

**SWORD Meeting Minutes – Approved 05/29/24**Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm via Zoom**Attendees:**

<b>Voting members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Proxy</b>
<b>(Chair)</b> Steve Garchar, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
<b>(Vice Chair)</b> Laurel Schafer, Assistant Director, Montezuma County Public Health	Present	
<b>(Treasurer)</b> Adam Rogers, Finance Director, La Plata County	X	
<b>(Secretary)</b> Erin Hyder, Durango Assistant City Manager	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	X	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	Present	
Bill Rockensock, Pagosa Springs Police Chief	Present	
Bob Brammer, Durango Police Chief	X	
Bobbi Lock, Montezuma County Public Health Director	X	
Chauncey McCarthy, Rico Town Manager	Present	
Heather Alvarez, Mancos Town Manager	Present	
Malynda Evans, Dolores County Social Services Director	X	
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	X	
Nathaniel Baca, 6 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judge	X	
Ronnie Maez, Archuleta County Commissioner	Present/early out	
Travis Anderson, Montezuma County Administrator	X	Laurel Schafer

<b>Advisory Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Ashley Gonzalez, La Plata County Public Health	Present
Brandon Mencini, CEO, Common Spirit-Mercy	Present
Breeah Kinsella, Executive Director, Colorado Providers Association	X
Donna Mae Baukat, Co-founder, Community Compassion Outreach	X
Dr. Jen Hargrove, Emergency Medicine / Wilderness & High Altitude Specialist	Present
Dr. Kent Aikin, Retired Physician, Community Member	Present
Dr. Mary Katherine, Psychologist	X
Dr. Will Finn, Physician, Southern Ute Indian Tribe	X
Haley Leonard Saunders, Sr. Director of Development/PIO, Axis Health System	Present
Imo Succo, MSW, Director Indigenous Wellbriety Program	X
Kelly DiGiacomo, Therapist, La Plata Family Therapy	X

<b>Facilitator &amp; Guests</b>
Heather Otter & Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitators
Claire West, SWORD Project Coordinator
Adam Herman, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Candice Ludwig, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Butch Lewis, Colorado Association of Recovery Residences CARR
Eric Barker, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Jack Patterson, Colorado Opioid Response Team

Natalie Sandoval, Colorado Opioid Response Team
Shaine Gans, La Plata County
Dr. Andrea Ryan, Mercy Common Spirit
Chad Wheelus, Regional Industry Convener, Southwest Education Collaborative Partner
Dayna Kranker, Town of Silverton

- Chair, Commissioner Garchar, called the meeting to order at 2:33pm.
- Introductions of members and guests were made.
- The agenda was reviewed.
- A quorum was established.

**I. Votes:**

**Approve January 2024 minutes.**

- i. Steve Garchar entertained a motion to approve the January 2024 minutes. Commissioner Maez moved. Erin Hyder second. **Motion passed.**

**II. Permission to correct October 2023 minutes**

- i. Commissioner Garchar entertained a motion to correct a discrepancy on names entered for a motion and second on a vote in the October 2023 minutes. Commissioner Porter-Norton moved. Laurel Schafer second. Motion passed.

**III. Updates**

**1. Colorado Opioid Response Unit**

- i. Publicis Health’s settlement has been added to Colorado’s opioid funds. A settlement in principle from Hikma Pharmaceuticals has been announced. In total, Colorado is currently estimated to receive \$750 million over the next sixteen to seventeen years.
- ii. The next funding request opportunity for SWORD is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- iii. Regions and local governments received emails on March 1<sup>st</sup> from BrownGreer the national administrator regarding payment schedules for funds requested in September and November of 2023. No further action is required by local governments currently. One company changed its payment schedule from 2027 to 2024 resulting in regions receiving payments earlier.
- iv. The Regional Data Dashboard has been updated. Upcoming funding opportunities were mentioned. Funding information, maps, and details about the State Share and Infrastructure Share can be found at this [LINK](#).
- v. Elizabeth Smith, Gunnison County Commissioner, Chair Opioid Data Committee reported on the Opioid Data Workgroup purpose, activities, and scheduled meetings.

**2. SWORD Expense Reporting**

- i. Opioid regions are obligated to submit expense reports in February each year for funds expended the prior calendar year. SWORD did not expended funds in 2023 so reporting would have been due in February of 2025 for funds expended during the 2024 calendar year. While there was no obligation to submit an expense report, a general outline of planned expenditures was entered into COST to demonstrate SWORD’s intent for the funds. A request to do so was made by the Opioid Response Team to show Colorado’s opioid abatement spending activities to date.

**3. SWORD Project Coordinator Report:**

- i. Community Grants to support opioid abatement efforts across Region 9 are set to open June 1<sup>st</sup>. A draft of the grant application is under review by SWORD’s fiscal agent, La Plata County. Announcements will be made at Town/City Council meetings between April 9<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. In-person and virtual info sessions are scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> through June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- ii. Recovery Residence activities to date include:

1. An inquiry went out to town, city, and county administrators regarding potential land. The deadline to respond is April 19<sup>th</sup>.
2. Research regarding LIHTC (low income housing tax credits) is underway.
3. Drafting has begun on RFPs for a developer.

#### **IV. Discussion**

1. Sector Convener to assist SWORD – Discussion was had regarding how the regional industry convener role and a designated healthcare sector partnership could potentially support SWORD. While SWORD is focused specifically on opioid abatement within the healthcare sector, addressing mental and behavioral health and substance use disorders had been identified as a priority for most communities within the region prior to SWORD. For this reason, much of the convening around goals and priorities has occurred. The regional industry convener might add capacity to coordinate key stakeholders involved in SWORD's projects without duplication of prior convenings, goal setting and prioritizing. Designating a healthcare sector partnership might open additional technical assistance and funding opportunities for SWORD projects. SWORD members requested more information about the role. Decision tabled.
2. Letters of support protocol – Discussion was had regarding requests to SWORD for letters of support from organizations outside of our region applying for funding to support opioid abatement initiatives. Several requests came to Region 9 Economic Development as the SWORD facilitator. Other opioid councils throughout the state received similar requests. The Opioid Response Unit advised that regional opioid councils are not obligated to provide letters of support but should devise processes for responding to future requests that best meet the capacity and operating structure of the councils. SWORD members were in general agreement that a process should be drafted and criteria should specify that organizations outside of the SWORD region must articulate how their programs or services would support SWORD's priorities and identified projects. Region 9 and SWORD's project coordinator will take this under advisement and provide updates on development of the process.

#### **V. Next SWORD meeting – May 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm via Zoom. (meeting was moved to 5/29)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:46pm

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter