

Opioid Response Region 4 Council Agenda

June 6, 2022

10:00 am

Virtual Meeting Attendance

On June 6, 2022 at 10:00 am Commissioners from across the Eastern District attended a virtual meeting to establish the Opioid Response Region 4 Council. Present were:

Board Members: Scott Weaver – Yuma County, Dave Martin – Morgan County Sheriff, Terry Hofmeister – Phillips County, Chris Richardson – Elbert County, Stan Hitchcock – Kit Carson County, Benjamin Ferree – Town of Limon

Advisory Council Members: Spencer Green – Centennial Mental Health, Trish McClain & Michelle Pemberton – Northeast Colorado Health Department

Also present: Gordon Westhoff – Morgan County, Tom Acre – Town of Wiggins, Tony Wells – Washington County, Garold Roberts – Phillips County, Kent Vance – Washington County

Also joining the meeting were special guests: Andrea Calhoon – Yuma County Administrator, Wanda Lousberg – Recovery Representative, Darlene Carpio – Office of Congressman Ken Buck, Ken Fellman – Yuma County Attorney, Heidi Williams – Director of Opioid Response, Ailala Kay, Katie Gelman, & Stacey McClellan – OMNI Institute, Jack Patterson – Colorado Office of Opioid Response, Jamie Feld – Colorado Office of Opioid Response, Gini Pingnot – Colorado Counties, Inc.

Minutes

Commissioner Hofmeister moved to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2022 minutes as presented. Commissioner Richardson seconded the motion. It passed by unanimous vote.

Heidi Williams, Colorado Director of Opioid Response

Heidi Williams, Director of Opioid Response for the State of Colorado was welcomed to the meeting to provide updates regarding timelines and expectations for upcoming information dissemination and action items. Williams reported that additional information regarding opting out of individual payments should be forthcoming from the State in the near future with expected response by July 30.

Williams also reviewed the overall fund distribution plan and nuanced differences between Colorado distribution as compared to some other states. Williams reported that the Colorado Opioid Abatement Council will begin reviewing plans after the June 30 deadline with fund distribution expected to occur in September. Also discussed was the opportunity for plan amendment next spring if the regional council identifies a need to do so. Williams anticipates a portal being available for submission of the completed 2-year plan.

Commissioner Weaver provided updates on the Colorado Opioid Conference and initiated a discussion regarding Region 4 member attendance. Williams provided updates on the availability of information and resources from the conference.

Ailala Kay from OMNI Institute inquired as to the anticipated available amount of funding for each local government which was reviewed and provided by Williams as \$3.5 million over the course of 18 years with \$500,000 being distributed in the first year.

Council Documents

Calhoon provided updates on the IGA finalization and the status of municipal opt-in. Ken Fellman suggested reserving time on the August meeting agenda for an amendment to the regional MOU to include any additional municipal opt-in that has been received to date. Calhoon also provided an update on a planned addition to the Yuma County website for posting of agendas, minutes, 2-year plan documents, and any other necessary information. Once created, the link will be shared with all regional local governments for linking to their websites for purposes of encouraging ease of access to information across the region and state.

2-Year Study

Ailala Kay of OMNI Institute provided an update on current work on the 2-year plan and shared some draft language with the group for consideration and feedback. Kay reviewed priority goals including staged objectives and potential timelines and funding split allocations. OMNI will provide draft language to the group for review and consideration before the finalization of the study at the end of the month and provided suggestions and examples of potential ways to enact the study based on priorities determined by the group.

The group discussed the importance of focusing on sustainability in project selection and aligning available funding with projects to ensure feasible implementation of abatement projects. Advisory Council members shared feedback regarding the efficacy and sustainability of various treatment opportunities.

Kay provided an overarching timeline and anticipated steps for finalization and implementation of the 2-year study including partnership between the Region 4 Council and OMNI Institute through September of 2022. A draft plan is anticipated to be emailed later this week for consideration ahead of a special meeting later this month.

Next Meeting

The group planned the next Council meeting for the second Monday in July, July 11 at 10:00 am and a special meeting will be scheduled before the end of June for finalization of the 2-year study.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Byron Pelton, Chairman