

Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Meeting Minutes – Approved 3/11/2026

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 2:30pm to 4pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members	Attendance	Proxy
Laurel Schafer (Chair), Assistant Director Montezuma County Public Health	Present	
John Ranson (Vice Chair)	Present	
Adam Rogers & Shaine Gans (Treasurer), La Plata County Finance	Present	
Martha Johnson (Secretary), Director La Plata Human Services	Present	
Amie Gardiner, Trustee Town of Silverton	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	X	
Ashley Micikas, La Plata County Public Health	Present	
Ashley Wilson, Director Archuleta County Public Health	X	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	Present	
Bill Rockensock, Police Chief Town of Pagosa Springs	Present	
Bobbi Lock, Director Montezuma Public Health	X	
Brice Current, Police Chief City of Durango	Present	
Chauncey McCarthy, Manager, Town of Rico	Present	
Eric Stiasny, Dolores County Commissioner	Present	
Erin Hyder, Assistant City Manager City of Durango	Present	
Justen Goodall, Town of Mancos Marshall	X	
Justin Pierce, Assistant District Attorney for 22 nd Judicial District	Present elected at meeting	
Malynda Evans, Director Dolores County Social Services	Present	
Marsha Porter-Norton, Commissioner La Plata County	Present	

Advisory/Non-Voting Members	Attendance
Andrew Urenda, Manna	Present
Ashley Springer, Pagosa Springs Community Member	Present
Bob Brammer, Assistant City Manager City of Durango	X
Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Porch Light Health	Present
Haley Leonard-Saunders, Axis Health Systems	X
Jacob Abbas, Therapist	Present
Jennifer Miller, CommonSpirit Mercy Hospital	Present
Imo Succo, Indigenous Wellbriety Program	Present
Mariah Reeves, Peer Coach	X
Mary Katherine, Psychologist	Present

Vibes Volansky, Pura Vida for Good	X
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Facilitators and Guests	Role
Claire West, SWORD Project Manager	Facilitator
Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 Economic Development District	Facilitator
Charlee Sharp, Silver Lining Recovery Homes	Guest
Jack Patterson, Colorado Attorney General’s Office	Guest
Eric Barker, Colorado Consortium for Prevention of Prescription Drug Abuse	Guest
Mara Melter, Denver Recovery Group	Guest
Nichole Glaser, Axis Health	Guest
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado	Guest
Weylin Ryan, Town of Ignacio	Guest

- Chair, Laurel Schafer, called the meeting to order at 2:32pm
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was reviewed.

I. Welcome and Introductions

- a. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves in the chat with new attendees introducing themselves in person.

II. Approve January 2026 Minutes*

- a. Martha Johnson motioned to approve the Jan. 14, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Malynda Evans seconded. **Motion passed.**

III. Approve new Voting member positions*

- a. John Ranson motioned to approve Justin Pierce of the 22nd Judicial District as a voting member. Becky Joyce seconded. **Motion passed.** Ashley Micikas from La Plata Public Health was also introduced as a new member approved at the last meeting.

IV. Approve Secretary to SWORD Council*

- a. Malynda Evans motioned to approve Martha Johnson as the SWORD Council’s Secretary. Chauncey McCarthy seconded. **Motion passed.**

V. **SWORD Project Manager Report**

- a. Claire West presented a **communication plan** moving forward to improve transparency. She will work to keep the website updated and it will be the key communication tool for the public as well as Council. The Council will also begin receiving a monthly report of Project Manager activities. Claire is already sharing this information with the Region 9 EDD Board of Directors. A quarterly update (similar to what was distributed in the meeting materials) will also be provided. The quarterly updates including grantee evaluations and educational information, partner activities, and meetings all to keep the Council updates on current community recovery ecosystem activities. Finally, a year-end review summarizing the highest level of work as well as Council make-up and priorities from the past 12 months will be shared at the end of each year.
- b. **Project Manager updates** - Since last SWORD Council meeting, the project manager has reviewed all priorities and projects SWORD has proposed between October 2023 and December 2025. Out of 112 total specific approved uses in Exhibit E of the Colorado MOU, SWORD has identified 13 that it would like to implement. Seven of those 13 approved uses have been funded during the two SWORD Community Grant cycles. The project manager also reviewed prior grant applications to understand the likely costs for each approved use priority project.
- c. **2026 SWORD Retreat** will be held Friday 2/20/2026 from 1–5pm at Fort Lewis College. During the retreat, discussion will center around the 2026–2027 two-year plan, prioritizing projects moving forward and proposing funding allocations for approved uses. All input is welcome and the recommendations will be brought back to the Council in March for formal approval.

VI. **Fiscal Agent 2025 Year End Financials**

- a. Shaine Gans, on behalf of La Plata County as fiscal agent, reported on the 2025 calendar financials. By year-end approximately \$630,000 was spent across community grants, planning/coordinating, and administrative costs. The unspent funds from the 2025-2026 2-Year Plan of approximately \$1.9M will be available to amend into the 2026–2027 2-year plan with priorities for specific approved uses to be determined at the funding retreat. Approximately \$180K of other funds are available to be assigned to approved uses.

VII. Other Business

- a. SWORD logo update: Project Manager and Advisory member, Ashley Springer, are working on new logo options, which will be presented during the March meeting for Council feedback.
- b. SWORD Council and Advisory member round robin – As time allows, attendees representing Council members and subject matter experts can provide brief updates.
 - i. Andrew - Manna received a house donation and hopes to further address housing insecurity in La Plata County this residential property with four units where tenants will pay no more than 30% of their income in rent. Andrew also shared that they will be highlighting Light Over Shadows Day in May.
 - ii. Porch Light Health reported that they have opened an outpatient withdrawal management room in their Durango office. Patients from surrounding community use, but currently Porch Light's program in Cortez does not include the on-site support component ,but can still offer comfort medications and withdrawal management supports.
 - iii. Denver Recovery Group (DRG) reported on upcoming recovery events, including Black Balloon Day on March 6th. DRG also reported that they are working with Mercy on warm handoffs for emergency room patients needing methadone induction.
 - iv. La Plata County Public Health reported on a suicide awareness summit on April 28th and sought participation from the Council given the overlapping patient population and underlying causes. If you are interested in participating/leading a breakout session or sharing the event with your community to come together to talk about and take action on mental health needs please visit the website (<https://www.lpcsuicideprevention.com/2026-summit>) or reach out the Ashley Micikas.
 1. Imo Succo shared that there is Suicide Awareness for Everyone (SAFE) coalition in Cortez, which hosts a suicide walk in September.
 - v. Advocates for Recovery Colorado (AFRC) reported on a senate bill being introduced regarding the licensing and oversight of recovery

residences. An additional bill on the Creation of an Enterprise fee on alcohol to help fund the full continuum of SUD will also be proposed. Both are in draft form and have not yet been introduced, so do not currently have a bill number. Draft copies of the bills will be shared via email with the SWORD Council. Finally, AFRC is holding the 2nd annual Recovery Advocacy Day at the capitol on Thursday, March 19th.

VIII. **Next SWORD meeting**

- a. March 11, 2026, at 2:30pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 3:18pm.

Minutes prepared by Claire West & Laura Lewis Marchino