

**SWORD Meeting Minutes Approved 08/14/24**Wednesday, July 10<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	X	Malynda Evans
<b>(Vice Chair)</b> Laurel Schafer, Assistant Director, Montezuma County Public Health	Present	
<b>(Treasurer)</b> Adam Rogers, Finance Director, La Plata County	Present	
<b>(Secretary)</b> Erin Hyder, Durango Assistant City Manager	X	Bob Brammer
Amie Gardiner, Town of Silverton Trustee	Present	Voted in today
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	Present	
Bobbi Lock, Montezuma County Public Health Director	Present	
Brice Current, Chief of Police, City of Durango	Present	Voted in today
Chauncey McCarthy, Rico Town Manager	Present	
Heather Alvarez, Mancos Town Manager	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 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Judge	X	
Ronnie Maez, Archuleta County Commissioner	Present, had to leave early	Marsha Porter Norton
Tracy Anselmo, La Plata County Public Health Director	Present	Voted in today
Travis Anderson, Montezuma County Administrator	Present	

<b>Advisory Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Ashley Gonzalez, La Plata County Public Health	Present
Brandon Mencini, CEO, Common Spirit-Mercy	X – moved, new member pending
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	X
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	Present
Kelly DiGiacomo, Therapist	X

<b>Facilitator &amp; Guests</b>
Heather Otter & Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD, SWORD Facilitators
Claire West, SWORD Project Coordinator
Beth Dunn, Common Spirit – Mercy Hospital

Candice Ludwig, Advocates for Recovery Colorado
Eric Barker, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Jack Patterson, Colorado AG's Office, Opioid Response Unit
Shaine Gans, La Plata County
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado

- Vice Chair, Laurel Schafer, called the meeting to order at 2:34pm.
- Introductions of members and guests were made.
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was reviewed.

**I. Approve May 2024 minutes**

- i. Laurel Schafer motioned to approve the May 2024 minutes. Marsha Porter Norton second. **Motion passed.**

**II. Approve SWORD Roster Changes**

- i. Laurel Schafer motioned to approve voting seats for Amie Gardiner, Brice Current, and Theresa (Tracy) Anselmo. Becky Joyce second. **Motion passed.**

**III. SWORD Project Updates \*Vote on Grant Agreement for Awardees**

- i. **Grant Agreement for Community Grant Awardees:** A grant agreement between awardees and Region 9 Economic Development District (Region 9) is required in the master agreement between Region 9 as SWORD's facilitator and La Plata County as SWORD's fiscal agent. The draft agreement was provided prior to the meeting for review. Went over additional language added to the Expenditure of Funds section. Laurel Schafer motioned to approve the grant agreement for awardees. Martha Johnson second. **Motion passed.**

**ii. Project Coordinator Update:**

Explored 3 land options for the recovery residence with the help of a private landowner and the City of Cortez.

Consulted with The Fletcher Group on project-management for the recovery residence, strategies for community awareness and buy-in, and outlined talking points for conversations with housing agencies about HUD project vouchers.

RFQ Drafts: Completed drafting a request for qualifications (RFQ) for an operator.

Technical Assistance: Explored Narcan training for interested community partners, compiled a regional treatment resource list, and attended summer farmers markets for the awareness campaign in Dolores and Durango.

**Presentation - Community Grant Applicants:**

Milestone: SWORD completed the Community Grant Application Process. Grant awards mark the first distribution of regional settlement funds.

Acknowledgments: Thanks were given to the grant application review committee.

Applications: Closed on July 1st with 12 applications received (5 regional, 7 local).

Funding: Requested amount was over \$600,000; available funds were \$465,286.41.

Review Process: 7 reviewers scored applications with each application reviewed by 3-4 people.

Prioritization: Focus on funding projects supporting people in treatment and recovery.

Funding Distribution: 9 out of 12 applications funded. Breakdown: \$465,286.41 available, \$105,058.00 for regional projects, \$333,298.00 for local projects, \$26,930.41 remaining.

Recommendation: Reserve remaining funds for a future grant cycle.

**\*Vote on Grant Agreement for Awardees**

**Laurel Schafer motioned to approve the regional and local project awards as presented. Malynda Evans seconded.** Further discussion was had regarding the amounts advertised for each category (regional and local). The local grant requests exceeded the amount advertised for that category and the regional grants did not reach the amount advertised for that category. It was proposed that the category amounts be adjusted to reflect the awards given (\$105,058.00 for regional projects, \$333,298.00 for local projects, \$26,930.41 remaining. The remaining amount is recommended to be reserved for future grant cycles. This does not change the total amount provided for the grant project. **Laurel Schafer motioned to approve the grant category amounts adjusted to reflect the awards given. Marsha Porter Norton seconded. Motion passed.**

**Laurel Schafer motioned to approve the individual grant awardees as presented. Martha Johnson seconded. No further discussion. Motion passed.**

**IV. SWORD Funding Updates:**

**Purdue Settlement Funds:** The agreement in principle with Purdue has not been finalized. Settlement funds are still under negotiation and are not expected soon. These funds have not been included in any current estimates or projections.

**2024-2026 Estimates:** Preliminary estimates for upcoming allotments have been provided, rounded down to the nearest \$10,000. SWORD funds in 2024 include rolled-over funds available this September amount to approximately \$650,000, \$610,000 in 2025, and \$470,000 in 2026. These estimates do not include Kroger or Publicis settlements, meaning that SWORD's allocations could increase but amounts are not clear at this time.

**Recommendations and Guiding Principles for the Use of Management of Opioid Settlement Funds from the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC) have been published:** They are available on the Colorado Opioid Abatement website and will be used to inform resources and guidance for the regional councils. <https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2024/06/2024-COAC-Recommendations-and-Guiding-Principles.pdf>

Discussion was had about SWORD funding requests and whether new allotments will be used for the current projects or if new projects will be proposed. This is undetermined currently.

Discussion was had about data collection and ability to evaluate impact of the SWORD projects. The COAC is currently developing a framework that will be informed by regions and eventually provide data specific to regions as well as statewide.

**V. Upcoming SWORD meetings – August 14<sup>th</sup> and September 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm via Zoom.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:41pm

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter