

Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Meeting Minutes – Approved 09/11/2024

Wednesday, August 14th 2:30pm via Zoom

Voting Members	Attendance	Proxy
Steve Garchar (Chair), Commissioner Dolores County	Present	
Laurel Schafer (Vice Chair), Assistant Director Montezuma County Public Health	Present	
Adam Rogers (Treasurer), Finance Director La Plata County	Present	
Erin Hyder (Secretary), Assistant City Manager City of Durango	X	Bob Brammer
Amie Gardiner, Trustee Town of Silverton	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	X	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	Present	
Bill Rockensock, Police Chief Town of Pagosa Springs	Present	
Bob Brammer, Assistant City Manager City of Durango	Present	
Brice Current, Police Chief City of Durango	Present	
Chauncey McCarthy, Town Manager Town of Rico	Present	
Heather Alvarez, Town Administrator Town of Mancos	X	
Bobbie Lock, Director Montezuma Public Health	X	
Malynda Evans, Director Dolores County Social Services	Present	
Marsha Porter-Norton, Commissioner La Plata County	Present	
Martha Johnson, Director La Plata Human Services	Present	Marsha Porter-Norton
Nathaniel Baca, 6 th Judicial District Judge	X	
Ronnie Maez, Commissioner Archuleta County	Present	
Tracy Anselmo, Director La Plata County Public Health	Present	
Travis Anderson, County Administrator Montezuma County	Present	

Advisory/Non-Voting Members	Attendance
Ashley Gonzalez, Behavioral Health Programs Supervisor La Plata County Public Health	X
Breeah Kinsella, Executive Director Colorado Providers Association	X
Donna Mae Baukat, President, and Executive Director Community Compassion Outreach	X
Haley Leonard-Saunders, Sr. Director of Development and Public Information Officer Axis Health Systems	Present
Imo Succo, Director Indigenous Wellbriety Program	Present
Jen Hargrove, MD Emergency Medicine	X
Kelly DiGiacomo, Licensed Professional Counselor	X
Kent Aikin, Retired Family Physician	Present
Mary Katherine, Psychologist	X
Will Finn, Physician	Present

Facilitators and Guests
Heather Otter, Region 9 EDD / Facilitator
Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD / Facilitator
Claire West, SWORD Project Coordinator
Angela Hatcher, Fletcher Group
Candice Ludwig, Advocates for Recovery
Chad Wheelus, Southwest Education Collaborative
Eric Barker, Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention
Jack Patterson, Colorado Attorney General's Office
Jennifer White, Fletcher Group
Shaine Gans, La Plata County Finance
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 2:32 PM by Chair, Steve Garchar. Introductions were made, and a quorum was established. The agenda was reviewed.
- II. **Approval of July 2024 minutes:** Corrections were made to a voting member's attendance.
 - a. Steve Garchar entertained a motion to approve the corrected July 2024 minutes. Travis Anderson moved. Tracy Anselmo second. **Motion passed.**
- III. **Updates & prepare for action:**
 - a. **Community Health Partnership (CHP) interview:** SWORD members and facilitator participated in an interview with CHP to gather insights on the regional opioid abatement councils' experiences and future strategies. Findings will be shared at the Annual Opioid Conference on September 30th.
 - b. **Outcome related data:** The Colorado Opioid Abatement Council (COAC) Data Workgroup sent a survey to Regional Councils to identify appropriate data sets and develop procedures for collecting outcome-related data. The survey deadline is August 27th.
 - c. **Project coordinator report:** Claire West provided an update on the status of grant agreements, distribution of checks and development of grant progress reports for recipients. Claire highlighted recent efforts to enlist partners at the state and local levels around the recovery residence project, and exploring parcels in Cortez and Durango. Technical assistance was provided to several communities for opioid abatement resources such as Naloxone availability.
 - d. **Recovery Residence RFPs for an operator and developer**
 - i. Heather Otter provided an overview of the project timeline for the recovery residence. The project is in the first of approximately five phases. The first phase is the initiation phase, which SWORD's feasibility study addresses many components of.
 - ii. Heather discussed the importance of engaging operators and developers in the initiation phase of a project, highlighting the role of the Fletcher group as subject matter experts. Drafts of the requests for proposals (RFPs) have been provided to SWORD for review and

will be brought forward in September for approval to publish. Jennifer White, the National Director of Program Management for Recovery Support Services for the Fletcher Group, introduced her role and the organization's mission, which is to expand access, quality, and capacity for recovery support services in rural communities. She explained the complex funding structure of the project and highlighted the need for an experienced developer to handle the programming and day-to-day operations. Angela Hatcher, Director of Project Finance for the Fletcher group, elaborated on the funding options and the role of the developer. She noted that the development team could grow depending on the developer's recommendations.

e. Funding requests

- i. The COAC may approve an additional funding request deadline per feedback from multiple regions. Current deadlines are September 15th, 2024, and March 15th, 2025. Heather brought to SWORD's attention the approved use of opioid funds to help cover administrative costs incurred by Region 9 and La Plata County. These funds cannot exceed actual costs or 10% of SWORD's allocation. Discussion was had and there was general support for allocating funds to compensate staff from Region 9 and La Plata County for administrative expenditures related to facilitating SWORD and managing its funds. The two entities will work to determine the specific amount of administrative costs and how to divide them. More information will be provided at the next meeting for SWORD's consideration to approve administrative funds in a future funding request.

f. SWORD roster and representation

- i. An informal review of SWORD's roster is underway. Voting members were asked to communicate any anticipated changes to Heather Otter by the end of the year.

IV. Next SWORD meeting – September 11th at 2:30pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 3:33pm

Minutes prepared by Claire West