

SWORD Meeting Minutes Approved 8/09/23

July 12th, 2023

Zoom

Attendees:

Voting members	Attendance	Proxy
(Chair) Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
(Vice Chair) Andrea Phillips, Pagosa Spring Town Manager	Present	
(Treasurer) Adam Rogers, Finance Director, La Plata County	Present	
(Secretary) Erin Hyder, Durango Assistant City Manager	Present	
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	Present	
Jessica Thurman, Montezuma County Community & Economic Development Coordinator	Present	
Justen Goodall, Mancos Marshall	X	
Laurel Shafer, Montezuma County Public Health Assistant Director	Present	
Malynda Evans, Dolores County Social Services Director	Present	
Marsha Porter-Norton, La Plata County Commissioner	Present	
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	X	
Ronnie Maez, Archuleta County Commissioner	Present	

Advisory Members	Attendance
Brandon Mencini, CEO, Centura-Mercy	Present
Breeah Kinsella, Executive Director, Colorado Providers Association	X
Donna Mae Baukat, Co-founder, Community Compassion Outreach	Present
Dr. Kent Aikin, Retired Physician, Community Member	Present
Dr. Will Finn, Physician, Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Present
Haley Leonard Saunders, Sr. Director of Development/PIO, Axis Health System	Present
Imo Succo, Program Manager, SW Colorado Area Health Education Center	Present
Kelly DiGiacomo, Therapist, La Plata Family Therapy	X
Martha Tinsley Minot, Retired County Court Judge, Community Member	X

Facilitator & Guests
Heather Otter & Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitators
Ashley Gonzales, San Juan Basin Health
Eric Barker, CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Helen Katich, Senator Hickenlooper's Office
Jay Wood, 22 nd Judicial District
Jessica Eaddy, CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
John Whitney, Senator Bennet's Office
Kate Hartzell, Southwest Colorado Area Health Education Center

Paul Reich, Axis Health System
Rebecca Kellenberg, Health Management Associates
Reuben Schafir, Durango Herald
Robyn Odendahl, Health Management Associates
Rosalind Penney, San Juan Basin Health
Ryan Downey, Pura Vida for Good
Shannon Breitzman, Health Management Associates
Shelly Burke, Axis Health System
Tony Banda, Health Management Associates

- Commissioner Steve Garchar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:34pm.
- The agenda was reviewed.
- A quorum was established.
- SWORD members were introduced.

I. Feasibility Study

Health Management Associates (HMA) presented the final findings and recommendations of the feasibility study. Abbreviations SUD and OUD are used throughout the minutes for substance use disorder and opioid use disorder. Feedback from SWORD members since the June meeting as well as additional expertise leveraged by HMA was incorporated into the final report. The presentation covered five main topics including:

- The methodological overview
- Description of Region 9 priority SUD treatment services
- Feasibility of SUD/OUD services
- Recommendations, and findings from the assessment.

The research questions HMA was asked to explore in this study were:

- What is the need or demand for SUD treatment and recovery services, including inpatient treatment in Region 9?
- What specific services exist and where do service gaps exist?
- What are initial estimates of feasibility per the above, including cost estimates to build, operate, address equity, and contract?
- What are initial funding recommendations and source mix?

HMA presented the following assessment findings in their presentation:

- Overview of the Identified Needs and Gaps in Southwest Colorado
 - Community Context and Population Demographics
 - OUD and SUD Needs Assessment and Document Review
- Gap Analysis of SUD/OUD Services
- Region 9 Community Priorities
- Existing and Future Service Demands
- Recommendations for Strengthening Region 9's SUD/OUD Prevention, Treatment and Recovery
- Feasibility of Building SUD/OUD services identified as Gaps
 - Service #1: Residential/Inpatient Facilities
 - Service #2: Crisis Stabilization Facility
 - Service #3: Methadone Clinic

SWORD members offered comments regarding potential funding scenarios using the DeNier Center in the study and it was acknowledged that scenarios presented do not indicate foregone decisions about use of the DeNier Center or any other assets used in the scenarios.

Information was provided about SWORD's structure and committees as the council moves from planning to implementation, including potential staffing opportunities for project coordination once SWORD prioritizes funding areas.

II. Votes:

- 1. Approve the Substance Use Treatment Feasibility Study and Implementation Plan as presented today by HMA with acknowledgment that the findings and recommendations do not imply SWORD's conclusions about future actions or funding decisions, rather, as a starting point for informing future actions and funding decisions by SWORD and permission for HMA to move forward with the final written report.**
 - i. Chair, Commissioner Garchar asked for a motion. Martha Johnson motion. Erin Hyder second.
Motion passed.
- 2. Approve support for Region 9 EDD to move forward with two separate applications for capacity building roles to assist SWORD with project coordination for SWORD priorities.**
 - i. Chair, Commissioner Garchar asked for a motion. Commissioner Ronnie Maez motion. Commissioner Marsha Porter Norton second. **Motion passed.**
- 3. Approve the use of the proposed organizational chart as a guide for SWORD as the need for structured committees arise.**
 - i. Chair, Commissioner Garchar asked for a motion. Erin Hyder motion. Jessica Thurman second.
Motion passed.

III. SWORD Member Resignations:

- Voting member and SWORD's Vice Chair Andrea Phillips announced her resignation from SWORD effective August 4th to coincide with her last day serving as Town Manager for Pagosa Springs.
- Non-voting, advisory member Christal Dye, Executive Director, Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse

IV. Wrap Up & Next Steps:

- Next SWORD meeting – Aug 9th at 2:30pm at the Axis Integrated Health Care Center with a virtual option via Zoom.
- August meeting – affirm priorities for funding year 1 and year 2 funds.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31pm

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter