

**SWORD Meeting Minutes DRAFT/Approved October 12<sup>th</sup>**September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Zoom

**Attendees:**

<b>Voting members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Proxy</b>
Mancos Marshall Justin Goodell* elected at the meeting (Chair)	x	Steve Garchar
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	x	
Martha Johnson	present	
Judge Nathaniel Baca	present	
Durango Police Chief Bob Brammer	present	
Annie Diaz	x	
Laurel Shafer	present	
Malynda Evans	present	
Jessica Thurman	present	

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

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

Christal Dye, Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse
Mary Bono, Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse
Dr. Rosalind Penney, Director of Clinical Services and Communicable Disease, San Juan Basin Health
John Whitney, Senator Bennet's Office
Helen Katich, Senator Hickenlooper's Office
Dr. Don Stader, Stader Opioid Consultants, chair of the Colorado Naloxone Project

**I. Commissioner Steve Garchar called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.**

**II. Approval of August Minutes** – Commissioner Ronnie Maez made the motion and Malynda Evans seconded that the minutes be approved. One change was made to correct the spelling on Father Nellary's last name. Approved unanimously.

**III. Approve engagement with Health Management Associates (HMA) to conduct feasibility study** – Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton made the motion to approve engaging with HMA and Martha Johnson seconded. No discussion. The motion passed with all in favor.

**IV. Updates since last meeting**

- **Funding for feasibility study** – Laura Lewis Marchino said the official award notification has not arrived but she expects it any day. The contract with HMA can be drafted but not signed until official notification of funding is received. Helen Katich indicated will look into it and attempt to get an answer. HMA was notified and indicated it was not a problem but asked if SWORD would consider pushing the project timeline out by a month.
- **State Opioid Conference recordings available online** – Heather Otter provided information for accessing the recordings of the sessions online. Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton stated how informative the conference was including networking and meeting people from the other regions. She complimented Region 9 staff for keeping the SWORD region 17 organized and moving forward on the opioid abatement activities. She learned that SWORD/Region 17 is further along in its council formation, meetings, and decisions than some of the other regions.
- **SJBPH's utilization of county dedicated ARPA funds towards substance use abatement** – Will Finn and Dr. Rosalind Penney provided information about The Opioid Risk Reduction Program. It is a harm reduction, needle exchange program for La Plata County. It will not be limited to opioid users. The goals are to reduce the spread of disease and reduce overdose deaths. SJBPH is looking to hire a lead for this program. Services will start Manna and expand to street outreach. Dr. Finn said that MAT is an important part of harm reduction and that there are plans to increase capacity for MAT services. Mobile outreach for MAT is being looked at. MAT is an important Methadone is a missing component of this program but is administratively difficult so it is not being prioritized for the program at this time. Dr. Finn indicated that his role at SJBPH will end because he's taking a full time position with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. This will impact his eligibility to serve as a voting member of SWORD so he would like to transition to an advisory member.

**V. Educational Presentations**

**Emergency & Addiction Medicine:** Dr. Don Stader, President of a Colorado based company [Stader Opioid Consultants](#), chair of the [Colorado Naloxone Project](#), presented on reducing opioid utilization in emergency rooms, improved nonopioid pain control, harm reduction, and treatment of addiction with MAT. He offered his experiences as an emergency room doctor with a staff who experienced trauma around caring for people with addiction and the need for destigmatization training for hospital staff and the communities they serve. Marsha Porter Norton asked about more education in our hospitals across the region and SWORD's possibility of raising funds to bring Dr. Stader back to provide this education.

**Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse (MAPDA):** Christal Dye, Executive Director, and Congresswoman Mary Bono, Board Chair of MAPDA, presented on the organization's focus on prevention of opioid use in youth and how to make generational change. She provided information on Deterra® Drug Disposal System which are pouches used for deactivating drugs before disposal. She highlighted the importance of stigma reduction, importance of talking with our kids and communities about opioid use disorder, and campaigns to get the word out. Mary Bono highlighted the new challenges and dangers that fentanyl create for prevention advocates and educators to do their work. She wants to ensure that people who aren't aware or perhaps in denial there's a threat to their kids are the ones receiving the messaging. Mary Bono submitted her interest form for consideration to join SWORD as an advisory member.

#### **Next Steps/Other Information**

- Heather Otter provided a list of items for SWORD's consideration as we near the end of 2022:
  - a. Emails from Brown and Greer are not spam. They are from the national fund administrator.
  - b. SWORD membership review forthcoming in Q1 of 2023 – elect officers as needed and determine if the council has the representation it requires per the bylaws.
  - c. A review of meeting frequency and committee work – change as needed.

Vice Chair Commissioner Steve Garchar adjourned the meeting at 3:54pm

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter