>th</sup> Minutes** – Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton made the motion and Erin Hyder seconded that the minutes be approved without changes. Approved unanimously.

### III. Updates since last meeting

- **Nominations and vote for SWORD Chair** – Heather Otter reminded all members to send her nominations for the new chair from the list of voting members. Region 9 will contact those nominated to accept or decline the role, followed by bringing the names of those who accepted for a vote at the August meeting.
- **RFP for feasibility study** - The RFP went out in June with a deadline of July 15<sup>th</sup>. To date, one company submitted a proposal (Health Management Associates), one declined, the rest have not responded. There were eight companies total that Region 9 reached out to. The applicant's deadline for Region 9 to accept or decline August 5<sup>th</sup>. Heather Otter proposed forming an ad-hoc RFP committee to evaluate the current proposal, help decide whether to re-issue the RFP, and vet future applicants. Several SWORD members volunteered.
- **Tribal Relationships around Opioid Settlement** – Imo Succo provided information on the White Buffalo talking circle methodology and ongoing/upcoming community events. Will Finn gave a brief update on the status of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's feasibility study related to bringing more opioid services to the SUIT members and possible other Tribes' members. It is anticipated it will be done in the Fall.
- **Reflection on the DeNier Tour** – Several SWORD members offered thoughts on the tour. The general take-away was concern about the cost of re-purposing the facility for SUD treatment. Its prior use as a youth correctional facility may require substantial changes to structure and aesthetics to make it appropriate for SUD care and treatment. Other members cited the benefits of having a building that is donated and land "ready to go" despite the need for upgrades to make it suitable as a potential SUD treatment facility. Butch Lewis with CARR offered to look at DeNier and provide input on what types of upgrades might be best to fit our needs.

### IV. Discussion: SWORD's Planning Process

- Discussion was held about ways to support decision making and engagement with consultants on the feasibility study process and the recommendations that follow. Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton and Heather Otter proposed the idea of forming an ad-hoc education committee to help coordinate resources and activities for the next few meetings. Several SWORD members volunteered. Topics of interest for further education included but were not limited to terminology for behavioral health and opioid/substance use disorders for the purpose of planning and deploying regional funds; Continuum of care – need to use the continuum Axis's originally created and refine it by county and make it SWORD's document ; Review eligible programs/services/activities for opioid abatement dollars; Regional data; Lived experience – bringing more voices to the table; State Behavioral Health money – accessing and leveraging with SWORD funds – this would be dependent on addressing the items listed before to ensure due diligence on data driven decision making.

### V. Next Steps/Other Information

- **Establish future meeting dates & frequency** - The group felt meetings should continue on the same monthly schedule and focus on education to support decision making and engagement with consultants on the feasibility study. Ad-hoc education committee will help coordinate resources and activities for the meetings. Meeting locations may rotate between communities and will include the option to attend virtually.

- **First Annual Colorado Opioid Settlement Conference AUG 15-16** at the AG's Office 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203. Larimer County will present on their hub and spoke model. AG will attend the second day.

Commissioner Steve Garchar adjourned the meeting at 4:06pm

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter