

## **SWORD Inaugural Meeting Minutes**

3/2/2022, Zoom

Host: Region 9 – Laura Lewis Marchino, Heather Otter

### **Attendees:**

John Whitney – Senator Bennet

Helen Katich – Senator Hickenlooper

Amy Berkowitz Caplan

Bobbi Lock

Shak Powers

Jessica Thurman

Laurel Schafer

Martha Johnson

Bob Brammer

Justin Goodall

Marsha Porter-Norton

Andrea Phillips

Chauncey McCarthy

Malynda Evans

Kelly DiGiacomo

Steve Garchar – arrived ~3:35

Will Finn – arrived ~3:35

3:00 Introductions, Purpose, Review Agenda/Request changes (move Senators' Office updates up to accommodate schedules), brief description of the feasibility study.

- Agreements as to the council purpose as needed for ongoing focus.

3:22 John Whitney and Helen Katich on appropriations

- John-75-80% confidence level that funding will get done. Will be treated like a non-competitive grant, must apply but funding is basically guaranteed.
- Helen–feels confident that we'll have news about appropriations as early as March 8<sup>th</sup>. The timing of when the funds hit the bank is unknown, so timelines for this project may need to be flexible. West Slope town hall may happen toward the end of March.

3:28 Decision Items

Nominations were made and accepted for the officer roles.

- Chair – Shak Powers/Montezuma
- Vice Chair – Steve Garchar/Dolores
- Treasurer – Marsha Porter-Norton/La Plata County
- Secretary – Andrea Phillips/Archuleta

### 3:34 Bylaws

Discussion was had about voting procedures and the use of a quorum, proxies, and alternates. Concern about alternates was raised because members may attend inconsistently and not be educated enough to vote on SWORD. The group indicated that using proxies from their respective counties could meet the needs of the group. The group also wanted to add an Executive Committee and duties to the bylaws. The group wanted to review updates to the bylaws for the next meeting.

**\*Approval of the Bylaws was postponed to the next meeting.**

### 3:44 Approval of Non-voting members

Discussion was had about the list of potential non-voting members. It was acknowledged that the list favors La Plata County but suggested that the initial group could help recruit additional members from other communities within Region 9. Work to recruit additional advisory members will occur and the application sent out to the group.

Shak – entertained a motion to approve the initial list of non-voting members and recruit from there.

Steve - motioned

Marsha – second

**\*Motion carried**

R9 will notify these folks and include them in SWORD Orientation.

### 3:53 Update from the Attorney General's Office

- Abatement Councils meet on March 31<sup>st</sup> which prompts opt out materials and initial communications.
- Regional Councils have some control over how much money they want to take out/spend.
- There will be a lot more certainty as of April. J&J and McKinsey will not be included in funding approximations due to ongoing court proceedings.
- How specific do the two year plans have to be? Amy-recommends being broad and then make amendments. Say what you will do for the first 6 months and say you'll amend as you go and when more information is available from feasibility study.
- A template will be provided. If a two month extension would help, that is doable. It would be an amendment to the planning grant but there would be minimal red tape.
- No other regions have two year plans completed yet. Your region is right where the AG's office would expect you to be in the process. We hope to set up a repository for shared documents. Recommendation was made to reach out to other regions to see what they are doing.
- Abatement Council – is the list public? Is there a representative from our region?

### 4:02 Next Steps

- SCOOP would like to be included for info share. SCOOP= Southwest CO Opioid Overdose Prevention.
- Discussion was had regarding educational materials, a location, and avoiding duplication.
- There was agreement among the group to store it initially on Region 9's website.
- We can link [AG Office page](#) with our local information.
- Let Laura (Region 9) know if other organizations already compile and update information on opioid topics and regional efforts.

#### 4:09 Agenda Items for next meeting

- Approve Bylaws
- Review 2 year plan template
- Do we ask for an extension (2 months) on the 2 year plan?
- Review our key gaps from initial meetings, prioritize gaps and identify what kind of additional expertise the group would like to have on topics. For example: What are effective treatments for opioids?
- Decide on the date for the orientation meeting (to include voting and non-voting members). Attendees put availability in the chat and Heather (Region 9) will compile and announce the most preferred option.

Meeting adjourned at 4:16pm.

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter.