

## **SWORD Meeting Minutes**

April 6, 2022, Zoom

Host: Region 9 – Laura Lewis Marchino, Heather Otter

### **Attendees:**

Shak Powers, Steve Garchar, Marsha Porter-Norton, Andrea Phillips, Jessica Thurman, Annie Diaz, Laurel Schafer, Martha Johnson, Ronnie Maez, Chauncey McCarthy, Austin Lashley, Chief Robert Brammer, Erin Hyder, Bobbi Lock, Marshall Justen Goodall, Malynda Evans, Haley Leonard, Father N. Augustine, Staci Russell, Martha Minot, Kelly DiGiacomo, Ed Fields, Will Finn, Amy Berkowitz Caplan, and Jamie Feld.

**Meeting called to order** at 2:03pm by Shak Powers.

**Quorum established** – Heather Otter verified a quorum was present.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes from 2022-03-02.** Heather Otter indicated one advisory member's name was left off the attendee list and requested approval with Kelly DiGiacomo added to the attendees. Shak Powers called a motion to approve the minutes with the change, Steve Garchar moved, Chauncey McCarthy seconded – motion passed unanimously, minutes approved.

- **Updates since last meeting**

- **Opioid Planning grant extension** - The planning grant which pays for Region9 time has been extended through June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Facilitation Grant from the AG's Office** - \$20k grant to help with facilitation will be administered by fiscal agent, La Plata County.
- **Feasibility study funding** - \$150K of congressionally designated funding has been approved for a feasibility study to look at inpatient treatment or related pre-post treatment transitions such as medical detox.
- **Outreach to Tribes and S. Ute Feasibility Study** - Dr. Finn and Marsha Porter-Norton discussed the State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds totaling \$5M and intent of the S. Ute Tribe to do their own feasibility study which could look at re-opening the Peaceful Spirit facility, building a new facility, collaboration with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, identifying populations to serve, and whether populations served will include non-native populations. Work continues to identify areas of collaboration or ways we can parallel findings. Seeking to speak to Tribal Council.
- **SWORD orientation held** – Heather Otter informed the group that one orientation was held on 3/18/22 for new council members. More orientations will be provided as needed.
- **Education materials/presentations/webpage** – Heather Otter informed the group that Region 9's webpage for SWORD resources and governing documents will be available by the middle of next week.

- **Decision Items**

- **Review and possible approval of Bylaws\*** - Changes to the bylaws were identified and reviewed. Shak Powers called a motion, Marsha Porter-Norton moved, Ronnie Maez seconded – motion passed, bylaws were approved.

- **Approval of Non-Voting (advisory) members\*** Discussion was had about the five potential advisory members.
  - Breeah Kinsella – Shak Powers called a motion to approve Breeah Kinsella as a non-voting SWORD member, Martha Johnson moved, Marsha Porter-Norton seconded – motion passed. 9 Yay, 1 Nay.
  - Kent Aiken – Shak Powers called a motion to approve Kent Aiken as a non-voting SWORD member, Steve Garchar moved, Will Finn seconded – motion passed. 10 Yay. 0 Nay.
  - Amanda Mullen - Shak Powers called a motion to approve Amanda Mullen as a non-voting SWORD member, Steve Garchar moved, Chauncey McCarthy seconded, motion passed. 10 Yay. 0 Nay.
  - Jacob Anderson – Shak Powers called a motion to approve Jacob Anderson as a non-voting SWORD member, Martha Johnson moved, Marsha Porter-Norton seconded, motion passed. 10 Yay, 0 Nay.
  - Imo Succo – Shak Powers called a motion to approve Imo Succo as a non-voting SWORD member Austin Lashley, moved, Andrea Phillips seconded, motion passed. 10 Yay, 0 Nay.
- Discussion was had regarding recruiting members in Archuleta, San Juan, and Dolores to balance the geographic representation of the advisory members. Questions arose regarding the efficacy of having advisory members from outside the SWORD region or from the Navajo Nation. It was suggested that advisory members be recruited from within the SWORD region at this time.

- **Two Year Plan Discussion**

- Heather Otter explained the two year plan’s relationship to a feasibility study. There is congressionally designated funding for a feasibility study and the study’s findings will inform the two year plan. While this presents a challenge to the SWORD members to submit a plan prior to conducting a feasibility study, opportunities to amend the plan will be granted by the abatement council. Heather asked the members to look at the section of the two year plan template that outlines the primary service areas and the percent of funds the members will allocate to each of the primary service areas. Discussion was had. Shak Powers suggested members reference the [Colorado Opioid Response Blueprint Guide for Settlement Funds](#). Due to time constraints, the exercise will be continued at the next meeting. Additional service gaps were identified by the members.

- **AG Office Updates**

- Amy Berkowitz Caplan and Jamie Feld provided updates regarding the Abatement Council’s approval of the two year plan template, the municipal opt in/out process and the online database for regional councils to upload two year plans, and the estimated time frame for fund distribution to fiscal agents. There will be a meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am for all the regional councils and their fiscal agents.

- **Next Steps**

- **Agenda items for next meeting (April 13, 2022)**
  - Two Year Plan & RFP feasibility study
  - Update Abatement Council and opt out/in municipalities

- Update from AG on allocation/cost tracker
- Meeting for all Councils on April 25<sup>th</sup>
- Future SWORD meetings and orientations

**Adjournment** – Shak Powers called a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chauncey McCarthy moved, Steve Garchar seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.

Minutes prepared by Heather Otter and Laura Lewis Marchino