

SWORD Meeting Minutes 04-12-23 Approved on 05-10-23

Zoom

Attendees:

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

Advisory Members	Attendance
Breeah Kinsella	x
Ed Fields, Ph.D.	x
Donna Mae Baukat	x
Dr. Kent Aikin	Present
Dr. Will Finn	x
Brandon Mencini	Present
Haley Leonard	Present
Imo Succo	Present
Kelly DiGiacomo	x
Martha Tinsley Minot	x
Stacie Russell	x

Facilitator & Guests
Heather Otter, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitator
Candice Seay, Colorado Advocates for Recovery
Haley Leonard, Axis Health Systems
Helen Katich, Senator Hickenlooper’s Office

Jack Patterson, CO AG's Office
Jessica Eaddy, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Mindy Baumgardner, Colorado AG's Office
Paul Reich, Axis Health Systems
Rebecca Kellenberg, Health Management Associates
Shannon Breitzman, Health Management Associates

- Chair, Commissioner Steve Garchar called the meeting to order at 2:32pm.
- Members and guests were welcomed and introduced.
- A quorum was established.

Approval of minutes from December 2022, January 2023, February 2023

- **Chair Steve Garchar called for a motion to approve the December 2022 minutes as distributed.** Vice Chair Andrea Phillips moved to approve the December 2022 minutes as distributed. Martha Johnson seconded. **Approved unanimously.**
- **Chair Steve Garchar called for a motion to approve the January 2023 minutes as distributed.** Ronnie Maez moved to approve the January 2023 minutes as distributed. Jessica Thurman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**
- **Chair Steve Garchar called for a motion to approve the February 2023 minutes as distributed.** Ronnie Maez moved to approve the February 2023 minutes as distributed. Steve Garchar seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Updates

- **Feasibility Study:** Shannon Breitzman with Health Management Associates provided an update on the progress of the feasibility study that will help SWORD determine ways the opioid settlement funds will be used to address opioid and other substance misuse and identify viable, sustainable, substance treatment solutions to fill existing gaps in our rural region. Shannon reviewed her team's methodology for data collection and summarized the primary new data collection by way of key informant interviews and focus groups. Interviewees included law enforcement, judicial, probation, and diversion, behavioral health providers and providers of medication for opioid use disorder, public health and health care workers, Southern Ute Tribal constituents, peer counselors and people with lived experience, and community based social services. A survey will be distributed by the end of this month to substance use disorder (SUD) providers and other community stakeholders with perspectives to share on SUD treatment needs in the region. Shannon provided some themes that emerged from the key informant interviews and focus groups. She stressed that the information is preliminary and should not be considered as final or comprehensive findings of the study. It is intended to provide food for thought to SWORD. In summary, there are SUD continuum of care needs in the region that are equal to (or greater than) the need for inpatient SUD treatment including:
 - Medically managed withdrawal ("medical detox")
 - Methadone access
 - Recovery/transitional housing

- SUD inpatient treatment is only as good as the continuum of services and support that exist before and after.
- There is access to SUD inpatient, but it isn't located in the region.
 - The region may not have the patient volume needed to sustain an inpatient facility.
 - Opinions were mixed about the benefits of accessing inpatient SUD care outside of the region.
- Workforce is a barrier in the region in starting and sustaining an inpatient SUD facility.
 - Funding may be a barrier in the region for sustaining an inpatient SUD facility.

Shannon provided HMA's initial thoughts on ways the region can serve the highest acuity SUD needs and sustain those services.

- Start with upstream and downstream continuum of care needs and build on them, eventually get to an inpatient facility if needed.
- Establish the region's SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery ecosystem to strengthen the network of supports and services, especially transitions in care.
- Consider care compacts to support coordination of care and collaboration between sectors and communities across the region. This will facilitate awareness raising about the resources that currently exist, establish more effective transitions in care, client referrals and information sharing.

- **Colorado Opioid Response Unit - Office of the Colorado Attorney General (COAG):** Jack Patterson recognized SWORD for completing participation forms to receive the newest settlement funds. These settlements are estimated to bring in an additional \$3.3 million to the SWORD region which totals an estimated \$7.5 million over 18 years. SWORD did not request any of its year one allocations, so those funds will be added to year two funds available this fall. Right now, estimates are \$813,000 but may increase due to the newest settlements. The new estimates will be available in the next month or two. The estimates include the opt out funds from participating governments and no further action is required for the governments to direct their funds to the region.

COAG has been gathering feedback on the development of the expenditure reporting format. This is important for fiscal agents responsible for recording expenditures. The May 4th Learning Forum will focus on feedback from the regions. The monthly learning forums occur on the first Thursday of each month from 12-1pm virtually. Sign up for COAG newsletters for more information and to participate <https://tinyurl.com/opioidsnewsletter>.

The second annual Opioid Abatement Conference is planned for August 16-18th in Montrose, CO. COAG is accepting recommendations for content. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2023opioidconference> to provide input, for more information and to register.

Mindy Baumgardner provided information on the second round of Infrastructure Funds opening May 1st. Applicants must be regional opioid councils, participating governments, or the State of Colorado. COAG will hold office hours and the application deadline will be mid to late June. Information about funding opportunities are announced in the COAG newsletter. Visit this link to sign up for the newsletter <https://tinyurl.com/opioidsnewsletter>. Another funding opportunity is the Innovation Challenge Fund. The deadline for this opportunity is June 30th. The eligibility for this fund will be broader than other funds. For more information visit <https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2023/05/Opioid-Abatement-Innovation-Challenge-RFA.pdf>.

COAG has partnered with SE2 Consulting to launch an Awareness & Prevention Campaign targeting 11-18 year olds and trusted adults. Materials will be provided that can be used and customized by each region. More information coming from COAG.

Attorney General Phil Weiser will be in SW Colorado on May 17-18th to be part of events related to mental health and SUD and a listening tour regarding the grocery store merger between Kroeger and Albertsons.

- **Nathaniel Riggs: Executive Director of the Colorado State University Prevention Research Center (PRC)** - works with communities across Colorado to support substance use prevention and mental health promotion efforts. Nathaniel provided information about how PRC can be a resource for selecting, implementing, adapting, evaluating, and sustaining prevention programs in communities. Recent work includes partnering with the Colorado regional opioid abatement councils to explore ways of leveraging settlement funds for prevention efforts. For more information about PRC, to contact Nathaniel, and to view a short video that illustrates PRC's approach to prevention work visit <https://www.chhs.colostate.edu/prc/>, contact Nathaniel.riggs@colostate.edu, and watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1NqouyANss>.

- **Trauma informed care:** Heather Otter announced that the May SWORD meeting will have guest speaker Doty Shepard with Resilient Colorado to present on the topic of trauma informed approaches and field questions from SWORD. This comes in response to the topics SWORD members asked to learn more about. On May 18th, a more in depth presentation and conversation event will be offered with two presentations, one from Doty and another from Linda Hardman. Heather will send out information once the venue and details are set. Kent Aiken encouraged SWORD members to attend on May 18th and invite people from their networks. Imo Succo discussed the Mending Broken Hearts Training that Southwest Area Health Education Center's (SWAHEC) Indigenous Wellbriety Program hosted to address trauma and healing of indigenous people. The event was well attended, and Imo felt it was effective and impactful for indigenous attendees and for non-native care providers that work with indigenous populations. Information and outcomes from the training will be shared in the Pathways Newsletter. For more information visit <https://swcahec.org/indigenous-wellbriety-program/> or contact Imo at imo.succo@swcahec.org.

Chaffee county--Gunnison harm reduction clinics: Paul Reich, Axis Health System mentioned an interesting program out of Chaffee and Gunnison Counties around discussions about a harm reduction clinic. For more information visit <https://salidachamber.org/chaffe-county-public-health/>.

La Plata County Co-responder Program Launched: Haley Leonard-Saunders with Axis Health Systems announced the La Plata County Co-responder Program will be on the road in about a month. The first team has been hired. The La Plata County team was modeled after the Durango program which has responded to over 2,000 since they launched which demonstrates the need from people who weren't accessing traditional health care supports through the crisis system or through primary care.

Advisory Member Seat Open: Stacie Russell with Axis Health Systems will be vacating her role as an advisory member and nominated Haley Leonard-Saunders to fill her seat. If SWORD members have other nominations they'd like to make, send them to Heather Otter heather@region9edd.org and a vote will occur at the May 10th meeting.

- **SWORD Futures Committee:** Heather Otter scheduled two dates for interested SWORD members to choose from for the meetings on 4/27 and 5/11 from noon to 1pm via Zoom. The initial meetings will be

used to establish communication protocols, meeting cadence, and a planning framework. The purpose of the SWORD Futures Committee will be to review and discuss funding opportunities, existing project status, emerging efforts or interests within the SUD treatment and care space in Region 9 communities, and to help distill and bring the information to SWORD to help with decision making around funding.

3:25 Wrap Up & Next Steps:

- 1) Next SWORD meeting – May 10th at 2:30pm via Zoom. This meeting will focus on the roll trauma plays in treatment and care for substance use disorders. Our guest speaker will be Doty Shepard.
- 2) SAVE the DATE: May 18th, 2023, **Trauma** – What does it mean and how does it impact treatment and care for opioid and other substance use disorders? How can prevention efforts with youth impact future outcomes? Mancos Public Library 10:00-1:30. Light lunch provided.
- 3) SAVE the DATE: Aug 16-18, 2023, **State Opioid Conference in Montrose**. Please make sure to complete the [Conferece Pre-Registrion and Survey](#) to provide your input and recommendations for the conference. You can also access the form with this link - <https://forms.gle/zUkLxXwWfj8vEfZy6>.

Meeting adjourned at 3:29

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter