

SWORD Meeting Minutes approved 9/14/22

August 10, 2022

Zoom

Attendees:

Voting members	Attendance	Proxy
Mancos Marshall Justen Goodell* elected at the meeting (Chair)	present	
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	x	
Archuleta County Commissioner Ronnie Maez	present	
Rico Town Manager Chauncey McCarthy	present	
Dr. Will Finn	present	
Erin Hyder	present	
Martha Johnson	present	
Judge Nathaniel Baca	x	
Durango Police Chief Bob Brammer	present	
Annie Diaz	x	
Laurel Shafer/Bobbi Lock	Present	
Malynda Evans	x	
Jessica Thurman	present	

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

Facilitator & Guests
Heather Otter and Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitators
Paul Reich, Axis Health
Jessica Eaddy, CO Consortium
Butch Lewis, Colorado Association of Recovery Residences (CARR)
Caitlin DeCrow, SW Health System
Kevin Fox

Stephanie Allred, Axis Health
John Whitney, Senator Bennet's Office
Helen Katich, Senator Hickenlooper's Office
Aaron Fernandes, CEO Open Sky Wilderness Therapy
Joey – last name unavailable
Jose Esquibel, Director Colorado Consortium for RX Drug Abuse Prevention

I. Commissioner Steve Garchar called the meeting to order at 2:35pm.

II. Approval of July Minutes – Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton made the motion and Justen Goodall seconded that the minutes be approved without changes. Approved unanimously.

III. Election of SWORD Chair – There were five nominations for Chair and 4 respectfully declined. Justen Goodall is interested in the position. **Martha Johnson made the motion to approve Justen Goodall as the SWORD Chair. Steve Garchar seconded, and the motion passed with all in favor.**

IV. Updates since last meeting

- **RFP for feasibility study** - The RFP Committee met to review the Health Management Associates (HMA) application and expressed confidence in their ability to meet the needs of SWORD and that there is no need to readvertise. They provided questions that Heather and Laura brought to the group. Heather highlighted some of the discussion and will send out a summary. We are still waiting on funding confirmation. There were SWORD attendee questions regarding revenue analysis, working with the S. Ute Study and being open to including a larger region in the study. Marsha Porter-Norton said that the Commissioners met with the Southern Ute Tribal Council and our working on a MOU to outline their working relationship. She said that sovereignty is very important.
- **Opt out** – All fifteen governments in our opioid region 17 chose to opt out of receiving funding and put funds into the regional pool. We are the first region to all opt out. Heather identified that this redirects around \$122k in Year 1 and \$995k over 18 years. As a result, Region 17 can expect to receive approximately \$563k in the first year of funding, and \$3.25mil over 18 years.

V. Educational Presentations

- The Education Subcommittee was thanked for their work identifying education opportunities for SWORD.
- Stephanie Allred presented on the Continuum of Care and her PowerPoint presentation will be distributed and the recording made available. Stephanie gave an overview of the four levels of care starting with prevention and SBIRT screenings to identify potential concerns. She talked about ASIM dimensions where a client's living environment, medical and behavioral health conditions are evaluated along with their readiness for sobriety. There were lots of question around whether our region has level 3 treatment which are residential programs from 30-90 days. There was mention of the Youth treatment facility in Glenwood Springs closing and that there is nothing local. Locally, there are a lot of level one and two programs. Trauma was discussed and the relation to substance use, and that addiction can lead to additional trauma. Level four is inpatient hospitalization; usually short-term and mandated treatment was discussed. Family members can petition on the behalf of a client. Questions will also be distributed to the speakers. Marsha Porter-Norton asked if Axis would be willing to share their continuum of care document for additional programs to be included. Stephanie agreed that the document could be shared and updated for SWORD's ongoing work.
- Butch Lewis presented on Residential recovery homes. Butch provided slides and said that they are looking to add recovery residences in rural Colorado. The biggest barriers are staffing and operations as well as just

the cost of building the facilities. He provided some local data on our region's specific challenges from building costs to homelessness and current services being at max capacity. He showed the annual costs of two Colorado programs (Stout Street and Harmony between \$5-11 million a year. He discussed the shortage of addiction specialists at all levels and the costs of required staffing. Their model is a 6–9-month support model. Dr Finn felt that longer term treatment programs such as sober living environments are needed for success. Traditionally we send people to rehab, and they come back to the same environment and begin using. Butch provided information a Kentucky model which was lower cost than similar programs and had measurable outcomes. He talked about costs and the funding model saying there is interest from developers. Butch is willing to bring in team members from the Kentucky program to provide more information. Heather will refer that to the Education Committee.

Next Steps/Other Information

- **First Annual Colorado Opioid Settlement Conference AUG 15-16** at the AG's Office 1300 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203. Marsha Porter-Norton will be presenting and is seeking input from the group.
- The next meeting will be September 14th, but a quick meeting of the elected members will be scheduled to discuss approval to move forward with the feasibility study consultants HMA.
- A few new attendees introduced themselves to the group.
- Heather mentioned resources available for terminology.

Chair Justen Goodall adjourned the meeting at 3:57pm

Minutes prepared by Laura Lewis Marchino