

SWORD Meeting Minutes - Approved 10/11/23

August 9th, 2023

Cortez Chamber of Commerce and Business Center with Zoom option

Attendees:

Voting members	Attendance	Proxy
(Chair) Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
(Vice Chair) Vacant		
(Treasurer) Adam Rogers, Finance Director, La Plata County	X	Shaine Gans
(Secretary) Erin Hyder, Durango Assistant City Manager	X	Bob Brammer
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	
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	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	Present	
Ronnie Maez, Archuleta County Commissioner	Present	

Advisory Members	Attendance
Ashley Gonzalez, San Juan Basin Health	Present (voted in today)
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
Butch Lewis, Colorado Association of Recovery Residences (CARR)
Candice Ludwig, Southwest Regional Manager, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Eric Barker, External Relations, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Helen Katich, Senator Hickenlooper's Office
Jay Wood, Diversion Director, 22 nd Judicial District
Jessica Eaddy, CO Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Krista Guss, Community Outreach and Development Coordinator, Santa Vida Health & Wellness

Mary Katherine, Psychologist
Mindy Baumgardner, Rural Outreach Specialist, Attorney General's Office
Rick Jacobson, Director of Community Based Programs, Axis Health System
Reuben Schafir, Durango Herald
Shelly Burke, CEO, Axis Health System

- Commissioner Steve Garchar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:32pm.
- The agenda was reviewed.
- A quorum was established.
- SWORD members and guests were introduced.

I. Votes:

1. Approve June minutes.

- i. Chair, Commissioner Garchar asked for a motion. Commissioner Ronnie Maez motion. Malynda Evans second. **Motion passed.**

2. Approve July minutes.

- i. Chair, Commissioner Garchar asked for a motion. Jessica Thurman motion. Laurel Schafer second. **Motion passed.**

3. Approve Ashley Gonzales as a SWORD Advisory Member.

- i. Chair, Commissioner Garchar asked for a motion. Commissioner Ronnie Maez motion. Bobbi Lock second. **Motion passed.**

II. Updates - The final written report for the feasibility study is now available online on the SWORD page at Region 9 EDD's website (www.region9edd.org/SWORD). Local assets were used to create the scenarios in the report. The scenarios in the report are not foregone conclusions about if or how those assets will be used. The report will be used as a guide for which service gaps SWORD wants to address. Health Management Associates (HMA) consultants who produced the feasibility report will provide a cost scenario tool for SWORD to utilize to help make funding decisions. Region 9 was awarded a \$40,000 grant that will be applied to a part time staffing support role for implementation of SWORD funding priorities.

III. Presentation – Will Finn & Butch Lewis – Will Finn presented information about the continuum of care for substance use disorders and the part trauma plays in the process with visual representations of different types of treatment options. Butch Lewis followed up with a presentation that outlined the role of recovery residences in the continuum of care. Recovery residences were identified as a gap in the feasibility report. There are four levels of recovery residences in the state of Colorado. Butch illustrated the service intensity at each level and considerations for SWORD as it considers this strategy. He provided ideas for how recovery residences might fit into the service model proposed by HMA in the feasibility report. He suggested establishing a small substance use disorder (SUD) expert focus group to assist with analyzing the gaps, funding streams, identify solutions, and outline recommendations to bring to SWORD related to recovery residences. There was general discussion around how RFPs could be a valuable tool to bring sober living or recovery residence operators to the table for solving the problems if SWORD determines funding will be allocated to this strategy. Further discussion was had regarding approaches for purchasing, ownership, and management of recovery residences. Concerns about NIMBYism (not in my backyard) and the lack of current housing inventory were brought forward. The concept of level 1 and 2 recovery residences as one way to address service gaps in the region while long term strategies are explored was discussed. The potential of repurposing the former DeNier Detention Facility in Durango was brought forward. There are many logistics and cost associated with repurposing this facility, however, it has been made available by La Plata County for consideration by SWORD. There is currently a small, subject matter expert group comprised of clinical professionals, recovery residence operators, people with lived experience, and SWORD members who are meeting weekly to get into the details of the feasibility report and developing funding scenarios to bring to SWORD. This group is called the SWORD Futures-Action Team for now.

- IV. SWORD funding allocations / settlements** – Heather Otter reviewed the original two year plan with funding allocations submitted back in May of 2022. She outlined current settlement fund amounts and timelines for requesting funds. There is a dashboard provided by the State showing details of each region’s funding allocations. It can be viewed at <https://geoinfo.coag.gov/portal/apps/sites/#/settlement-distributions>
- V. SWORD structure to support implementation** – Heather Otter outlined the structure for SWORD to remain as the overarching steering and governance council while subcommittees will meet to assume tasks and report back to SWORD and bring recommendations for SWORD to vote on. The Futures-Action team has been meeting for approximately a month now. Heather will be reaching out to SWORD members individually to discuss interests and capacity for involvement going forward.
- VI. SWORD Member Resignations:**
- Voting member Justen Goodall – Heather Alvarez, Town Manager for Mancos will assume Justen’s seat.
- VII. Wrap Up & Next Steps:**
- No meeting in September.
 - Next SWORD meeting – Oct 11th at 2:30pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter