

Southwest Opioid Response District (SWORD) Meeting Minutes – Approved 11/13/2024

Wednesday, September 11th 2:30pm via Zoom Attendees:

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	X	
Erin Hyder (Secretary), Assistant City Manager City of Durango	Present	
Amie Gardiner, Trustee Town of Silverton	Present	
Austin Lashley, San Juan County Commissioner	X	
Becky Joyce, Director San Juan County Public Health	X	Amie Gardiner
Bill Rockensock, Police Chief Town of Pagosa Springs	Present	
Bob Brammer, Assistant City Manager City of Durango	X	
Bobbi Lock, Director Montezuma Public Health	X	
Brice Current, Police Chief City of Durango	Joined at 3:10PM	
Chauncey McCarthy, Town Manager Town of Rico	Present	
Heather Alvarez, Town Administrator Town of Mancos	Joined at 2:39PM	
Malynda Evans, Director Dolores County Social Services	Joined at 3:09PM	
Marsha Porter-Norton, Commissioner La Plata County	Present	
Martha Johnson, Director La Plata Human Services	Present	
Nathaniel Baca, 6 th Judicial District Judge	X	
Ronnie Maez, Commissioner Archuleta County	X	
Tracy Anselmo, Director La Plata County Public Health	Present	
Travis Anderson, County Administrator Montezuma County	X	

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	X
Imo Succo, Director Indigenous Wellbriety Program	Present
Jen Hargrove, MD Emergency Medicine	X
Kelly DiGiacomo, Therapist	X

Kent Aikin, Retired Family Physician	X
Mary Katherine, Psychologist	Present
Will Finn, Physician	Present

Facilitators and Guests	Role
Claire West, Region 9 EDD	Facilitator
Heather Otter, Region 9 EDD	Facilitator
Laura Lewis Marchino, Region 9 EDD	Facilitator
Butch Lewis, CARR	Guest
Candice Ludwig, Advocates for Recovery	Guest
Eric Barker, CO Consortium	Guest
Jack Patterson, CO Attorney General's Office	Guest
Shaine Gans, La Plata County Finance	Guest
Tonya Wheeler, Advocates for Recovery	Guest

- Chair, Commissioner Steve Garchar, called the meeting to order at 2:35pm.
- A quorum was established.
- The agenda was reviewed.

I. Approve August 2024 minutes.

- a. Steve Garchar entertained a motion to approve the August 2024 minutes. Martha Johnson motioned, Laurel Schafer seconded. **Motion passed.**

II. Discussion and approval to request opioid settlement funding for administrative duties.

Heather Otter presented information regarding funding requests for administrative expenditures incurred by La Plata County and Region 9 EDD. Administrative fees are an approved use for the opioid settlement funds. Reasonable administrative costs to administer SWORD's allocation of the opioid settlement funds shall not exceed actual costs or 10% of SWORD's allocation, whichever is less. No administrative fees have been taken thus far in an effort by La Plata County and Region 9 EDD to establish actual costs for this work. The first proposal would require an amendment to SWORD's current 2022-2024 plan to include administrative expenditures for 2024, with the money coming from the recovery residence project. The second proposal outlined ongoing administrative expenditures being included in future funding requests. Discussion was had about the allocation of funds from settlements in 2022 and 2023, and the anticipated funds coming to SWORD from settlements in 2024. Shaine Gans clarified that the funds do not expire and can be used as needed per the plan.

- a. Steve Garchar entertained a motion to allow Region 9 EDD and La Plata County to amend SWORD's 2022-2024 plan to include 2024 administrative

expenditures. Laurel Schafer motioned. Tracy Anselmo seconded. **Motion passed.**

- b. Steve Garchar entertained a motion to include administrative expenditures of up to but not exceeding actual costs or 10% of the funds available in future funding requests to compensate Region 9 EDD and La Plata County's work.

Erin Hyder motioned. Chauncey McCarthy seconded. **Motion passed.**

- III. **Approval to publish Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the Recovery Residence operator and developer.** Heather Otter presented information on publishing requests for proposals (RFPs) for an operator and a developer for the recovery residence campus. The procurement process and corresponding responsibilities will be outlined in a service order between the fiscal agent, La Plata County, and the facilitator, Region 9 EDD. The timeline for the project was estimated to be about four months.

- a. Steve Garchar entertained a motion to allow Region 9 EDD and La Plata County to develop the service order and publish the RFPs for a developer and operator, pending any necessary language changes from legal counsel. Laurel Schafer motioned. Martha Johnson seconded. **Motion passed.**

IV. **Project updates and announcements**

- a. Claire West, Project Coordinator, reported the following updates:
 - i. Community Compassion Outreach sober living homes are underway. The men's home is full and reports that the six men are doing well so far. The women's home is being prepared for admission. Up to six women and no more than three children will be accepted. Currently, one mother and child have been accepted.
 - ii. The SWORD Community Grant checks have been prepared and will be mailed out to recipients by the end of the week.
 - iii. For the Recovery Residence project: Region 9 has been working with La Plata County Finance on the procurement process for RFPs, Claire met with Business Finance Manager at Colorado Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) to discuss using Prop 123 to acquire land for our recovery residence project, she also met with Colorado Agency for Recovery Residences (CARR) Deputy Director to discuss possible legislative bill regarding criminal justice reform for additional funding for SWORD recovery residence, and she has an upcoming meeting with the Housing Tax Credit Manager at CHFA to discuss how the SWORD recovery residence project fits into the current Low Income Housing Tax Credit Quality Assurance Plan (LIHTC QAP) and if a carve out or set-aside is possible.

- b. Imo shared information about her upcoming participation in a panel at the Colorado Attorney General's (COAG) opioid conference, focusing on native American communities and substance use.
- c. Marsha confirmed that the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA) will be presenting in Mancos on October 9th at 5PM, with the location to be determined.

V. Next SWORD meeting – November 13th at 2:30pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 3:37pm.

Minutes prepared by Claire West