Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 2:00-4:30pm via Zoom and in person at Durango Public Library

Attendees:

Voting Members	**Attendance**	**Proxy**
Laurel Schafer (Chair), Assistant Director Montezuma County Public Health	present	
John Ranson (Vice Chair)	x	Ashley Wilson
Adam Rogers & Shaine Gans (Treasurer), La Plata County Finance	present	
Martha Johnson (Secretary), Director La Plata Human Services	x	Shaine Gans
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	x	
Ashley Micikas, La Plata County Public Health	present	
Ashley Wilson, Director Archuleta County Public Health	present	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	present	
Bill Rockensock, Police Chief Town of Pagosa Springs	present	
Bobbi Lock, Director Montezuma Public Health	present	
Brice Current, Police Chief City of Durango	x	
Chauncey McCarthy, Manager, Town of Rico	x	
Eric Stiasny, Dolores County Commissioner	present	
Erin Hyder, Assistant City Manager City of Durango	x	Shaine Gans
Heather Alvarez, Town of Mancos Manager	x	
Holly Huebner, Trustee Town of Silverton	present	
Justin Pierce, Assistant District Attorney for 22nd Judicial District	present	
Malynda Evans, Director Dolores County Social Services	present	
Matt Salka, Commissioner La Plata County	present	

Advisory/Non-Voting Members	**Attendance**
Andrew Urenda, Manna	present
Ashley Springer, Pagosa Springs Community Member	present
Dayna DeHerrera-Smith, Porch Light Health	present
Haley Leonard-Saunders, Axis Health Systems	present
Imo Succo, Indigenous Wellbriety Program	present
Jacob Abbas, Therapist	x
Jennifer Miller, CommonSpirit Mercy Hospital	x
Mariah Reeves, Peer Coach	x
Mary Katherine, Psychologist	present
Vibes Volansky, Pura Vida for Good	present

Facilitators and Guests	**Role**
Laura Warner, SWORD Project Manager	Facilitator
Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 Economic Development District	Facilitator

Chris Andrews, Manna	Presenter
Lynn Urban, Team Up	Presenter
Clarisa Osborn, 22nd Judicial District	Presenter
Vaughn Morris, Boys & Girls Club of La Plata County	Presenter
Will Finn, Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Presenter
Kellie Willis, The Pinon Project	Presenter
Vanessa Skean, Healthy Archuleta	Presenter
Amber Quartier, CommonSpirit Health	Presenter
Delia Howard, Four Doves	Presenter
Don Stader, Colorado ROOTS	Presenter
Imo Succo, Indigenous Wellbriety	Presenter
Shak Powers, Region 9 Economic Development District	Guest
Charlee Sharp, Silver Lining Recovery Homes	Guest
Christina Crain, Porch Light Health	Guest
Mara Melter, Denver Recovery Group	Guest
Mindy Baumgardner, COAG	Guest
Nichole Glaser, Axis Health System	Guest
Eric Barker, CO Consortium	Guest
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery Colorado	Guest
Valentina, Advocates for Recovery Colorado	Guest
Melissa Grammer-Bailey, Advocates for Recovery Colorado	Guest
Hope Scheppelman, SAMHSA	Guest
Richard Harland, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe	Guest

- Chair, Laurel Schafer, called the meeting to order at 2:08 pm
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was reviewed.

I. Welcome and Introductions

a. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves in person or live on Zoom.

II. Approve August 2026 Minutes*

a. Ashley Wilson motioned to approve the August 12, 2026, meeting minutes as presented. Justin Pierce seconded. **Motion passed.**

III. Report: Fiscal Agent

a. Shanie Gans provided a fiscal agent report detailing the allocation of opioid settlement funds, including $1.6 million for the SWORD Community Grants Program. The remaining fund balance is approximately $2.077 million. SWORD has the opportunity to request additional funds from the State on September 15th, 2026, however, will wait for future opportunities in November 2026 or March 2027 as additional funds are not required at this time.

IV. 2027 Community Grants: Finalist Applicant Q&A Session

a. SWORD Project manager described a 2-stage voting process for 2027 Community Grants:

   i. Applications not recommended for funding at this time by the Grant Review Committee (GRC) are final decisions and have been notified.

   ii. SWORD Council meeting today: vote to approve applications for their selected Exhibit E Use, project summary, and maximum budget as recommended by the GRC.

   iii. SWORD Project Manager will next lead line-item budget negotiations with approved finalist applicants to ensure all expenses align with State and SWORD guidelines.

   iv. October SWORD Council meeting: discuss and vote to approve final project awards for 2027 Community Grants.

b. Each finalist applicant summarized their request for funding to support programming as described below, followed by questions and answers:

   i. Clarisa Osborn of the 22nd Judicial District ($85,085): Resume pre-trial monitoring and support program for defendants in Montezuma and Dolores Counties.

   ii. Kellie Willis from the Piñon Project ($123,207.04): Outreach and case management, including transportation and housing assistance for unhoused/housing unstable populations in Montezuma and Dolores Counties.

   iii. Vanessa Skean from Healthy Archuleta ($90,398): Continue and expand 1) Youth Community Learning and Leadership Circle (CLLC) and 2) structured Youth Leadership Internship Program.

   iv. Haley Leonard from Axis Health System ($100,000): Support the crisis team staffing necessary to maintain 24/7 walk-in operations and rapid-access services at Regional Crisis Center in Durango.

   v. Lynn Urban from Team Up ($98,430.20): Continue and expand the Youth Councils on Mental Health across the region, partner with Rise Above Colorado on their Connect Effect campaign.

   vi. Dr. Will Finn from the Southern Ute Indian Tribe ($82,261.20): Furniture, fixtures, and equipment for new recovery housing.

   vii. Chris Andrew from Manna – the Durango Soup Kitchen ($82, 104): Continue the Manna Community Resilience Project (MCRP), a peer-led, wrap around

recovery support program serving people with opioid use disorder (OUD) and co-occurring substance use and behavioral health conditions.

viii. Amber Quartier from CommonSpirit Health and Dr. Don Stader from Epifluence/Colorado ROOTS ($80,000): Two 6-month phases including 1) feasibility study and operational readiness assessment to partner with Colorado ROOTS (Rural Opioid & addictiOn Treatment System) telehealth providers; and 2) deploy addiction specialist consultation and ROOTS coordination from acute care to professional treatment.

ix. Imo Succo from Indigenous Wellbriety ($99,990.04): Continue one-on-one peer recovery coaching, Talking Circles, outreach, referrals, and navigation to treatment, behavioral health care, tribal programs, housing resources, recovery homes, transportation, and other community supports. Priority population is Native Americans. Currently operating in Montezuma County, with plan to expand to La Plata County included in this proposal.

x. Dayna DeHerrera-Smith from Porch Light Health ($104,918): Work with correctional and justice-system partners in La Plata and Montezuma to expand access to medication-assisted treatment, reentry transition supports, and recovery engagement incentives for individuals OUD and co-occurring substance use or mental health needs.

xi. Vaughn Morris from Boys & Girls Club of La Plata County ($25,000): Youth 9-17 will participate in evidence-informed prevention and youth development programs that strengthen emotional awareness, self-regulation, decision-making, healthy relationships, goal setting, and refusal skills.

xii. Delia Howard from Four Doves ($49,500): 2-month, low-barrier recovery navigation and long-term stability project for adults affected by opioid use disorder and co-occurring substance use, behavioral health needs, trauma, grief, or domestic violence in Dolores and Montezuma Counties.

V. Approve 2027 Community Grants*

a. The application from 22nd Judicial District was identified to require a separate vote due to SWORD Council voting member conflict of interest.

b. Laurel Schafer motioned to approve all finalist applications except for 22nd Judicial District for the selected Exhibit E Use, project summary, and maximum funding amount as recommended by the Grant Review Committee. Ashley Mikikas seconded. **Motion passed.**

c. Laurel Schafer motioned to approve the 22nd Judicial District application for its selected Exhibit E Use, project summary, and maximum funding amount as

recommended by the Grant Review Committee. Ahsley Wilson seconded. **Motion passed.** Justin Pierce, abstained.

VI. Report: SWORD Project Manager

a. The Project Manager outlined activities over the past month in support of 2026 and 2027 SWORD Community Grants and described a process for this meeting's Work Session on county-level opioid abatement asset mapping and gaps analysis. The information and priorities developed through this ongoing process will be used as a tool for SWORD members and partners to assist people with OUD, for future strategic plans required by the Colorado Attorney General's Office and, possibly, for an Infrastructure Share grant application for the SWORD region.

VII. Work Session: County-level opioid abatement asset mapping and gaps analysis

a. Attendees joined county-specific small groups to begin discussions of current opioid abatement-related assets and resources, existing gaps, and priorities for future utilization of opioid settlement funds.

VIII. Other Business

a. Member updates: Mindy Baumgartner with the Attorney general's office encouraged attendance at the State Opioid Conference o Sept. 30th.

b. Next meeting date: October 14, 2026 2:30-4pm via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm and all attendees were invited to spend the remaining time until 4:30pm networking with one another.

Minutes prepared by Laura Warner & Laura Lewis Marchino