

Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Meeting Minutes –Approved 9/10/2025

Wednesday, August 13th, 2:30pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members	Attendance	Proxy
Laurel Schafer (Chair), Assistant Director Montezuma County Public Health	Present	
John Ranson (Vice Chair), Archuleta County Commissioner	X	
Adam Rogers (Treasurer), Finance Director La Plata County	Present	
Erin Hyder (Secretary), Assistant City Manager City of Durango	X	Bob Brammer
Andy Brock, Assistant Chief of Police, City of Cortez	Present	
Amie Gardiner, Trustee Town of Silverton	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	X	
Ashley Wilson, Director Archuleta County Public Health	Present	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	X	Amie Gardner
Bill Rockensock, Police Chief Town of Pagosa Springs	X	
Bob Brammer, Assistant City Manager City of Durango	Present	
Bobbi Lock, Director Montezuma Public Health	X	
Brice Current, Police Chief City of Durango	X	
Chauncey McCarthy, Town Manager Town of Rico	X	
Eric Stiasny, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
Malynda Evans, Director Dolores County Social Services	Present	
Marsha Porter-Norton, Commissioner La Plata County	X	Martha Johnson
Martha Johnson, Director La Plata Human Services	Present	
Nathaniel Baca, 6 th Judicial District Judge	X	
Shaine Gans, Grants Specialist, La Plata County	Present	
Tracy Anselmo, Director La Plata County Public Health	X	
Travis Anderson, County Administrator Montezuma County	Present	

Advisory/Non-Voting Members	Attendance
Ashley Micikas, La Plata County Public Health	X
Donna Mae Baukat, Community Compassion Outreach	X
Jacob Abbas, Pagosa Springs Medical Center	Present
Haley Leonard-Saunders, Axis Health Systems	Present
Imo Succo, Indigenous Wellbriety Program	X

Mary Katherine, Psychologist	Present
Will Finn, Physician	X

Facilitators and Guests	Role
Claire West, SWORD Project Manager	Facilitator
Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 Economic Development District	Facilitator
Audrey Royem, Region 9 Economic Development District	Guest
Charlee Sharp, Silver Lining Recovery Homes	Guest
Denise Vincioni, Denver Recovery Group	Guest
Eric Barker, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention	Guest
Jacob Austin, Antelope Recovery	Guest
Jacob Dunlop, Durango Police	Guest
Jen Fanning, Steadman Group	Guest
John Waters	Guest
JK Costello, Steadman Group	Guest
Mara Melter	Guest
Mindy Baumgardner, Colorado Attorney General's Office	Guest
Nichole Glaser, Axis Health System	Guest
Shak Powers, Region 9 Economic Development District	Guest
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado	Guest
Wyatt Bair, Senator Bennet's Office	Guest

- Chair, Laurel Schafer, called the meeting to order at 2:41pm.
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was reviewed.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Members and guests were introduced.

II. Approve June 2025 minutes

- a. Laurel Schafer made a motion to approve the June 2025 meeting minutes.
Eric Stiasny seconded. **Motioned passed.**

III. **Council Member Changes**

- a. Laurel Schafer made a motion to approve John Ranson as Vice Chair for the SWORD Council. Malynda Evans seconded. **Motion passed.**
- b. Laurel Schafer made a motion to approve Jacob Abbas as an Advisory Member. Martha Johnson seconded. **Motion passed.**
- c. Laurel Schafer made a motion to approve Heather Alvarez as the primary representative for the Town of Mancos with Marshal Justen Goodall as an alternate Voting Member. Eric Stiasny seconded. **Motion passed.**

IV. **Fiscal Agent Report**

- a. Shaine Gans reported on the current accounting for SWORD's opioid settlement funds, including available interest. It is estimated that interest will accrue between 4%–6% return for 2025. Direction is needed on how to allocate interest and the McKinsey settlement.
- b. There is \$751,060.47 available to request during the September 15th, November 14th, or March 15th deadlines. The Council will need to approve a new 2-year plan in order to request funds.

V. **Colorado Attorney General's (COAG) Update from Mindy Baumgardner**

- a. Purdue Pharma has settled with the COAG and other States for approximately \$7.4B nationally. Local participating governments must submit participation forms by 9/30 for Purdue Pharma and by 10/8 for secondary manufacturers.
- b. The 2025 Colorado Opioid Abatement Conference will be on Monday October 27th in Loveland, CO. SWORD is able to pay for the cost of attendance for council and advisory members.

VI. **SWORD Project Manger Report from Claire West**

- a. The second cycle of SWORD grants will close on August 15th. There is a total of \$446,774 to award.
- b. A resource map is being created to help select a viable site for the recovery campus project and will be made available to the Council upon completion.

VII. **The Steadman Group Report**

- a. JK Costello and Jen Fanning, of the Steadman Group, presented on their findings from research and conversations with State agencies and

developers relating to ownership models for the recovery campus project, especially when considering levels of care and how to replicate the Recovery Kentucky Model in Colorado. Key findings indicate complications with “housing first”, the permanent supportive housing staff-to-client ratio and credentialing requirements differing in KY and CO, and the freeze on HUD vouchers for 2025 and likely 2026.

- b. The Steadman Group then presented additional options to explore including sober living and mental health transitional living.

VIII. **Next SWORD meeting**

- a. September 10th, 2025, at 1:00pm at Durango Public Library

Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.

Minutes prepared by Claire West