

**SWORD Meeting Minutes Approved 4/12/23**

February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Zoom

**Attendees:**

<b>Voting members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Proxy</b>
<b>(Chair)</b> Justen Goodall, Mancos Marshall	x	Steve Garchar
<b>(Vice Chair)</b> Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
<b>(Treasurer)</b> Marsha Porter-Norton, La Plata County Commissioner	Present	Erin Hyder
<b>(Secretary)</b> Andrea Phillips, Pagosa Spring Town Manager	Present	
Annie Diaz, Montezuma County Human Services	Resigned	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	Present	
Bob Brammer, Durango Police Chief	Present	
Bobbi Lock, Montezuma County Public Health Director	Present	
Chauncey McCarthy, Rico Town Manager	x	
Erin Hyder, Durango Assistant City Manager	Present	
Jessica Thurman, Montezuma County Community & Economic Development Coordinator	Present	
Laurel Shafer, Montezuma County Public Health Assistant Director	x	Bobbi Lock
Malynda Evans, Dolores County Social Services Director	Present	
Martha Johnson, La Plata County Department of Human Services & San Juan County Department of Social Services Director	x	Marsha Porter-Norton
Nathaniel Baca, 6 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judge	Present	
Ronnie Maez, Archuleta County Commissioner	x	Andrea Phillips

<b>Advisory Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Breeah Kinsella	x
Ed Fields, Ph.D.	x
Donna Mae Baukat	x
Dr. Amanda Mullen	Resigned
Dr. Kent Aikin	x
Dr. Jacob Anderson	Resigned
Dr. Will Finn	Present
Father Augustine Nellary	Present
Haley Leonard	Present
Imo Succo	Present
Kelly DiGiacomo	Present
Martha Tinsley Minot	x
Mary Bono, Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse Board Chair	Resigned
Stacie Russell	Present

<b>Facilitator &amp; Guests</b>
Heather Otter & Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitators
Brandon Mencini, CEO, Centura-Mercy
Jamie Feld, Colorado AG's Office

Jack Patterson, Colorado AG's Office
Mindy Baumgardner, Colorado AG's Office
Shannon Breitzman, Health Management Associates
Helen Katich, Senator Hickenlooper's Office
Candice Seay, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Jessica Eaddy, CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Jen Place, Senior Program Manager, CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Jay Wood, Diversion Director, 22nd Judicial District Attorney Office
Caitlin Dye, 6th Judicial District

**I. Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton, Treasurer called the meeting to order at 2:36pm.**

**II. Welcome & Introductions**

Brandon Mencini, CEO, Centura-Mercy introduced himself and summarized his work experience with substance use disorder, treatment, and care. He announced Father Nellary's promotion to a new role in Colorado Springs. He and Father Nellary requested Brandon replace Fr. Nellary as a SWORD advisory member.

**III. Updates**

- **Colorado Attorney General's Office Opioid Unit:** Jamie Feld with the Colorado Attorney General's Office introduced Jack Patterson, Program Director and Mindy Baumgardner, Rural Outreach Specialist. She then provided a short presentation summarizing 2023 State priorities, new national opioids settlements, infrastructure fund share and other State funding, and the 2023 Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference scheduled for Aug 16-18 in Montrose.
  - An additional \$300+ million from CVS, Walmart, Teva, Walgreens, and Allergan will come into the regions and local governments because of the new settlements. **Emails to governments have gone out with release forms for each company. SWORD governments must sign and return to COAG by April 7<sup>th</sup> to receive funds.** Region 17 SWORD governments opted out of receiving funds individually and will redirect them to the regional fund. This is the default set up for SWORD local governments, so unless they change their settlement options, their opt out status remains effective.
  - Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) has several grant opportunities that need to be expended by December 2024, fyi.
  - Infrastructure Funding application timelines were presented. More information is available at <https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2022/11/Infrastructure-Share-Funding-Opportunity.pdf>
- **Feasibility Study:** Shannon Breitzman with Health Management Associates provided an update on the data collection that is currently underway. Qualitative and quantitative data collection has begun. The HMA team will travel to our area March 7<sup>th</sup> and conduct one on one interviews the 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>.
- **Mending Broken Hearts Training** – 3 day training by [White Bison](#) on March 13-16<sup>th</sup> in Cortez 8am to 5pm. The training addresses historical trauma, grief, and identifying trauma as indigenous people. Contact Imo Succo, SWORD advisory member at [imo.succo@swcahec.org](mailto:imo.succo@swcahec.org).
- **Congressionally Directed Spending Requests:** Helen Katich with Senator Hickenlooper's Office reminded SWORD about the next round. There will be informational sessions at the end of February. Requests will be received through the month of March. Contact Helen for more information at [helen\\_katich@hickenlooper.senate.gov](mailto:helen_katich@hickenlooper.senate.gov).
- **Virtual Opioid Learning Forums:** Heather Otter announced the monthly learning forums for opioid districts that cover various topics. They are good opportunities to network with other regional councils. The last forum addressed processes for funding requests to councils. This may be something SWORD will need to learn more about once the feasibility study is complete and decisions about which solutions and projects to deploy funding to need to be made.

**IV. SWORD Member and Officer Nominations, Appointments, Resignations:**

**The following resignations were acknowledged:**

Voting member Annie Diaz

Advisory members Father Nellary, Mary Bono, Amanda Mullen, Jay Anderson

**The following changes were acknowledged:**

1. Chair Justen Goodall requested to step down as Chairperson and to remain a voting member.
2. Nathaniel Baca will remain as the county court representative and voting member. He formerly worked in Dolores County Courts and now works in the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Courts.
3. Brandon Mencini will replace Father Nellary as an advisory member from Centura-Mercy.
4. Christal Dye will replace Mary Bono as an advisory member from MAPDA.

**The following officer nominations were made:**

1. Steve Garchar nominated himself for Chair
2. Marsha Porter-Norton nominated Andrea Phillips for Vice Chair
3. Marsha Porter-Norton nominated Adam Rogers for Treasurer. Adam Rogers is the Finance Director for La Plata County.
4. Marsha Porter-Norton nominated Erin Hyder for Secretary

Heather Otter outlined representation requirements for SWORD per the bylaws. At least one representative from each public health department within the region is needed. Currently, SWORD does not have this. One representative from a rotating city/town within each county is required. SWORD does not have representation from the Town of Dolores, Bayfield, or Ignacio.

**Commissioner Steve Garchar motioned to approve the nominations for officers, changes to voting members and non-voting advisory members. Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton seconded. Approved unanimously.**

**V. Opioid Infrastructure Funds Application**

- Heather Otter outlined the Opioid Infrastructure Funding opportunity. The application must come from a local government within SWORD. The applicant will also be the fiscal agent. La Plata County and Archuleta County have taken this under consideration. Andrea Phillips reported that the Archuleta Board of County Commissioners unanimously approved being an applicant and fiscal agent for the Infrastructure Funds. Archuleta County indicated their interest in keeping with SWORD's focus on a regional project and deploying the funds, if awarded, toward solutions based on the results of the feasibility study. Commissioner Porter Norton commented that while La Plata County is currently serving as fiscal agent for the opioid funds for SWORD, La Plata County is prepared to be the applicant and fiscal agent for these funds. She stated she's encouraged that Archuleta is willing to take it on. Laura Lewis Marchino stated that the Attorney General's Office encouraged Region 17 to apply. Discussion was had about moving forward with an application in year two, round one of the Infrastructure grant so SWORD can base the application on results of the feasibility study.

**Commissioner Porter Norton motioned to approve Archuleta County's intent to move forward as the applicant for the Opioid Infrastructure Funds. Andrea Phillips seconded. Approved unanimously.**

**VI. Wrap Up & Next Steps:**

- Establish Committees – determine format of educational sessions. Kent Aikin is interested in remaining on the education committee and helping to coordinate resources and presentations.
- Explore connection with Southern Ute Indian Tribe about their feasibility study results and potential joint applications with regional governments for Opioid Funds.
- Next meeting - March 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm via Zoom. Recurring calendar invites have been sent for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Meeting adjourned at 3:56

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter