

SWORD Meeting Minutes – Approved 11/08/23Wednesday, October 11th 2:30pm via Zoom**Attendees:**

Voting members	Attendance	Proxy
(Chair) Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner	X	
(Vice Chair) Vacant		
(Treasurer) Adam Rogers, Finance Director, La Plata County	Present	
(Secretary) Erin Hyder, Durango Assistant City Manager	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	X	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	X	(voted in today)
Bob Brammer, Durango Police Chief	X	
Bobbi Lock, Montezuma County Public Health Director	Present	
Chauncey McCarthy, Rico Town Manager	Present	
Heather Alvarez, Mancos Town Manager	Present	(voted in today)
Jessica Thurman, Montezuma County Community & Economic Development Coordinator	Present	
Laurel Schafer, Montezuma County Public Health Assistant Director	X	
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
Ashley Gonzalez, San Juan Basin Health	Present
Brandon Mencini, CEO, Common Spirit-Mercy	X
Breeah Kinsella, Executive Director, Colorado Providers Association	X
Donna Mae Baukat, Co-founder, Community Compassion Outreach	X
Dr. Kent Aikin, Retired Physician, Community Member	X
Dr. Mary Katherine, Psychologist	Present (voted in today)
Dr. Will Finn, Physician, Southern Ute Indian Tribe	X
Haley Leonard Saunders, Sr. Director of Development/PIO, Axis Health System	X
Imo Succo, MSW, Director Indigenous Wellbriety Program	Present
Kelly DiGiacomo, Therapist, La Plata Family Therapy	X

Facilitator & Guests
Heather Otter & Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitators
Eric Barker, External Relations, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Krista Guss, Community Outreach and Development Coordinator, Santa Vida Health & Wellness
Lizzie Heine, Office Manager, Region 9 EDD
Mindy Baumgardner, Rural Outreach Specialist, Attorney General's Office
Paul Reich, Marketing & Public Relations Manager, Axis Health System
Rick Jacobson, Director of Community Based Programs, Axis Health System
Shaine Gans, Grant Specialist, La Plata County

- Treasurer, Adam Rogers, called the meeting to order at 2:35pm.
- The agenda was reviewed.
- A quorum was established.
- SWORD guests were introduced.

I. Votes:

1. Approve August minutes. (Note – there was no meeting in September)

- i. Treasurer, Adam Rogers asked for a motion. Commissioner Ronnie Maez moved. Martha Johnson second. **Motion passed.**

2. Approve Heather Alvarez (Town of Mancos) as a SWORD Voting Member.

- i. Treasurer, Adam Rogers asked for a motion. Commissioner Ronnie Maez moved. Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton second. **Motion passed.**

3. Approve Becky Joyce San Juan County Public Health as a SWORD Voting Member.

- i. Treasurer, Adam Rogers asked for a motion. Commissioner Ronnie Maez moved. Martha Johnson second. **Motion passed.**

- ii. **Correction: Heather Otter stated Becky Joyce’s title as Director of San Juan Basin Public Health. Her correct title is Director of San Juan County Public Health.**

4. Approve Mary Katherine as a SWORD Advisory Member.

- i. Treasurer, Adam Rogers asked for a motion. Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton moved. Commissioner Ronnie Maez second. **Motion passed.**

II. Updates - Jamie Feld provided updates on the funding request windows. A new request window has been made available on November 15th, 2023. Requests in November will be reviewed by the COAC for approval in December. COAC provides approvals to the National Administrator and funds will likely be available in January 2024. The next round of Infrastructure Share funds will be launched at the end of November 2023. Awards would likely be announced at the beginning of 2024. Capital construction and operational programming is allowable uses of Infrastructure Share funds. Brick and mortar construction is prioritized but not the only use that has been awarded. Approved funds uses from other regions have included MAT services in jail settings, as an example. A question arose about SWORD making its first funding request and how that would affect requesting Infrastructure Funds too. Jamie recommended including an explanation about intended use A new settlement from Kroger is underway \$1.5B to nation \$70M to Colorado. Regional amounts have not yet been finalized and updated figures will be announced later. The new funds will be divided into the regions the same way previous settlements have been according to the State Opioid Framework. No additional action is required by SWORD to receive the funds. Opioid settlement funds began in 2022 and are estimated to go through 2038. Jamie confirmed that reporting obligations for any funds expended through December 31st, 2023, are due in February of 2024. Since SWORD has not requested or expended funds yet, reporting obligations will be due in February of 2025. SWORD is preparing to make its first funding request. Adam Rogers brought questions forward about La Plata County’s budgeting process and the amount that SWORD requests. Discussion was had about requesting the full amount that SWORD has available versus making multiple, smaller requests. Heather read a quote from a member of COAC suggesting that SWORD request the full amount of available funds (approximately \$1.5M). This would help La Plata County as the fiscal agent, not having to amend their budget.

Jamie Feld and SWORD members who attended the State Opioid Conference in August provided brief reflections about the event. Of note were the effective partnerships between the State team and the SWORD region, the State Opioid Response Team received an award for their innovative work on the Colorado Opioid Framework, the integration of lived experience into policy and the opioid funding framework, and the networking opportunities with other regions. Attendees brought back ideas including but not limited to the use of opioid funds, the RFP process, and strategies for supporting active and sustained recovery.

Region 9 was awarded a \$40,000 grant that has been applied to a part time contractor position for implementation of SWORD funding priorities. Interviews are underway and hopefully will result in a hire by the end of October.

III. Votes:

5. **Approve Region 9's request for funds in the amount of \$45,000. The purpose is to match Region 9's \$40,000 which will be used to hire a SWORD Project Coordinator and \$5,000 to supplement Region 9's hiring and managing the Project Coordinator and facilitation of SWORD including the SWORD Futures retreat. The matching funds would come out of SWORD's Regional Share.**
 - i. Martha Johnson motion. Commissioner Ronnie Maez second. **Motion passed.**

IV. SWORD Futures-Action Team progress and upcoming retreat on Oct 27th - The SWORD Futures Committee is preparing for a retreat for the purpose of synthesizing the feasibility study findings and recommendations, best practices from our communities, and evidence-based strategies from outside our region to build funding allocation proposals to bring to SWORD for a vote in November or December. Discussion was had about timing for the Futures Group to prepare proposals to SWORD, SWORD to vote on allocations, and making the funding request by November 15th or at the next window of March 15th, 2024. The idea of deciding on allocation of percentages for projects and requesting funds this year was brought forward. Detailed project development would begin in 2024.

V. Wrap Up & Next Steps:

- Next SWORD meeting – Nov 8th at 2:30pm via Zoom.
- Laura Lewis Marchino met with the Manager of San Juan County, NM to discuss opioid abatement work. They have programs SWORD might be interested in learning about. Region 9 will coordinate with their team to attend a future SWORD meeting to share information.
- Heather Otter showed a new feature of the data dashboard provided by CDPHE which allows a filter to show data specifically for Opioid Regions. It can be viewed at this link:

https://cohealthviz.dphe.state.co.us/t/PSDVIP-MHPPUBLIC/views/DrugOverdoseDashboard/ODDeathAdjustedRates?iframeSizedToWindow=true&%3Adisplay_count=n&%3AshowAppBanner=false&%3Aorigin=viz_share_link&%3AshowVizHome=n&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&%3Aembed=y#2

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter