

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda
December 5, 2024
10:00 am
Virtual Meeting Attendance

On December 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Board members, Advisory Council members, vested partners, community members from across the Eastern District, and staff from the Colorado Attorney General Opioid Response Unit attended a virtual meeting to continue the work of the Opioid Response Region 4 Council.

Present were:

Board Members: Scott Weaver – Yuma County, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Adam Gates – Yuma County

Advisory Council Members: Valerie Boyed – Kit Carson County Public Health, Tonya Wheeler – Advocates for Recovery Colorado, Trish McClain – Northeast Colorado Health Department, Dante Gonzales – Centennial Mental Health Center, Michelle Pemberton – Northeast Colorado Health Department, MJ Jorgensen – NCHA

Also present: Brandi Ritchey – Yuma County, Kristin Carpenter – CO Consortium, Jack Patterson – CO AG’s Office, Dayna DeHerrera-Smith – Front Range Clinic, Don Stader – CO ROOTS, Shaun Wilson – Hope House Sterling, Sarah Arntt – New Vision, Andrew Larrick – CMHC, Angela Shuff – AFRC, Carley Lane – Kit Carson County, Elly Bailey – CMHC, Erin Janssen – AFRC, Shauna Richardson – Centennial Area Health Education Center, Ailala Kay – OMNI Institute, Shon Reed – OMNI Institute, Lauren Rosenbaum – OMNI Institute

Minutes

As there was no quorum at the December meeting, November minutes were approved virtually after the meeting.

Terry Hofmeister moved to approve the November meeting minutes, and Kevin Blankenship seconded. The motion passed without objection.

COAC Updates

The COAC infrastructure grant was released. There was discussion among regional organizations to put together a proposal for infrastructure funding.

The Council will need to complete the expenditure report by December 20. The State needs all info by February 7 for national reporting requirements.

Financial Reports

Yuma County staff gave the financial update.

The AG’s office is preparing to close out 2022-2024 plans. The Council will need to submit an amendment if the expenditures are very different than what was initially planned for.

Region 4 grantees should submit invoices ASAP before the end of the year.

As there was no quorum at the December meeting, financial reports were approved virtually after the meeting.

Kevin Blankenship moved to approve the December financial report. Terry Hofmeister seconded. The motion passed without objection.

Communication Outreach/Social Media Follow-up

There was a follow-up discussion on the cost for OMNI to set up and maintain a Region 4 social media presence to better communicate with the Region. OMNI presented a scope for a Hootsuite subscription and staff time required to manage the social media accounts.

As there was no quorum at the December meeting, the social media plan was approved virtually after the meeting.

Terry Hofmeister moved to approve the social media proposal, and Kevin Blankenship seconded. The motion passed without objection.

OMNI Evaluation Updates

OMNI continues to work with NCHA, CMHC, CO ROOTS, and the local jails receiving MOUD funding to get evaluation data.

OMNI shared the transportation grant annual report. Highlights included 2,000 rides provided to nearly 500 people to receive 2,000 services. Over 110,000 miles were driven by grant-funded vehicles in the first year of the grant. [The full report can be viewed here.](#)

Dante Gonzales from CMHC and MJ Jorgensen from NCHA discussed their organizations' successes and challenges in setting up and running their transportation services. Year 2 of the grant began in October 2024. The next evaluation report will cover Q1 of Year 2.

CO ROOTS gave an update on their work related to the Treatment and Recovery grant funding. They announced that they were able to close a large need in the community and now all hospitals they partner with in the Region will be stocked with buprenorphine.

OMNI received data from Jails receiving Region 4 funding to provide MOUD in jails. A report will be presented at the January meeting.

Upcoming Grants/Funding Opportunities

OMNI shared the Infrastructure Grant, Rural Health Care Program – Healthcare Connect Fund, Reaching Rural: Advancing Collaborative Solutions, AmeriCorps VISTA Sponsoring Agency, Colorado Community Initiated Solutions Grants, and the Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Training and Mentoring grants. Grants are posted to the Region 4 [website](#).

Unscheduled Business

- It was brought up that a new DEA rule could make it harder to prescribe behavioral health-related prescriptions over telehealth as a COVID-related rule expires. This could have a detrimental effect on rural populations as the communities where most health care is done virtually.

- The Incredible Mind platform was launched on 11/1 with resources for those who need more support.

Next Meeting

The January meeting will be held on Monday, January 6, 2025, at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

Scott Weaver, Board Chair